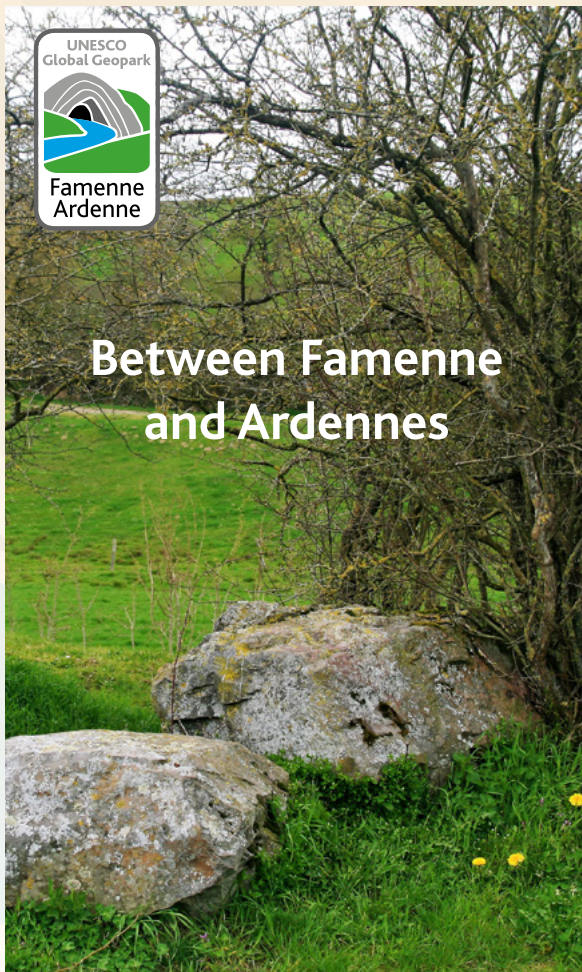


# GEOTRAIL

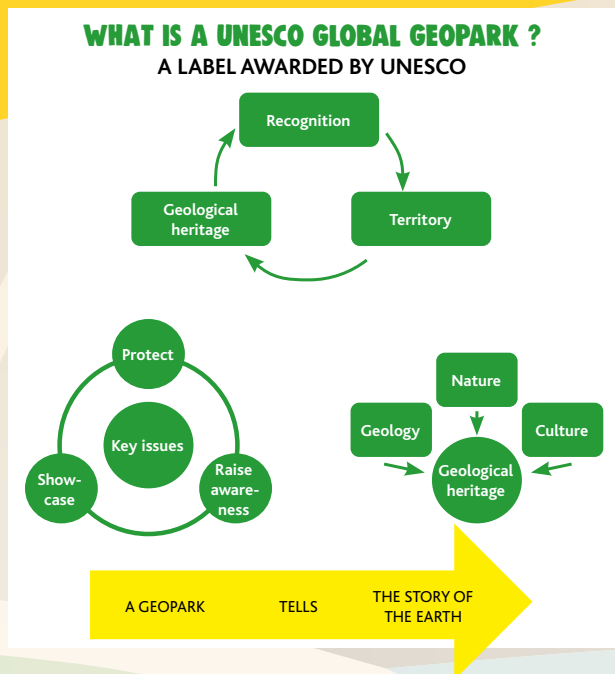
# NASSOGNE



Between Famenne  
and Ardennes



# WHAT IS A GEOPARK ?



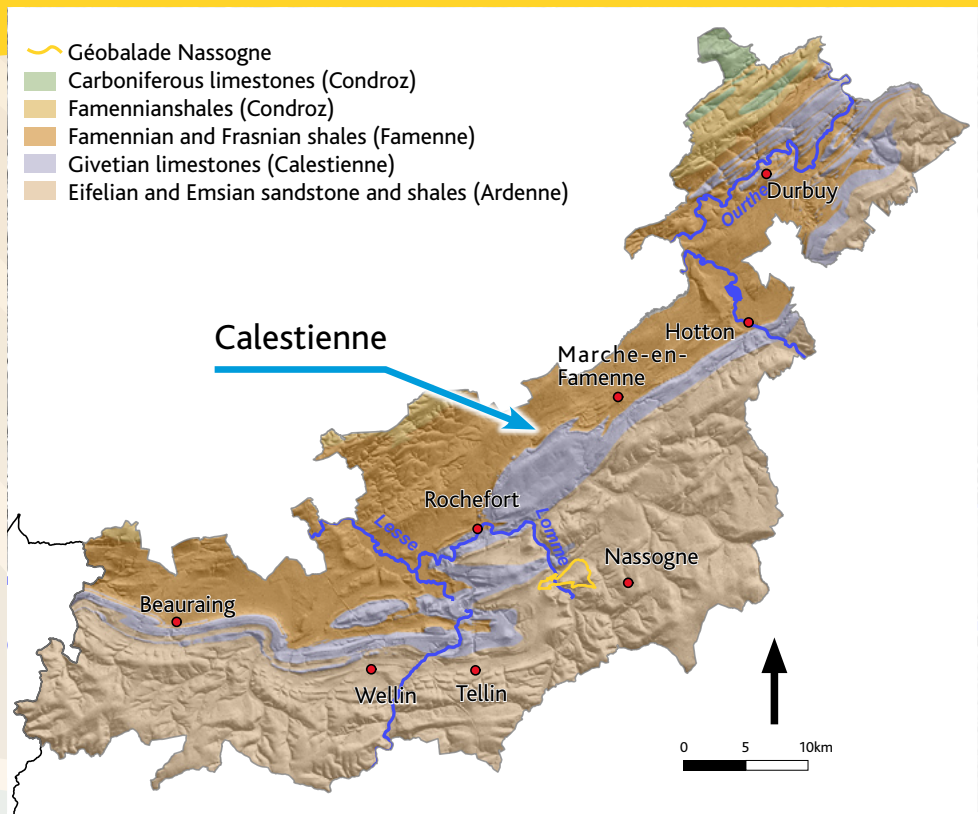
UNESCO Global Geopark is a label awarded by UNESCO to a single, unified geographical area where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. At the end of 2019, there were 147 Global Geoparks in 41 countries around the world.

## L'UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK FAMENNE-ARDENNE

The Geopark encompasses the municipalities of Beauraing, Wellin, Tellin, Rochefort, Nassogne, Marchen-Famenne, Hotton and Durbuy, all sharing the distinction of being located on the Calestienne, a transitional strip of 910 km<sup>2</sup> separating the Famenne and the Ardennes, and home to a population of 67,250 inhabitants. The two outstanding geological features of the Geopark are its Calestienne limestones and their caves (karst systems) as they relate to the geological structure of the region.

### The Calestienne

The landscapes found within the Geopark frequently reflect what lies beneath the surface. Among these landscapes, one particular strip stands out: the Calestienne, the common thread of the entire Geopark. This strip, consisting mainly of Givetian limestones, runs from Chimay in the west to Remouchamps in the east. It is bounded to the south by the Ardennes and to the north by the Famenne depression. The term Calestienne may be derived from the German Kalkstein (limestone), or from a prefix referring



A simplified map of the Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark superimposed on a relief map (LIDAR image), highlighting the link between the geology and the geomorphology. Sandstones are more resistant than limestones, which in turn are more resistant than shales, resulting in the relief visible on the map: to the south rise the heights of the Ardennes, ending in a narrow depression scooped out of the Eifelian shales, the limestone strip of the Calestienne standing out in relief (in blue) and to the north the shales of the depression (in brown). (Data sources: "Wallonia Public Service" <http://geoportail.wallonie.be>).

either to limestone or to heat (plants that grow on limestone are more thermophilic than those that prefer shale soils) – and from the Walloon word Tienne, meaning a high place.

### Geological history

1. The geological history of the Geopark begins during the Devonian period (419 to 359 Ma) with the sedimentation of deposits of horizontal layers on the ocean beds.
2. These sediments will gradually become buried under their own accu-

System	Series	Stage	Age Ma
Devonian	Upper	Famennian	359
		Frasnian	372
	Middle	Givetian	383
		Eifelian	388
	Lower	Emsian	393
		Praguian	408
		Lochkovian	411
			419

En géologie, la chronologie se réfère souvent au tableau stratigraphique. Ici un extrait pour le système dévonien (qui fait partie de l'ère paléozoïque). Les étages portent les noms des lieux où ils sont décrits. Le Geopark se situe au cœur de ces lieux importants pour la géologie du Dévonien moyen et supérieur.

mulation and undergo a slow process of transformation into solid rock. The main rocks beneath the Geopark are thus sedimentary: shales, sandstones and limestones.

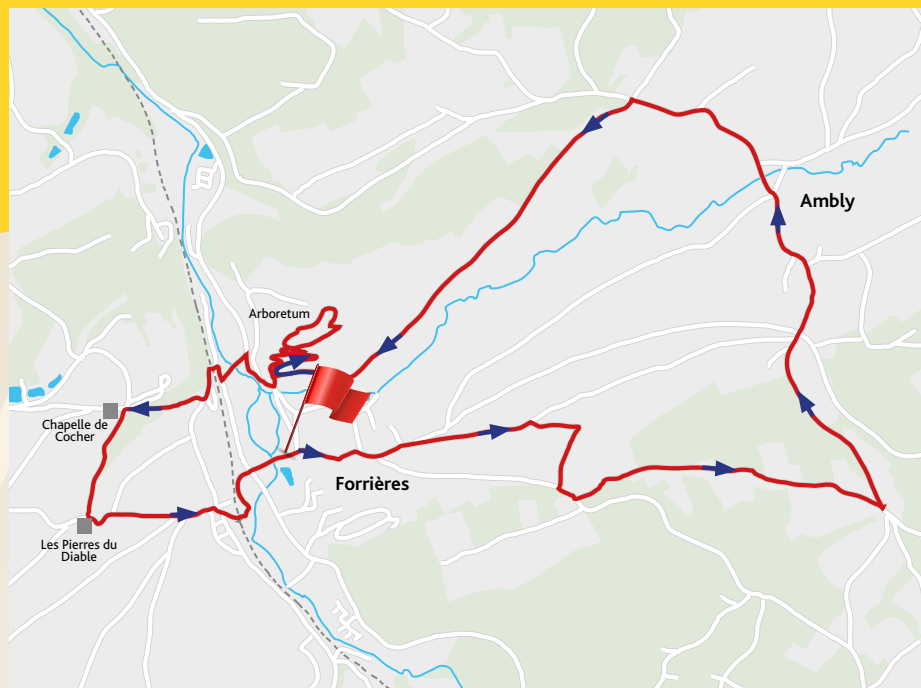
3. These rocks would later undergo severe deformation, some 320 Ma ago, during the formation of an ancient mountain chain (the Variscan orogeny), the remains of which form the Geopark. This event is what produced the many folds and faults now clearly visible in the landscape, such as the Durbuy anticline.

4. The mountain chain was soon eroded down to a vast flat surface known as a peneplain, which still constitutes the subhorizontal skyline visible throughout Upper Belgium. During the latter part of the Secondary era (Mesozoic) and the early part of the Tertiary (Cenozoic), a warm and humid climate profoundly altered the limestone rocks and formed ghost-rocks, the precursors to caves. In the second part of the Cenozoic, the Ardennes bedrock was uplifted, the river system became incised and caves formed.

## THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE :

- ▶ Respect nature, geological heritage, wildlife and plants; do not pick plants, flowers or fruit of any kind.
- ▶ Follow the highway code, which applies on country lanes just as much as on the rest of the road network, and obey any prohibitions or restrictions on traffic.
- ▶ Use the pavement wherever there is one, otherwise walk on the left-hand side of the road, facing oncoming traffic.
- ▶ Make sure you are visible to road-users at all times (wear light-coloured clothing).
- ▶ Opt for full-length trousers to ward off ticks.
- ▶ Stay on the paths by following and sticking to the permanent or temporary waymarking.
- ▶ Scrupulously respect private property: you must obtain the owner's permission before entering.
- ▶ When you meet other walkers, remain courteous at all times and be the first to offer a greeting.
- ▶ Keep noise to a minimum, to avoid causing nuisance to others.
- ▶ Do not startle or disturb grazing animals.
- ▶ Keep your dog on a lead and under control.
- ▶ Take all your litter home with you.
- ▶ Lighting fires is strictly prohibited.





**Start :** Forrières Sports Centre car park,  
rue des Alliés, 35 - 6953 Forrières

**GPS (WGS84):** Latitude : N 50.1338°

Longitude : E 5.2792°

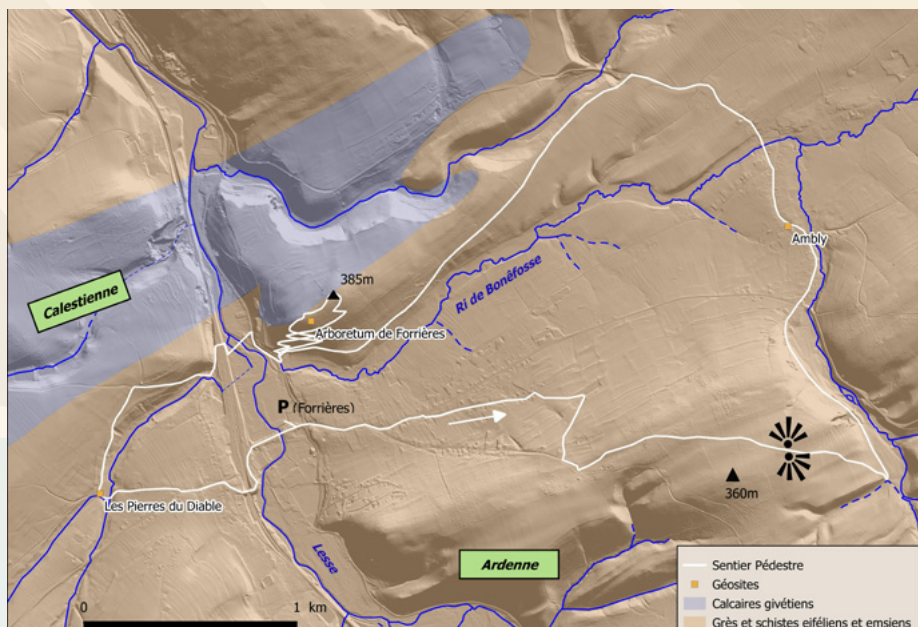
**Distance/Time :** 12,6 km – 3 hours 40 minutes

**Elevation change :** 335 m

**Level :** intermediate



This countryside trail will take you through the last outposts of the Calestienne and the wooded forests, gateways to the Ardennes. After a gentle climb, it will lead you to the small, picturesque village of Ambly, steeped in history, with its outstanding examples of local architecture. You will also make the acquaintance of Haglund the wood-elf. He will lead you along the winding paths of the Forrières arboretum. End your walk by exploring the megaliths known as the Devil's Stones, a magical site where history, archaeology and local legend come together.



Représentation du parcours du sentier pédestre (trait blanc) sur une image mettant en évidence le relief et obtenue par procédé LIDAR (Service public de Wallonie » <http://geoportail.wallonie.be>). Les calcaires de la Calestienne sont repris en bleu et les roches détritiques de l'Ardenne en brun. Les points oranges renseignent les géosites du Géoparc mondial UNESCO Famenne-Ardenne.

Leave the car park and head off to your left on Rue des Alliés. Follow the street for 650 metres, then turn right onto Rue de l'Aunée. Carry on for 550 metres until you reach a fork in the road and bear right to stay on Rue de l'Aunée. Carry

straight on for 1.1 km until you reach the intersection with Rue de la Chavée, where you turn left. After 100 metres, take the narrow path on your left and continue for 1.5 km.

The path will gradually lead you to the highest point on the trail (355 metres above sea level) and offers clear views, especially towards the east (the village of Nassogne and the Ardennes) and north (the Calestienne). All along this trail, you will come across panoramic views and vantage points across

the rolling countryside typical of the transitional landscapes between the Calestienne and the Ardennes.

**At the next crossroads, you will see a small Calvary cross. Turn left here onto Rue de Biermonfof.**



## Good to know : the rocks found in the Geopark

Rocks are made up of minerals and are divided into three main categories: igneous (or magmatic), sedimentary and metamorphic. The only types of rock to be found in the Geopark are sedimentary. They are formed from the aggregation of deposits or sediments, and sometimes also by precipitation, on the sea-bed (or, more infrequently, on lake or riverbeds). They generally appear as superimposed layers or shelves, known as strata. Clastic rocks are the most common form of sedimentary rocks and consist of at least 50% debris. They are ranked according to the size of the predominant debris and may be loose (as at the time of their deposit) or consolidated.

Grain size	Loose rock	Consolidated rock
Supérieur 2 mm	Cailloutis, graviers	Conglomérat
2 mm to 63 µm	Sand	Sandstone
63 µm to 4 µm	Silt	Siltstone
Under 4 µm	Claystone	mudstone, schist, shale

Limestone is the other main type of sedimentary rock. This is a coherent rock consisting mainly of calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ , or calcite) but it may also contain dolomite ( $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ ), clays, quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ), etc. It is impermeable but soluble in water, and is the milieu in which most of the world's caves are found (limestone is described as a highly karstifiable rock).



After 350 metres, you will notice on either side of the road the traces of the former sandstone quarry. This is the rock that underpins the lookout point (355 metres above sea level) you passed 1.1 km back. Follow this road for 1 km to the main road, Rue de Nassogne. Cross the main road and continue straight on along Rue Principale to enter the village of Ambly.

Suivez celle-ci sur 1 km pour arriver à la grand route rue de Nassogne. Traversez-la et engagez-vous tout droit, rue Principale pour ainsi pénétrer dans le village d'Ambly.

Ambly is a picturesque small village of 400 inhabitants within the municipality of Nassogne, right at the heart of the Famenne-Ardenne Geopark. As you walk the narrow lanes of the village, you will have an opportunity to admire a number of noteworthy buildings. In the village itself, you will pass many a stone-built farmhouse dating from the early 19th century, most of which have been lovingly restored. Another striking architectural feature is the number of magnificent half-timbered houses.



Good to know : If you would like to explore the village of Ambly and its surroundings from a rather different and unusual perspective, you will find a stud farm breeding Haflinger horses on the outskirts of the village, in Rue de Harsin. Not only will owners Mr. and Mrs. Lepage be happy to show you around the stud farm, but they can also take you for a horse-drawn carriage ride through the fields and forest (advance booking required). (T: 0032-84/21.42.20)

Ambly has seen many battles throughout its history. The Duke of Luxembourg and the Prince-Bishop of Liège warred for many long years over control of the village lands. The village nevertheless remained a "fief" of the County of Rochefort, in the province of Namur, until 1976, when the two municipalities merged.

Stay on Rue Principale as you arrive in the village. After 350 metres, turn right onto Rue de la Prée and cross the little bridge. Take the time to admire the ancient farmhouses that make up the square, then turn back across the bridge and turn right back onto Rue Principale. On your left, 50 metres fur-

ther on, stands the neo-classical church of Saint-Jean-Baptiste, built between 1854 and 1855 from limestone field-stone. The church is a treasure trove: an altar with an altarpiece featuring a drum-shaped tabernacle, a painting depicting the beheading of St. John the Baptist, dating from the latter half of the 18th century, a bluestone tabernacle dating from around 1600, as well as a number of 18th century tombstones.

Behind the church, at no. 2, stands the former presbytery. It was converted into housing and enclosed by a low wall during the latter half of the 19th century: King Albert II visited the house on a number of occa-

sions. As you make your way back the way you came, just opposite the church, at no. 30, stands a small red-brick house. In its day, it would have been a place of lively conversations and laughter as the village grocery store and café, Chez Flore, where folk would gather after Mass to play cards. Alongside the church, at no. 25,

stands a long, low farmhouse dating from 1842, where the journeymen builders lodged during the building of the church. But Ambly is also home to another traditional skill: at 41 Rue Principale, the Brasserie Saint-Monon brewery makes a range of craft beers (see Good to Know below).



## Good to know : « La Saint-Monon »

A beer created by one of the youngest brewers in Wallonia. When he started out in 1996, Pierre Jacob was undoubtedly the youngest brewer in Wallonia. He has picked up a lot of experience since then, of course. The youngest of a farming family, he made the leap from hobby beer-making to full-scale brewing. The limited resources of the early days have now given way to a modern craft brewery that is slowly but surely making a reputation for itself. Three characterful beers are produced under the name of Saint-Monon: an amber beer (6.5% ABV), a brown beer (7.5% ABV) and a beer brewed from honey (8% ABV). All have already won a number of awards at international brewing competitions. The family-run business produces an annual output of 600 hectolitres. The brewery shop is open every day (except Sunday) from 9am to 12pm and from 1.30pm to 6pm.

Contact details: Brasserie Saint-Monon

Mr Pierre Jacob

41, Rue Principale - 6953 AMBLY (Nassogne) - BELGIUM

Tel/Fax: 0032 (0)84 21 46 32

E-mail: [info@saintmonon.be](mailto:info@saintmonon.be)

After 300 metres, at the crossroads, take Rue du Chaffour, to the left of the monument. At the end of the street, on your left, you will see a very fine bluestone house. During the Second World War, the German Army requisitioned both this house and the one opposite to serve as its headquarters.

At the crossroads with Rue de Harsin, carry straight on along Rue du Chaffour.

You will have noticed the stream, one of the many that crisscross and encircle the village of Ambly. The Ri de Warlet rises at the spot known as Inzès Fochales and flows into the



La Pépinette stream in the village to form the Ri de Bonêfosse.

After 700 metres, turn left onto Ancienne Route de Marche at the hamlet of "La Sitette". Follow this route for 2.2 km to the Forrières Arboretum.

Once you reach the statue of the Virgin, make your way up the hill to your right to enter the Arboretum and follow your guide, Haglund the wood-elf.

You are now standing 260 metres above the village of Forrières, at a spot known as "Coray". Ahead of you stretches a 6-hectare arboretum well worth the visit, planted with false acacia, ash, beech, hornbeam, oak, wild cherry and maples. The arboretum also provides a haven for local wildlife, and it is not uncommon to





encounter hares, squirrels and even, if you are lucky, roe deer. It is also the starting point for a 2.1 km way-marked trail dotted with fun, inter-

active games: a blindfold recognition kit, land art and observation games.



Good to know :

### **What exactly is an arboretum ?**

In essence, it is a park given over to the experimental growing in open ground of trees and shrubs of many different species, generally exotic, in order to study their behaviour. It offers a display of trees and shrubs that are labelled with their common and scientific names, and their continent of origin. The purpose of an arboretum is scientific, educational and aesthetic. Species are classified either according to their family, or by ecological site, or by geographic origin.

**Go back down the hill to Rue de Jemelle and turn right. After 200 metres, turn left into Rue duBasteau, and then right, continuing on Rue du Basteau.**

**Take the tunnel under the railway and continue along Rue d'Eccourt. When you come to the old stone farmhouse,**



turn right onto the narrow stony path.

At the end of the path, after the Chapelle de Cocher, turn left onto Rue de Rochefort. Carry on for 550 metres until you come to the final Geosite, at the foot of a Calvary cross.

You are now at a spot known as "Inzomet" (the summit), a narrow promontory between two small streams, on which stands the megalithic site of the "Devil's Load" or "Devil's Rocks". In the 19th century, the site consisted of 18 blocks of dressed sandstone. Sadly, many of the rocks were appropriated for the paving of a nearby road, and now only six remain. In the absence of any modern-day archaeological research, the site, which dates from the 3rd or 2nd millennium BC, retains most of its ancient mysteries intact and raises many unanswered questions as to how it would once have

looked and what its purpose might have been. Its symbolic significance must have persisted down the generations, however, until the church felt the need to impose a Christian imprint on the site by installing a Calvary cross. This was reinforced by tales and legends associating the stones with the devil, designed either to terrify the local populace or incite them to destroy the site. Legend has it that the Devil was carrying a load of stones one day, but dropped them at this spot; under the largest of the stones, it is said, lies a treasure for the taking by whoever is able to lift the stone...

Leave via Rue de Rochefort and turn left after 400 metres. Follow this road and take the bridge over the railway. Carry on along Rue de France to the centre of Forrières and return to your vehicle.

## Sources :

Toussaint M., 2003. Sépultures collectives monumentales et menhirs de Wallonie et des régions voisines. In : TOUSSAINT M. (dir.), Le champ mégalithique de Wéris. Fouilles de 1979 à 2001. Volume 1. Contexte archéologique et géologique, Namur (Études et Documents, Archéologie, 9), p. 52-105

## Bureaux d'informations touristique

### Maison du Tourisme Famenne-Ardenne

Royal Syndicat d'Initiative de Marche-en-Famenne  
Place de l'Etang, 15 - 6900 Marche-en-Famenne (B)

T. : +32(0)84/34.53.27

info@famenneardenne.be

www.famenneardenne.be

Ouvert du lundi au vendredi de 8h30 à 17h30

Les week-ends & jours fériés de 9h30 à 17h00

Fermé les 01/01, 01/11 et 25/12

### Office Communal du Tourisme de l'Entité de Nassogne

Rue de Lahaut - 6950 Nassogne (B)

T. : +32(0)84/22.15.58

Tourisme.nassogne@skynet.be

Ouvert du mardi au vendredi de 10h00 à 12h00 et de 13h à 16h, le samedi de 9h00 à 12h00 et de 13h00 à 16h00.

Fermé le dimanche et le lundi.

En juillet et août, ouvert tous les jours de 10h00 à 12h00 et de 13h00 à 16h00.

### Geopark Famenne-Ardenne, asbl

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