The Jean de Nivelles walk



You begin your walk at the Maison du Tourisme, which houses the Nivelles Tourist Office he Tourist Office of the Roman Païs and the Fraternity of the Tarte al'djote 1

Coming out of the building, walk up Rue de Saintes and pass under the archway featuring an openwork turret, called La Porte de Saintes 2. Its shape is reminiscent of a 15th century archway. The internal walls of the archway are decorated with plans of the two towns in mosaic. They also depict the main monuments, cast in bronze bas-reliefs. Thus the Gate recalls the past, enhanced by the coats of arms of Saintes, (Charente-Maritime, France) and Nivelles, which are now "Sister Towns". The archway

Then turn left into Rue de Charleroi. Opposite you towers the the Town second-largest church in Nivelles, the Eglise des Récollets.

A little further along on the left, at No 18, you will find the Maison du Bailli (Bailiff's House) 4 (also known as the Hôtel Dept). In the 17th century, the building belonged to Philippe-Ignace de Rifflart, who

was appointed the Grand Bailiff of Nivelles. The classical frontage dates from the 18th century with a porch in the style of Louis XVI. The tower is 17 metres high and has a casement window. It conceals a spiral staircase that leads to six rows of little alcoves: there are 108 of them, designed to accommodate pigeons'eggs. This is a feudal dovecote like the ones built in the 14th to the 15th century.

On both sides of the street that leads to the left, you will find

houses from the 17th and 18th centuries. At No 10, admire the small alcove from the beginning of the 18th century. No 6 used to house a school, founded in 1651. Opposite, No 5 is Louis XV style and dates from the 17th century. At N° 4 is a splendid 18th century edifice. This is the former Refuge of the Order of Malta. 5 The knights of Malta from the commandership of Vaillampont were unable to complete their building, victims of Joseph II's edicts. The knights just had the time to leave an escutcheon as a reminder, depicting the Maltese coat of arms. After the French Revolution, the house was occupied by French troops. Opposite, the house on the corner is a large bourgeois residence dating from the 16th-17th century.



urning right takes you into Rue Saint-Georges. 6 N°s 6-8-10 make up the former Refuge of Aywières Abbey (established in Nivelles in 1623) which was converted into three individual houses by the Abbess Eléonore de Harvengt around 1750. Much older, at No 14, is the Lombards' house, which dates from the 14th and 15th centuries. It was in this house, in the 14th century, that the abbesses' money stall was set up, making it the town's first banking establishment. The current frontage dates from the 16th century and displays the year 1575. A little further along, Dexia Bank has a branch in the former

Hôtel de Biourge, a large residence dating from the 17th century.

Opposite the bank, take **Rue Neuve**, which takes a left turn and changes its name to Rue des Conceptionnistes 7. This street has retained a magnificent group of old houses that were recently restored. N°s 5 and 7 feature an inset stating 1724 above the door. A classical bluestone fountain dating from 1779 adorns the corner of one wall. It's worth taking a look at the 16th century house with its overhang, called the "Spanish House", which conceals a statuette of the Virgin in a little Gothic alcove in the gable. Turn right at the end of the street into Rue de l'Evêché.



Cross Rue de Namur and go into Rue du Messager d'Anvers 8 which reminds us that in the times of the Abbesses, Nivelles had a staging office serviced by stagecoach. You'll admire the pretty fountain on your left. A little further down, opposite you in rue du Pont Gotissart 9, note the house with the cannonballs recessed into the façade. In the olden days, there was a bridge here across the Mierson, a watercourse that is now underground. Further north, it joins the Thines, which is also vaulted.

If you are short of time, turn left then immediately right into the Rue de Bruxelles, then continue along to the Archaeology Museum 14.

Loop 1 — — — To the When you get to Boulevard
When you get to Boulevard
Fleur de Lys to turn left

again. A hundred or so metres along the street is the house at N° 11, which was built in 1920 by the architect Vital Wauters as part of a response to the Art Nouveau movement in which architecture took a renewed interest in the grand styles of the 17th and 18th centuries, drawing its taste for the monumental from that period. Under the windows and the eaves, there is a floral decoration executed using the sgraffito technique made fashionable by Art Nouveau. Now do an about-turn and turn left at the corner and then again left into Rue du Cura. This takes you into a district



that developed between the old centre of Nivelles and the Gare de l'Est from the 1870s onwards. The Église du Saint-Sépulcre, the prison and the station are the main highlights. The houses here reflect the social diversity, while the variety of the façades and different décors are the principal attraction.

the footsteps Nivelles

Take the first little street on the right. Rue du Déversoir 1 and you will find a group of six adjoining houses running from Nº 1 to Nº 11. They are an example of an aesthetic search dominated by functionalism and applied to modest housing: identical facades but reversed two by two, vertical emphasis of the pointed gables with broad eaves. They are decorated with marbrite, which was material typical of the period and used extensively in the Art Déco style. It has been manufactured since

1919 by the Fauguez glassworks

Eglise du Saint Sépulcre



Coming out of the church, go into **Rue Delvaux** (13) on your right. A little further

At the end of the street, turn left and you will see the Eglise du Saint-Sépulcre 12 on your right (open



along, the frontages of N°s 30-32 provide a fine example of Art Nouveau in

Nivelles: general asymmetry, the effect of the reliefs and colours, the diversity of shape of the bay windows, the horseshoe arch of the windows on the first floor are the trademark of the "new style" Retrace your steps, turn right into Rue Cardinal Mercier, continue straight on into Rue Chambille, then turn left into Rue de Bruxelles and it will take you to the Museum of Archaeology 14.

As you come out of the museum, on your right, pass under the archway and take Rue de Bruxelles (semipedestrianised). Take a look on your left into Impasse de la Porte Rouge. At the end of the street, turn right.

A little further along, in the corner of the square, you will see a fine-looking house; this is the Maison du Doven, an 18th century canonical house. Now, turn right, and you will pass in front of the Law Courts (5), built in 1891, which is a blend of styles and

materials: the neo-Gothic and neo-Renaissance, brick. stone and wrought iron. Then cross Place Gabrielle Petit, continue into Rue Sainte-Anne, then take the first little street on your left, Rue des Choraux 16. At the beginning of the 17th century, the Chapter purchased a house here to teach plainchant to the children in the choir. Turning left again brings you out on to the Grand-Place. Turn right and you will pass in front of the Waux-Hall 17.

to the Town Hall, lies the statuette of Jean de Nivelles' dog 13.

A little further takes you to the foot of the Collégiale Sainte-Gertrude 19. birthplace of the town. In the 7th century, Pépin le Vieux, mayor of the palace of King Dagobert bequeathed some land on the left bank of the Thines to his wife and daughter Gertrude. In 640, the two

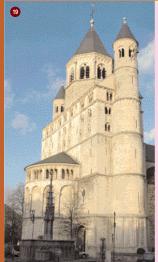
women founded an abbey that sur-

Go to 26 Otherwise

Iean de Nivelles

vived until 1798. Gertrude, the great-great-aunt of Charlemagne, became the first abbess. A remarkable person, charitable and educated, Gertrude created a genuine centre of Christian worship. After her death, her tomb attracted a growing crowd of pilorims. Testament to 1250 years of architecture, the Collégiale is one of the few Romanesque churches to have survived in the style of the period. Consecrated in 1046, the church's special feature is its two-headed ground-plan with two transepts and two choirs opposite one another. The Romanesque crypt, which is one of the largest in the country, the archaeological basement, the Romano-gothic cloister and the monumental west-work surmounted by an octagonal, Romanesque bell-tower, attract visitors from all over the world. (Guided tours every day at 2.00 pm, public holidays at 2.00 pm and 3.30 pm.) If you are feeling tired, now walk alongside the Collégiale where you will find the Fontaine du Perron.





- - To the Tour Simone

Now go into Rue de Soignies by the Waux-Hall. On your left, at No 35, admire the Gothic façade of a former inn, la maison du Flambeau (1555) 20. It was moved, stone by stone, from Rue de Namur to here.

Tourist Office

1400 Nivelles

Rue de Saintes, 48

Retrace your steps a little and climb the stairs in Rue Marlet 21 which used to house the workshop of Laurent Delvaux, the great 18th century sculptor. When you reach Rue Seutin, go off to the right a little to see the Tour Simone 22 which dates from the 12th century and is the only remaining part of the town's ramparts. This part of the circular town walls, surrounded by a moat that could be flooded, was reinforced with 11 towers and had 7 portcullis gates. In the 17th century, the Tour Simone was the place

Retrace your steps and continue up Rue Marlet, then take a look to your right into Impasse de la Grosse Pompe 23. On the corner, at N° 1, the old inn Aux Trois Maillets, which dates from 1647, used to house a number of guilds. It has a magnificent door, which is a minor

masterpiece of Nivelles baroque. Cross Rue de Mons and go into Rue Bayard 23. Turn left into the winding Rue du Coq 25, and you will arrive in the Grand-Place.

Take the time to admire the Fontaine du Perron 23 which dates back to 1523. It used to be adorned by the likeness of Archduke Albert, but was later replaced by a gilded statuette of the Archangel St Michael, one of the town's patron saints, killing the dragon. The statuette was refurbished in 1922 by the Nivelles sculptor Marcel Collet. The current fountain is a 19th century replica. Opposite the fountain you enter the Saint-Jacques district. To begin, go back to Rue du Cog (see N° 25), then into Rue Sainte-Gertrude 2. After the fine house at N° 4 (18th-19th century), take a look at N° 14 called the "Maison Sainte-Gertrude". This remarkable house built entirely from blue-



entrance. The bluestone gateway is topped by a small coat of arms dated 1738; above that, there is a bas-relief representing Christ carrying his cross. Continue to the right. At N° 26, the frontage is clad in pottery tiles, which were a typical ornament in the 19th century. You then come to Rue Bayard 24

If you have the time to visit the Dodaine Park, turn half-right, then left into Rue Gillard Heppe.

3 -----

Go up the stairs and, turning left, you arrive in the vicinity of the Collège Sainte Gertrude. - Rendez-vous in the Park Continue into Avenue de la Tour de Guet on

the site of the fortifications. Approximately 200 metres further along on the right you will see the elegant structure of La Tourette 29 which was built at the beginning of the 17th century as a country house for Abbess Haynin. It later became a place of retreat for the Jesuits. At the present time, a group of Nivelles artists work there, Les Oeuvriers.

Do an about-turn and opposite the Collège Sainte-Gertrude, turn right into Avenue du Monde, then a little further on, go down the steps that lead to the Parc de la Dodaine

This heritage-listed site is a wonderfully serene place to relax and owes its name to the stream that runs through it. The park was created at the beginning of the 19th century. Turn immediately right and under the baroque gate, which was transferred there during the restoration of the Collégiale. This takes you to the entrance to the French garden. You will see the statues representing the telephone and telegraph, as well as the statue of Neptune by the contemporary sculptor Robert Michiels. Turn left

and admire the English garden on your right. When you get back to Boulevard de la Dodaine, cross it and to the left of the tavern, go down the 24 apas 31, ("apas" means steps) before continuing along Rue du Wichet 2 whose name recalls the

and cross the French garden. As you leave, turn right, then left,

postern gate (wicket gate) cut into the nearby rampart. Until 1914, there was a mill here, powered by a waterfall several metres high fed

by the Ri de la Dodaine called Mierson. At the end of the street, turn left into Rue Bayar

N° 18 is a fine Regency-style townhouse dating from the 1760s. Other houses, from N° 22 to N° 28, also date back to the 18th century. Don't forget to take a look on your right into Rue du Wichet (N°s 31 and 32).

You are now in the Saint-Jacques 33 district where the hospital of the same name used to be, although it has now disappeared. Now continue into Rue Coquerne, cross Avenue Jeuniaux and you'll find yourself in Rue des Juifs 34. On your left you

will walk past houses from the 18th and 19th centuries. Turning right into Rue de la Religion 35, you will first see two 18th century houses at N°s 6 and 8 that were revamped in the 19th century. At N° 10, the oldest part of the former townhouse of Baron Taye dates back to the 16th century. After a number of conversions, the overall style is now more 18th century. Admire the very lovely Louis XV door to this building which is now occupied by the Intercommunale du Brabant Wallon



'intermunicipal company). Now turn left and you will find vourself back at the Touris



Sainte Gertrude



WALLONIA. ENJOY A WARM HEARTED WELCOME.

Nivelles sdə1s100f əy1

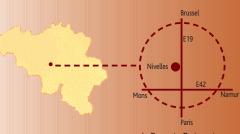






Tourist Walks Map and Guide Mivelles Tourist Office

the footsteps **Nivelles**







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Nivelles: town of festivals and folklore



velles has its history, its traditions and its olklore which it expresses with the spirit of the legendary festival. Various events stretch throughout the year, rich in diversity, punctuating the festive local life - and the accommodating people of Nivelles, fun-loving and enjoying life to the full, warmly invite you to attend.

TARTE AL DJOTE QUALITY AWARDS

The fraternity of the tarte al diote, founded in 1980, presents awards to the best producers of tarte al djote at a ceremony for over 700 people, held at the Waux-Hall. This award presentation features a festive section during which the highlights of the previous year in local politics are gently lampooned.

rww.nivelles-djote.be and Confrérie del tarte al djote (Mr Jean Vandendries - 067/21.55.48)

CARNIVAL - 4 days of colourful festivities brimming with folklore.

Sunday: carnival parade. Afternoon: departing from the station, folklore groups and giants accompanied by a menagerie, followed by the procession of the companies of Gilles. Early evening: all of the groups assemble and rondo in the Grand-Place.

Monday: schools' carnival and Aclot carnival.

- Afternoon; schools' carnival. Place Emile Delalieux; grand rondo and distribution of oranges • Evening: Aclot carnival: parade departs from Place Emile Delalieux.
- Rondo in the Grand-Place and ceremonial bonfire. Tuesday afternoon: gathering of the various Nivelles companies.

GRAND SECONDHAND GOODS MARKET AROUND THE COLLÉGIALE -

GOURMET EASTER - Two weeks before Easter.

Lovers of chocolate and other local goodies, such as salted meats and liqueurs can enjoy the delicious produce provided by artisans from the local area and elsewhere at the Town Hall and

GRAND SECONDHAND GOODS MARKET AROUND THE COLLÉGIALE -

FARM FAIR - Whit Monday.

Lots of animals in the Grand-Place and surrounding area. Exhibitions of competition animals: sheep, goats, ostriches, etc. Rabbits and poultry in the Cloister of the Collégiale. Thoroughbred horses in the Parc de la Dodaine. Exhibition of farm machinery and sales of local produce.

BELL-RINGING CONCERTS - Every Sunday during July, bell-ringers from all over the world delight the "Cité des Aclots" from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

ART & CRAFTS MARKET - First Sunday in July.

Numerous craftsmen from the local area and further afield present their creative work in the Register Office and Cloister of the Collégiale.

GRAND SECONDHAND GOODS MARKET AROUND THE COLLÉGIALE -

BELL-RINGING CONCERTS - Every Sunday during August, bell-ringers from all over the world delight the "Cité des Aclots" from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

GRAND SECONDHAND GOODS MARKET AROUND THE COLLÉGIALE -

BOOK & ART FAIR - Final two Sundays in August. Exhibition and sale of works of art and collectors' books in the Town Hall and Cloister of the Collégiale.

GRAND SECONDHAND GOODS MARKET AROUND THE COLLÉGIALE -2nd Sunday in September.

ST GERTRUDE TOUR - On St Michael's Sunday (29th September) or the one after.

Procession through the countryside in the footsteps of St Gertrude. In the early morning numerous pilgrims accompany the 15th century cart carrying the shrine of St Gertrude. The procession wends its way for almost 15 km across fields and around the town.

The solemn return takes place in the afternoon: before a large crowd of onlookers, the cart makes its way back, accompanied by a historical cortège in 15th century costumes, complete with giants and jugglers, etc. (Information: www.toursaintegertrude.be)

Christmas market and Nativity competition - Mid-December.

The biggest Christmas market in Walloon Brabant is held in the Cloister of the Collégiale and around the Collégiale itself, which hosts numerous craftsmen.

Christmas Concert in the Collégiale by the choral societies of Nivelles The Sunday of the Christmas market.

Nivelles: town of pleasure and good food



he best exciting cultural discoveries go hand in nand with the pleasures of the table. Long established in its region, Nivelles also has a long-standing culinary tradition with the famous "Tarte al djote" a shrine to worship at in its own right. Along with the many beers and wines that the town's many restaurants, cafés and bars will be only too happy to let you discover.

This tart, served hot, is made with "bètchéye" (cheese fermented from skimmed cows' milk), butter, eggs, parsley and ground onions, plus the famous "djote", the name given by the people of Nivelles to the green vegetable chard.

Every year, the "Confrérîye dèl târte al djote de Nivelles" issues quality labels to the best producers of tarte al diote at a public ceremony at the end of February. The rules are very strict and are awarded in ascending order from one to five stars.

This traditional tart has a long historical past, first appearing in texts dating back to 1218, but probably much older. Information: Confrérîye dèl târte al djote: www.nivelles-djote.be. The fraternity also publishes a booklet with the full recipe for tarte al djote and a list of producers who have been awarded labels.

This winter dish is the second savoury speciality of Nivelles. This particular one involves two pancakes make from buckwheat flour, filled with a garnish of seasoned full-fat cheese (bètchéye). The pancakes are served nice and hot, with butter. A quality label with two levels - silver pan and gold pan - is also awarded to local producers.

L'Archiduc is a distinctive, pleasant-tasting amber beer that has been brewed in Nivelles since the beginning of the 20th century.

"La liqueur de l'Abbesse"

Liqueur with a sweet taste, along the lines of "Bénédictine", which came back into favour at the end of the last century.

Get together with friends at our local markets to discover the local produce: Grand-Place: Saturday morning / Square des Nations Unies: Wednesday morning



Nivelles: a town to escape to on holiday



Rich in folklore and culture, Nivelles is well worth spending a few days getting to know better. There is a wide and varied range of hotels and other accommodation to tempt you to stay. Below is a election of gites and hotels that will make your time in the local area very pleasant.

Ferme Barette (La) - 3 épis

Tel. +32 (0)474 67 13 77

Fax +32 (0)3 825 88 42 1 gîte for 4/7 people.

Farm Gîtes

Chapitre (La Ferme du) - 2 épis

Rue de la Ferme du Chapitre, 9

Tel. +32 (0)67 21 05 73

+32 (0)497 06 00 Fax. +32 (0)67 21 05 73 2 gîtes for 2 people, 5 gîtes for 2/

eople and 3 gîtes for 4/6 people.

Bed & Breakfast

Tel. +32 (0)67 84 10 10 Fax. +32 (0)67 84 10 10

2 double rooms, 1 room for 3 people, 1 for 4 people and 1 room for 2/4

Grand Bailly (Le) - 4 épis

Chemin du Grand Bailly, 4

Tel. +32 (0)476 21 22 32 2 double rooms + 2/3

Huttes (Les) - ECR Les Huttes, 7 - 1400 Nivelles

Tel. +32 (0)67 22 05 19 ou Fax. +32 (0)67 22 05 19

Hotel - Restaurant) - 3 stars

Chaussée de Mons, 22 1400 Nivelles Tel. +32 (0)67 21 87 21 ax. +32 (0)67 22 10 88

Site web: www.hotelnivellessud.be 115 rooms and 9 apartments

Commerce (Hôtel du) - 1 star

Grand-Place, 7 Tel. +32 (0)67 21 12 41 Fax. +32 (0)67 84 17 04 9 rooms

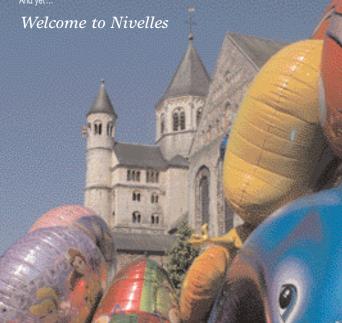
Grambais (Ferme de) - 3 stars

Chaussée de Braine-le-Comte, 102

Tel. +32 (0)67 84 12 94 - (0)67 84 12 95 Fax. +32 (0)67 84 13 07 E-mail : ferme.de.grambais@proximedia.b

Nivèle, ça n' vos dit rî, vous-autes, èn' do, Nivèle...? C' è-st-in pèlé djigot, pièrdu dins-in milion, C' è-st-in soupîr d' èfant dèlé l'bīje qui soufèle, Nivèle ? c' è-st-in grain d'sé dins 'ne cass'role dè bouyor Nivèle, ça n' vos dit rî, vous-autes, èn' do, Nivèle... ?

(') Nivelles doesn't mean a thing to you, does it? It's a worn old coin lost among a million others, It's a child's sigh against the north wind blowing. Nivelles? it's a grain of salt in a saucepan of brott Nivelles doesn't mean a thing to you, does it?



Walk: Instructions

Let Jean de Nivelles guide you throughout your walk. The town's most famous son will lead you through his streets and allevways to see his park and monuments and explore the old and new parts of the town so dear to the hearts of the people who

One promenade and 3 loops

The full walk takes about 2 hours 30 minutes and consists of a main route (shown in gold on the map), plus 3 optional loops (one green, one pink, one blue). Each walk is described on a coloured background matching the colour used to show the route it takes.

If you do not have much time or your feet are beginning to drag, you can shorten the routes and join the next loop by taking the main gold route.

Starting point: Tourist Office

Rue de Saintes, 48 1400 Nivelles

Enjoy your walk!

Full walk: 2 hours 30 minutes