

# The Wee

<https://www.deepl.com/en/translator> First stage

## From Esch-sur-Alzette to Petange (20 km)

**Positive elevation difference: around 350 m -- Map: R9**

1. In Esch-sur-Alzette, with the station behind you, turn left towards Belval, pass in front of the youth hostel, then the lift. At the first roundabout continue straight ahead, first along the railway, then under the railway to a second roundabout (about 1 km from the station) which is also under the railway. Just before approaching the roundabout, the path connects with the yellow triangle marker. Follow this marker. Pass on the other side of the railway and take the road towards Belvaux (rue de Belval). Follow the yellow triangle (Sentier du sud) with this time the railway on your right.
2. Around km 3.5, the yellow triangle crosses the street to take Route 168, which goes to the right towards Belvaux (Belval university station sign). The yellow triangle passing between the station and the car park, continue on this road 168 with the railway and Belval Plaza on the right. Around km 4, note the exit signs for Esch-sur-Alzette and, further on, the entrance to Belvaux. About a hundred meters before a roundabout, follow the triangle that makes you cross the road to take the right sidewalk and pass the roundabout by its right and follow the direction Belvaux-centre, then pass under the railway. About 150 m after the bridge and around km 4.5, follow the yellow triangle that crosses the street and continue on the track to the right of the railway. Further on, go under the railway still following the yellow triangle to the right and briefly walk along the railway, which is on your right. A little further on (around km 6), the asphalt road leads to a small crossroads (with a view on the right of rue Wenschel): cross this main road and follow it to the right. About 400 m further on, still following the yellow triangle, turn left into rue de la Fontaine, then very quickly leave it by going straight on a rather degraded track which, further on, becomes a path covered with shrubs. Follow this path to an asphalt platform, then follow the yellow triangle on the right and follow the tractor path to the main road. Take this main road to the left, as indicated by the yellow triangle, towards the sign "Centre de récréation Galgenbiérg" visible above.
3. Reach this sign and follow it to the right. Pass between a car park (on the left) and a small park with a playground (on the right), go straight ahead on the asphalt track and go up a small hill (around km 7.5) to reach the yellow triangle that you have to take on the left and that becomes a path in the woods. Always follow the yellow triangle to the west or southwest with the edge of the wood on the right. A nice walk.
4. The path will slowly descend as it approaches Obercorn until it reaches a fork in the road, with a bench on the right (around km 9.5): while the yellow triangle descends towards Obercorn and the houses, a path goes up on the left (actually the two paths go quite straight ahead). Temporarily leave the yellow triangle and take this path which goes slightly to the left. A little further on, the yellow triangle returns as a wide road, to be followed to the left. Go uphill, over a road in a straight line, and continue to go up.
5. At the exit of the wood, the road makes a right angle to the right (around km 10.5) then goes straight ahead and crosses a kind of plateau with a view, on the left, on the French village of Hussigny-Godbrange.

6. A little further on, let the yellow triangle go to the left and, continuing straight ahead, follow the yellow circle. The yellow circle leads to the Vesquenhaff junction (around km 12.3). Follow the yellow circle straight ahead, take the CR176 on the left (towards Rodange Lasauvage) for about 500m. At the crossroads where the CR176 turns at right angle to the left, let the yellow circle go to the right, go straight ahead, pass the barrier and continue along the asphalt track without any markers to reach a little further the autopedestrian (-) of Differdange and a red circle (around km 13.5).
7. Continue straight ahead on this asphalted track for about 150 m and pass, without changing direction, a crossroads of tracks marked by a signpost (autopedestrian, yellow circle) and a small green bin. Follow straight ahead on the same asphalt track without markers. The yellow circle and the self-pedestrian (+) will join (after about 500 m without markers) this asphalt track which you must continue to follow straight ahead. This track leads (around km 15) to a kind of parking lot: let the yellow circle go on the right and continue to follow the autopedestrian (+) on the left. After about 300 m this track leads to a main road with a small playground opposite. Cross the main road and follow it to the right, letting the autopedestrian (+) go to the left. Follow this road (do not turn right towards the Fonds de Gras) downhill for about 400m. Just after a bend and a short widening of the road, go up to the left on the path marked with the yellow circle, which is not very visible in the bushes and is marked with a sign indicating the entrance to the "Prëntzeberg" nature reserve.
8. This uphill path joins an asphalt road. Turn right following the yellow circle. Follow this road and the yellow circle until you reach a small crossroads, with a kind of water tank on the left and a small car park (around km 17): at this point, do not follow the road that goes down. Instead, follow the yellow circle (path in the woods), passing the barrier slightly to the left. About 1 km further on, the path leads to a crossroads marked by a stone, a tree and a marker support. Turn right. Immediately after turning right, there is a second crossroads. Here, do not take the yellow circle that goes up on the left, but rather go to the right. It is the autopedestrian 2 (-) but very badly marked. Don't worry about not finding markers. Continue to follow this same path covered by shrubs (a bit like the path at the exit of Belvaux).
9. This path leads, at the level of the "concasseur ", to a specially designed path. Further on (around km 19), this path leads to an old small bridge of which only the two walls remain. At this point, let the autopedestrian (-) go straight ahead, and go down the path on the right. Go along the cemetery, cross the main road, take the track to the left of the car park, go under the station - and enter the centre of Pétange (around km 20), at the town hall on your left, the end of the stage.

Possible accommodation: <http://www.hotelthreeland.lu/Francais/Bienvenu.htm>

Possibility to take the train to spend the night at the youth hostel in Esch-sur-Alzette.

## From Petange to Beckerich (32 km)

1. In Petange, follow the autopedestrian (+) by taking the rue de l'Eglise which runs to the left of the Town Hall. Pass in front of the church and the Zitha health centre on the left. Follow this street until just before the roundabout. There, continue to follow the autopedestrian (+) along the highway to reach the bike path, turn right then left to pass over the highway on the bridge.
2. Follow the bike path for about 1.5 km. At the crossroads (clearly visible) where the high voltage line passes over the cycle path, turn left onto an asphalt road which, for a few hundred metres, runs along the cycle path on your right, then turns left towards the edge of a wood. Just after this bend, at the crossroads, turn right onto a dirt road that runs straight through the woods. Go to the end of this dirt road, then take on the left the autopedestrian 2 (-).
3. Follow the autopedestrian (-) for about 3 km, go through the village of Clemency (around km 7), take the route de la Gare towards Garnich/Fingig until you reach the cycle path, turn left onto this cycle path and pass in front of the old railway station on your right.
4. At the end of the cycle path (around km 11.5) continue along the cycle path on the road, more or less straight ahead (slightly to the right). At the end of this road, join the Kleinbettingen main road just outside Kahler. Turn left upwards towards Kleinbettingen. Follow this road on the left sidewalk, pass under the highway, then, further on, pass on (or under) the railway. At the church follow the road to the right and about 150 m further on take the small alley that goes uphill on the left. At the top, take the main road left towards Steinfort.
5. Pass the old railway, enter Steinfort and join the main road Arlon-Luxembourg (around km 17). Turn left on this road direction Arlon. Just before the old railway, take the road to the right. At the end of this road, before it turns right, enter Mirador Park and walk a few dozen metres. Just before the brown/red wagon, follow the yellow rectangle on the left. Cross the first railway track, and walk between the two tracks.
6. Always follow the yellow rectangle: go under an old bridge and about thirty metres further on, turn right, cross a small wooden bridge between two pieces of a "frog pond", join the railway a little higher, follow this path to the left, to join a cycle path (which goes to Beckerich for those who would like to shorten the stage somewhat), then immediately follow the yellow rectangle on a dirt path going downhill on the left.
7. In the valley, a small wall appears on the right which is the beginning of an old small dam (see below, the "And for the little story"). Before reaching the centre of the dam where there is a mechanism, there is a path with a red ramp going downhill on the right. Leave the yellow rectangle to follow this path. A few dozen metres further on, pass a large ruin on the left, take the path on the left which runs (roughly) along the stream that you will keep on your left until Clairefontaine.
8. When you arrive at Clairefontaine, before leaving the woods, cross the stream -- here exceptionally The Wee enters Belgium -- along a low wall on your left and then reach the road. Take the road on the left (more or less straight ahead), go along the low wall of the abbey which is on your left. At the end of this low wall, corresponding to the end of the abbey, there is a road that goes to the left towards the back of the abbey. In front of this road, there is a path that climbs into the woods on the right: the red rectangle hiking path number 6. This path is also the Mirador (in the opposite direction) as well as the GR (red and white). Follow this path.
9. After reaching the highest point of this path, follow it until the GR and the red rectangle go to the

left: here you have to take the path on the right (straight ahead) which is still the Mirador (-). At the fork further on, join again with the red rectangle and go straight ahead. This dirt road connects to a small road, then goes down to Eischen's first houses, still following the red rectangle. Follow the red rectangle downhill all the way, even when it leaves this small road and turns at a right angle to the left.

10. In Eischen, leave the red rectangle and turn right (towards the Café des Sports) (around km 23.5). After the Café des Sports, take the road in direction of Hobscheid and Arlon, then turn left in direction of Arlon and Gaichel. Then take the second small road on the right, which goes downhill just after the "priority road" sign. This small road goes downhill, almost passes through a farm yard, crosses a small stream, then goes uphill to the woods and becomes a dirt road. After 100 m of dirt road, this path joins the autopedestrian (+) and follows it to the left entering the woods. About 200 m further on, be careful: do not miss the fork on the right, still following the autopedestrian (+). Go uphill, arrive at a "landing", then turn right while the autopedestrian makes a very strong bifurcation to the left. At the top, always keep to the right to reach the main road. Once you reach the main road (around km 26), cross straight ahead (slightly to the right).
11. For about 1 km you have to be very careful. This path taken after crossing the road turns right after a few dozen metres. At this fork, take the path that goes straight ahead. About ten meters further on, there is another fork with a path that goes to the left. Here, follow the main path and do not take the left path. Stay on this main path, which, on average, goes north, northeast. As an aid, look for and follow the "dripping yellow spots" that are painted here and there on the trees.
12. Staying on this path, at a large "crossroads" with a tree in the middle, continue on the same path. A little further on (about 30 m), there is another crossroads with a path that comes from the right: you must continue to the left and about fifteen metres further on, locate the post indicating the red, blue and green footpaths of Beckerich: it is the green "12 km" marker that you will have to follow. A few hundred meters further, do not miss this green marker, that leaves the other two, guiding you to the right.
13. Always follow the green marker (a little further the marker indicates 7 km, which means that there are still 5 km to Beckerich). At about the km 30, the green marker, which has joined the others again, goes down on the right towards a small tunnel: at this point leave the markers and go straight ahead (so do not take the small tunnel), until you reach the cycle path to be followed to the left. At the end of the cycle path (at the Pompjeesbau), follow the main road straight ahead (on the left) to enter Beckerich (km 32).

Possible accommodation with a local resident in Beckerich - contact us: [contact@thewee.eu](mailto:contact@thewee.eu).

# Et pour la petite histoire...

## The late Lake of Steinfort: in the footsteps of the "Stoweier"

One of the most beautiful short hikes in the region consists of crossing the woods from Steinfort to Eischen (a dozen kilometres round trip, partially following the marked route known as the "Mirador"). Beauty is at least threefold. It is indeed a question of following both the whimsical Eisch, which has fun changing its appearance over the years, and of discovering or rediscovering Clairefontaine - a "accidentally" Belgian locality with a chapel housing the tomb of Ermesinde, a Luxembourg national symbol if there is one - to reach the picturesque village of Eischen, after having had its remarkable church in sight.

And then, on the way, there's this "thing".

After passing in front of the old foundry (the "Al Schmelz", now a cultural centre), after following the rusty rails that sink into the woods of the "Schwarzenhof", after passing under an old, rusty bridge, you come across old pieces of buildings invaded by bushes or covered with ivy. And all this leads, just after an impressive meander, to a bizarre, even dangerous metal mechanism and concrete canals alongside a larger ruin. Don't worry, more than one, arriving here for the first time, scratched his head, like you.

The history of these ruins began at the dawn of the 20th century, when the idea came to local steel industry managers to create a cooling pond by improvising a dam there. This was finally achieved during the First World War. But the dam quickly became permeable, rendering the water body unusable and, hence, useless.

The idea then arose, in the 1920s, to build a more worthy dam, with a watertight and higher wall and a lock mechanism at the cutting edge of technology at the time, in order to create a water reservoir to turn turbines to produce the electricity that the foundry also needed. Unfortunately, the structure commissioned in 1925 proved to be poorly calibrated: when the turbines were commissioned, it turned out that the level of the water body was falling excessively due to the low flow of the river. We told you that the Eisch is capricious...

As the entire installation was once again found to be useless, the turbines were stopped, dismantled and sold in Belgium, while the lake - locally known as "Stoweier", 8 metres deep in places, 1.5 km long and 260 m wide, with some 400,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water covering about ten hectares - was handed over for touristic pleasure and relaxation. As Michel Clemen tells us in a memoir on the history and restoration potential of the "Stoweier" published in 2008, fishing, swimming and other water sports, hiking and nature observation activities developed there. "The artificial lake, located in the heart of the forest (...) would soon become a peaceful refuge and integrated into daily life. So we would take the Sunday walk and spend a few pleasant hours there. The lake was very popular not only with the residents of the municipality of Steinfort and the immediate surroundings, but also with many inhabitants of the Arlon region who frequented this haven of peace, which had therefore become a precious leisure area for the whole region." But, as if the place had been cursed, this golden age of the "Stoweier" will also be short-lived.

Indeed, on June 17, 1930, the assistant forest ranger, one Pierre Dostert of Mensdorf, 32 years old and father of two children, drowned there, apparently following a stroke while swimming there. To recover his body, the lock valves were opened and the lake emptied. "After which, the valves were no longer closed," wrote Michel Clemen. "Water no longer accumulated and Steinfort Lake was a thing of the past."

Over the years, the river resurfaced across the bottom of the old lake and the forest reigned there. Today, following the marked path, the walker "stumbles upon" the mechanism of the old lock as well as the building that housed the turbines, while a more adventurous person can still venture out to inspect what remains of the underground canals.

So that's the "thing" where fauna and flora have finally replaced the tourists of yesteryear in and around the

ruins. Bats are particularly fond of it. As for the lake bed, the trained eye can still detect it thanks to a somewhat younger vegetation in a depression of the ground.

However, despite this shipwreck, the idea of a lake in Steinfort was not completely drowned in the troubled waters of history. Throughout the years, it has continued to tease a few irreducible "counter-current rowers" who are willing to maintain the hope of a resurrection. In July 1973, the Steinfort Tourist Office published a note entitled "Artificial Lake in Steinfort" in which it drew up a list of the advantages in restoring the water body: drinking water reservoir, purification of polluted water, revival of the interest in fishing, and both tourist and educational attractions. Two relative obstacles: the land should have been bought from its then owner, Annette Schwall-Lacroix, and an agreement was necessary with the Belgian authorities because the lake would overflow into neighbouring Belgium.

As the debates progressed, politics, both local and national, became involved and became the obstacle that finally drove the idea down the drain. It was reconsidered more or less seriously in the 1990s as a possible solution to the floods that caused severe damage to homes along the river in Eischen - but without further action.

As no story really ends, one can imagine - or even hope - that the one about the Steinfort Lake may still be somehow brought back to surface.

Based on an article published in Le Jeudi (August 4, 2016)

## From Beckerich to Arsdorf (25 km)

1. With the Beckerich church in your back and the café in front of you, take the main road on the right, pass in front of the garage (Renault) then turn left towards Redange. Pass over a small stream and directly right onto the degraded asphalt road in front of the Beckerich exit sign.
2. Just before the small fir wood, take the dirt and grass track that runs along this wood on your right. About 1/2 km further on, connecting to a small asphalt road, take this road on the left to go towards Niederpallen. Further on, cross a stream, and on the right the old washing place. A little further on (200 m), having reached the first farms of Niederpallen, take the bike path on the left towards Redange (at the sign indicating a railroad).
3. A km or so further on, while the cycle path has been following the road for a few dozen metres, at the level of company buildings, it starts to move away from the road again: at this point, turn right, cross the road, and go uphill the small road. Also get downhill to a crossroads with a bus stop (Schleischen), at the lower part of Redange: reach and follow the yellow circle straight across the watercourse. Go up to the church (around km 5.5), then straight ahead through the shopping street of Redange (still follow the yellow circle). The grocery store is one of the last shops, continue straight ahead, cross the road of Hostert, pass in front of the Inoui on the left, follow the direction Arlon/Ell, then, still following the yellow circle, turn right towards Nagem (first right after the road to Rambrouch). A little higher up, the place where the yellow circle turns left is not well indicated: take the last small road on the left before the Redange exit sign. You will have to follow the yellow circle for about ten kilometers.
4. This path goes northeast to Roodt. Be careful, on the way to this village, at about km 10, there will be a crossroads with a "double cherry tree" on the side, with a church that you can see in the distant village far to the right: here you have to take a right -- spot the marker at the entrance to the wood. At the exit of the wood, take the road towards Roodt on the right. Go through Roodt following the yellow circle.
5. The path will change its appearance, more "Ardennes-like" (less green, less soft, more greyish). This path runs along a stream slightly below to the left (observe the "animals" in the woods!). This yellow circle path will cross a bridge turning left. Attention: a small km after this bridge, the path, before entering a wood, where there is also a beautiful beacon, follow on the right the self-pedestrian path 2 which rises by turning almost 180 degrees, leaving the yellow circle (km 16.5).
6. The autopedestrian goes uphill to the right towards the south and then northerly again for a km or so. Follow this autopedestrian 2 to Koetschette (around km 20 at the entrance sign of the village).
7. The main road that enters Koetschette arrives at a roundabout, where there was the restaurant "Le Jardin Napoléon". Turn left towards Arsdorf, then take the first more or less paved road to the right. This path is located about 200 m from the roundabout and can be easily found by looking for a small autopedestrian post which is on the left, about twenty meters after the rue de la Paix, on the road to Arsdorf. Across of this picket, on the other side of the road (on the right side towards Arsdorf) is the path to take which follows the autopedestrian (-). Go downhill for about 2 km until you reach the entrance to Arsdorf. The path to follow also has a horse's head painted on the trees. On this road, be careful: at a fork in the road that crosses the stream, follow the road that turns to cross the stream.
8. At the entrance to Arsdorf, when the path no longer goes downhill, pass the old washing place on the left, take the road on the left following the yellow circle, then at the next crossroads, take

another left. Go uphill, then down -- the café, restaurant and hotel ahead marks the arrival in Arsdorf and the end of this stage.

## From Arsdorf to Wiltz (24 km)

1. From the small car park in front of the "boys' and girls' school, go up following the autopedestrian and then follow the "blue book" which crosses first and then connecto to the road that you have to take on the left. On the main road above Arsdorf, continue (it is still the "blue book" marker but it is not clearly indicated) straight under the bridge and not to the right. A little further on, as the road descends, after a right-hand bend, into the following left-hand bend, follow the "blue book" path that leaves the road on the right. Go downhill to the "Pont Misère" and cross the bridge. On the other side of the bridge, take directly on the left the autopedestrian (+) Boulaide 2 until Boulaide (km 5,4)... In Boulaide continue to the right on the autopedestrian 2, then, at the end, take the road on the left towards Buschleiden, pass in front of the kiosk, let the autopedestrian 2 go on the right, pass in front of the post office, with in sight a white farm and the sign of a café. Pass in front of the café, then the white farmhouse across from which there is the road to Baschleiden to the right and which you have to take.
2. Enter Baschleiden. 500m further down in the village, take the autopedestrian (+) on the right (arrow "plage Rommwiss"). It is also a marked blue mountain bike track. After about 1 km, at the end of the village (there is only one house left), leave the autopedestrian to follow the mountain bike track on the left through the fields. Warning: a little further on, at the first junction (at this crossroads, the markers are not clear (missing) but there is a road sign limiting access to cyclists only tucked into the hedge on the right): the mountain bike path goes straight ahead and a road (invisibly marked horse head) goes down on the left. Take the path that goes down into the woods on the left. About 1 km further down, let the autopedestrian go left, continue down, then a little further down (around km 10) into the woods, take the green triangle, the blue book and the yellow rectangle on the left -- do not continue the descent straight down.
3. Cross a small stream on a metal bridge and, following triangle, blue book and rectangle, go uphill. Cross a kind of forest maintenance track, and continue uphill, then downhill and cross the maintenance track again, always following the 3 markers. After walking along the lake to the right, let the blue book go to the right and follow the yellow rectangle/green triangle duo on the left for about 300 m (follow this duo as it leaves the track for a trail up to the right), ascend, including the small wooden steps, to connect with the end of an asphalt road. Take this road which goes downhill on the left. Follow this same road (even when in a bend to the left, a path goes to the right), down to a main road on the right and down to the small arched bridge that you have to cross.
4. On the other side of the bridge, turn directly to the left and follow the yellow rectangle/green triangle to Liefrange (around km 14). In Liefrange, turn right in front of the campsite, enter the village, pass in front of the "klenge Butteck" and follow the yellow rectangle/green triangle up very steeply. At the exit of Liefrange, let the duo go to the right and continue to follow the road that goes straight uphill. Continue this country road (do not follow anything to the right or left) on a kind of ridge. After about 2 km of this ridge a junction is made with the autopedestrian (+) of Kaundorf. Continue straight ahead on a track becoming a dirt road. After about a km, after crossing a small wood, once you have reached a main road, take this road on the right, always following the autopedestrian +, go past the Ponts et Chaussées, enter Kaundorf. Join another main road on the left towards Wiltz, always following the autopedestrian. You will have to follow this marker when it indicates to leave the road on the right, entering the woods.
5. After about 3 km of this autopedestrian, which goes downhill through the woods and will even leave the wide lane for a path that goes down on the left, let the autopedestrian go right and continue the

descent to reach a small chapel and a gravel path that you have to take to the left (towards the main road that you can guess very close by). Head towards the road (take the next asphalt road on the left) then cross the Bastogne road (around km 19) to reach the car park/rest area ( part of the old road) on the other side.

6. Go to the end of this car park, and before reaching the main road again, take the path that goes up into the woods on the right (confirmed by a "dripping yellow spot" on the first tree on the right - useful confirmation because this path is not always maintained and can be invaded by thorns and nettle). Follow this trail without worrying about other possibilities (also look for "dripping yellow spots" on trees, at least one on each portion of the path between bends/twists). A first bend to the right, a second to the left, a third bend to the right, a fourth bend to the left, a fifth long bend to the right, a sixth bend to the right, then finally a seventh bend to the left, with a uphill stretch in a straight line that will leave the woods and end up on the heights. Almost under the electrical wires, turn left. Follow straight on, always straight on, pass to the right of a wind turbine, join the duo yellow cross/green triangle (not always well indicated, otherwise follow straight on, not towards the forest cemetery) that you must follow straight on. Following the duo, go through Roullingen and then downhill into Wiltz (Church at km 25).

## From Wiltz to Clervaux (18 km)

This stage follows the E3 road -- Following the green triangle (Ardennes-Eiffel path), joined, after Wilwerwiltz, by the yellow diamond (North path).

1. In Wiltz, join the yellow cross and the green triangle at the church, and continue along the road of the previous stage: go down the pedestrian, pass in front of the town hall on the left and the castle on the right, then take the long bend on the left. At the national strike monument, turn right, then immediately right again. Further on, take the rue de la Chapelle to the left (do not go towards Vianden) always following the two markers. At the bottom of rue de la Chapelle, turn right into rue Planck. In the valley, continue to follow the triangle and the cross, and start the exit from Wiltz by going up a road first and then a path. Reach a plateau, with, in a bend, a small road. Let the yellow cross go to the right, and follow the green triangle -- until Clervaux. Look at the view of Wiltz on the left.
2. The descent leads to the village of Erpeldange with its beautiful little church at the entrance on the right. Just after the church, turn right. At the exit of Erpeldange, cross a small stream in front of a white and green farm. After this farm, when going up, the marker is not very visible at a fork: while the two directions are good, take the dirt road on the left, which goes up and down, crosses the autopedestrian and passes in front of a kind of farm on the right. The path then leads into a valley, crosses a small stream, with a house on the right, then goes up again and joins a main road (with the Wilwerwiltz 5 km signpost). At this crossroads, the marker is not very visible: the path to take is not the one that is just opposite the other side of the road, but the one that is hidden on the left and that runs along the road that will be on your left when going down (cross the road to spot it).
3. Follow this road for about 1.5 km, which at one point runs along a stream on your left. The path goes out of the undergrowth: be careful because you will have to turn left and the marker can be quickly missed. It is therefore necessary to keep an eye on the left: after a bend, there will be a bench with a beacon, then 500 m further on, locate the path that suddenly starts at a right angle (around km 5.5) in a narrow opening between the fields. The path then crosses the stream on a small wooden bridge, goes up on a tractor path, joins a crossroads of small macadamized roads with a "Wilwerwiltz 5.3 km" signpost -- continue straight on.
4. In Wilwerwiltz, opposite the church on the road "Um Sandbiereg" , the marker is not very visible: turn right, then left towards Hosingen, Clervaux and cross the railroad (around km 9). Follow the green triangle, i. e. turn left towards Clervaux, then start the beautiful climb uphill to the right immediately afterwards. Follow this steep slope while staying to the left.
5. Arrived above, still following the green triangle, pass the cemetery and the small chapel attached to it. At a slightly complicated crossroads, take the main road on the far left towards the brown house. Pass the football field, about a hundred meters away. Follow the green triangle straight ahead with a small chapel in sight a little further ahead. Join the yellow diamond to the small chapel -- already visible after about twenty meters past the small chapel.
6. About 200 m after the reservoir, let the pedestrian go on the left and continue straight ahead, on the main road that passes under the electric wires, through the fields. At a crossroads a little further on, turn left and then right where the triangle and the diamond join the Munshausen autopedestrian.
7. Follow this tractor path up to a kind of undergrowth. Once at the top, the path integrates into the field and splits: while a branch goes to the right, you have to go straight down. During this beautiful descent through the woods, note the village of Draufelt and its bell tower nestled at the bottom of the landscape.

8. Always following the triangle and the diamond, at the cemetery take a right. Reach the main road, turn left (do not enter Draufelt completely), then right towards Clervaux. After the stream and at the small white cross, turn right, and immediately after, follow the diamond and triangle to the left on the small path that climbs well. At the end of the path, follow the tractor track and turn left. A few dozen meters further on, just after a small bend, take the path that continues the ascent on the right.
9. A little higher up, continue the climb on the tractor track, always following the triangle and the diamond. Once you reach a crossroad a little further on: a path goes to the right, two to the left and one straight ahead: you have to follow the markers and go straight up. The path crosses a fir replanting area and then begins to descend into a fir wood. It joins a crossroads with a slightly more important path that you have to cross straight ahead and take the path that goes straight ahead. A little further on, take the tractor track to the left, going down slightly, and directly to the right the main road following the triangle and diamond. Have you noticed the ants' nests?
10. Still following the two markers, the path starts to climb again and then reaches the top of this portion of the path with the horizon beginning to be visible in the distance. A little further down the road, the path starts to descend again and the horizon offers a view, slightly to the left, of the bell tower of the Abbey of Clervaux. The path plunges back into the woods: at the crossroads with a bench, turn right and go down.
11. Still following the two markers, after a nice descent, the path goes up: at the crossroads do not follow the nordik walking path, continue to climb well. About 400 m further on, at the crossroads, continue straight ahead and join a more passable path that rises slightly to the right and reaches a "ceiling" through brooms and small fir trees. The path goes down a little bit, into a fir forest with a field on the right. At the small crossroads, turn left (do not follow the main path), following the wood on the left and the field on the right. A little further on, the path goes up, passes a small chalet straight ahead. Spot straight ahead the roofs of the Abbey of Clervaux. The path peaks and then descends through the fields. Follow it at a right angle on the left, join a small road, do not turn right, follow straight ahead, with the Abbey of Clervaux in front.
12. Still following the two markers, on the descent, join the autopedestrian, with Clervaux clearly visible. Once you reach the main road, do not take it: there is a staircase with a ramp on the left (follow the markers). At the bottom of the stairs, let the autopedestrian go to the left, take a right and enter Clervaux on the pavement (km 18).

Proposed accommodation: Robbescheuer à Munshausen, Tourist Center +352 9217451 - email [info@infocenter.lu](mailto:info@infocenter.lu) -- There is a way to go directly to Munshausen by following the autopedestrian mentioned on the way at item 6, or by going to Clervaux, then walking 3 or 4 km on a superb path, or again from Clervaux by bus.

## From Clervaux to Weiswampach (19 km)

Note : The reference of this route is the yellow diamond (Sentier du Nord). The beginning of the route, however, regardless of the variant taken, temporarily leaves this marker.

1. In Clervaux, not far from the Hôtel du Commerce, follow the yellow diamond through the pedestrian.
2. **Caution: Because it passes through a place that may be flooded in flood conditions, the route described should only be taken if it has not rained continuously for 48 hours before or if the snow has not melted for 48 hours. In the event that flooding of Woltz Creek is suspected, take the variant described at the end of this step (\*\*\*), which replaces paragraphs 3 to 7. It is also shorter and may be of interest to those who would like to shorten the stage.**
3. At the end of the pedestrian (with the newspaper and trinkets store on the right corner), locate on the right the "white arrow on blue background" marker of the autopedestrian 1 (+). Follow this marker that crosses the road on the pedestrian crossing, and enter a small parking lot. There is the sign for the start of the autopedestrian 1. Continue to follow the marker that goes towards the wooded hill. Cross the car park, then a small alley on the right, then go up, on the left, the street that goes towards the restaurant "Les écuries du parc".
4. At the restaurant's small car park, continue to follow the autopedestrian 1 straight ahead, passing to the left of the restaurant and then taking a path (" Eaux et Forêts... ") through the wooded hill. Do not go down to the left, continue straight ahead on the autopedestrian. Go up a little. At the first crossroads and first hairpin bend of the path to the right, no longer follow the autopedestrian that goes up to the right, but go straight ahead following the trio of beacons "green triangle, CFL and white wave on blue background". The path is initially a little narrower, with the woods on the right and Clervaux below on the left.
5. The trail approaches further down the railway and then the watercourse. The path ends up joining a small asphalt road near a white chapel. Follow the three markers straight ahead, passing to the left of the chapel, then go down towards the station visible below. This small asphalted road leads to a small asphalted area and a small street that goes up and provides parking for cars on its left side. Go up this small street following the three markers.
6. The small street leads to a bend in a main road, with a bridge on the left and the main road going up on the right. This is where you join with the yellow diamond, which you will have to follow until the end of the stage. Here, you have to go up the main road on your left for about a hundred meters. Attention: motorists go down this road very dangerously for pedestrians. Shortly after the sign indicating the end of Clervaux, do not miss the small gap in the railing on the left, well indicated by the markers, including the yellow diamond. This gap allows you to take a path that goes down slightly towards the railway. From this road, you can see the lycée de Clervaux a little further down on the left. Walk more or less along the railway, leave Clervaux and enter the fields, with a wind turbine visible on a clear day on a hill in the distance to the left. There, you will have to follow the diamond on the left, and arrive at level with the railway, and arrive on a tractor track. Follow the signs that will lead you, for almost two km, to cross wooded and less wooded areas, to go up and down hill a little, to leave the railway a little bit and to join it again. The path will eventually come out of the woods and cross a field. After crossing the field, almost at the edge of the woods, follow the markers on a small asphalt road that goes down on the left towards the railway. At level with the railway, take the path to the right which climbs a little into the woods. This trail enters a fir wood and

then exits this small wood and goes down to the railway. Follow the railway and the markers.

7. At the end of this path, take the small wooden bridge on the left above the stream and then under the railway. At the end of the wooden pontoon is the place that can be flooded in case of flooding of the watercourse. Follow the markers to the left and the path along the stream for about 400 m. The trail will move away from the watercourse slightly up towards the main road on the top right. Notice in the distance the roofs and bell tower of the Abbey of Clervaux. The path joins the road. Take the road on the left for about fifty meters, then cross it, following the markers, to reach a small monument of the Second World War (men shot on Christmas Day 1944), and follow the markers on the left of this monument to take the path that goes up into the woods. After about 250 m the path leads to a forest path, follow the markers up to the right.
- 8. Attention: this is where the variant planned in case of heavy rain or snowmelt joins this itinerary. From here the route follows the yellow diamond to Weiswampach.**
9. This rising forest path crosses an alternation of evergreens and leafy trees. There may be beehives on the left.
10. Be careful: just after a small slice of evergreen wood of about 30 m, leave the tractor path and take the path to the right (yellow diamond), for about thirty meters. The marker then makes you take the tractor track to the right, which goes down slightly. A little further on, at the crossroads with another tractor track, it goes straight ahead passing a bench and bin, on a less frequented tractor track. 300 metres further on, cross a kind of clearing, at the crossroads, on the left then directly to the right: the yellow diamond takes the path, straight from crossroads to crossroads. After turning right on a tractor track, pass a cairn (stone pile) on the right, and about 400 m further on, the tractor track begins to go downhill.
11. Going downhill, pass a small war memorial on the right, with pieces of an aircraft and a small cemetery (see the story), and just after, take the path on the right that winds its way down to the valley. At the end of the path, after this descent, join a tractor path that you have to take on the left, then go down immediately to the right, along the field. This path, a little lower down, is arranged with successive small steps. At the bottom, take the small road to the right. A little further on, cross the railway to the left, to follow the small sidewalk that crosses the bridge and runs along the main road. It's the arrival in Maulusmillen.
12. At the next crossroads, take the main road on the left towards Sassel. Do not take the Binsfeld autopedestrian -- the diamond is not too visible there. Further on, do not cross the railway, but just before it, take the path to the right along it. This path will go up well: enter a small wood, follow the diamond closely, do not take the downhill paths. The railway on your left will soon no longer be visible.
13. Higher up, the wood will be on the left, a field on the right and the trail will temporarily become flat again. Then it turns at a right angle towards the slope, it climbs a few meters and then turns right into the evergreen forest. 50 m in this wood, the path descends a beautiful small descent then crosses a field of young shrubs and brooms before entering a wood again.
14. More roller coasters. After passing the wood, when you reach a field, with the wood on the right and the field on the left, take the path on the left and go down towards the watercourse. At the bottom, pass through the two small gates, reach the tractor track more or less at the same level as the watercourse a little further on. The road runs along this watercourse for about 500 m, then where the watercourse is going to pass under the railway, the trail starts to lace up again on the right. When climbing, walk along the wood with a field to the right, then enter the wood, climbing slightly. This path will eventually lead to the summit, where the path goes to the left on a forest road in good condition. Leave the woods and cross the fields.

15. At a crossroads with a cycle path, after a right-hand bend, **if you want to go through Troisvierges**, turn left to go down to Troisvierges again following the yellow diamond marker. The small road is now paved, it passes over a small stream at the bottom, and rises slightly to join the main road, which you have to take on the left, towards the cannon in the bend. Enter Troisvierges, the European park on the right, the campsite on the left, the church in front. Pass the church on the right and the library on the left, turn right, turn left, then take a right directly into the small alleyway to continue the yellow diamond towards Weiswampach.
16. **If you do not want to go through Troisvierges**, at the crossroads with the cycle path (see 15), where the yellow diamond goes down on the left, temporarily leave the marker and follow the cycle path on the right, towards a wind turbine not very far away. Arrived at the main road which on the right goes towards Binsfeld, turn left, then 150 m further on, at the small chapel, go right (mountain bike track). About 200 m further on, at the junction, turn left (no longer follow the mountain bike track) to join, a little further on, the yellow diamond which comes from Troisvierges, to follow until Weiswampach. The path crosses a plateau of fields and woods, also crossing roads.
17. As you approach Weiswampach, still following the diamond, while in the distance you can see a main road with a petrol station, the path joins an asphalted road in a bend: here the marker is not visible -- turn right towards the church and not towards the road. 5 m further, is the yellow diamond to follow to Weiswampach, end of the stage.

**\*\*\* The following is a variant of the beginning of the stage to be taken especially in case of risk of flooding of watercourses due to heavy rains or thaw. This alternative replaces the itinerary described in paragraphs 3 to 7. It is also shorter and may be of interest to those who would like to shorten the stage.**

At the end of the pedestrian, go straight ahead on the road following the yellow diamond which is regularly placed on the streetlights to the right of the road. Walk past the Résidence des Ardennes. At the train station, almost opposite the Hôtel des Nations, the yellow diamond turns right on the bridge over the railway tracks: temporarily no longer follow the yellow diamond to the right, but rather continue straight ahead. Pass a small hexagonal chapel on the right, then the lycée de Clervaux, and leave Clervaux.

At the next crossroads, take the road to the right towards Maulusmillen. At the following crossroads, a few hundred metres further on, take the road that goes up on the left towards Asselborn/Boxhorn. Go uphill for about 300 m until you reach a small country road on the right. Follow this small asphalt road leading to the evergreen forest visible on the hill opposite. Before reaching this forest, the road goes down, crosses a stream and then goes up to the forest. At the forest, the road splits to the left and to the right. Take the tractor track to the right that enters the forest. After a first left turn, the trail begins to climb. About a hundred metres after this bend, the yellow diamond path comes from the right and joins this rising forest path. **Here, the variant joins the main route. Continue from paragraph number 9.**

Proposed accommodation: Hostellerie du Nord in Weiswampach, +352 998319

## From Weiswampach to Hosingen (24 km)

1. Departure from Weiswampach by taking the autopedestrian (-). Follow this autopedestrian in reverse until you reach the Our, the GR5, Santiago way etc.... To get out of Weiswampach, take the road opposite the Hostellerie du Nord, cross the village following the autopedestrian (-). At the end of the village, at a farm, leave the road and take the path on the left.
2. After about 2 km, the road leads to a main road, which must be crossed -- first locate the marker on the other side of the road. Normally, if there is no roadwork, you have to take a left and then follow the autopedestrian (-) on the right, cross, go back to the right, join the marker, and with this marker in your back, take the path that passes in front of the wind turbine. Go to Lieler.
3. After about 4 km, as soon as you enter Lieler, there is a fork in the road: ignore the mountain bike track on the left and go straight ahead. Go through the village. When you reach a school, turn right into "An der Baach" street, which goes down and passes in front of a fire station, follow the same street straight ahead.
4. In the valley, near the river, leave the autopedestrian (-) and take the small wooden bridge on the right to join the paths along the river Our (yellow circle, gr5, Compostelle etc...). This yellow circle path is to be followed for 13 km, until Rodeshausen (about km19).
5. In Rodeshausen, on the main road that follows the river, pass the crossroads where there is a small rest area and from where the N7 leaves on the right towards Hosingen/Luxembourg. Continue straight ahead with the yellow circle on the road along the river. About 250 m further on, on a small hill from where the church can be seen, leave the yellow circle by taking the asphalt lane that climbs to the right ("Kierfechtsstrooss"). This alley has a white marker on a blue background marked with a "C". It is this marker that you must follow to Hosingen, end of the stage (note: sometimes the marker is simply a white arrow on a blue background, without a "C" mark). Go uphill, pass in front of the cemetery, continue to climb following the blue and white marker and this main path without worrying about the few paths that go to the right or left.
6. Some points of reference:
  - During the climb, before reaching a small wood, note on the hill in the distance to the right, a wind turbine.
  - Still during the climb, just before a bend, there will be a small bench on the left with a "c" marker. At this level, the road is still paved but gradually deteriorates
  - This small road, after about 1 km of continuous climb, in a wood, stops climbing, and is no longer paved (dirt tractor path, stones, mud, grass, leaves...). At the exit of the wood, the path climbs a small hill with a field on the right, and past the woods, the wind turbine is once again visible.
  - Note, in a wooded area, the marker "C" on the corner post of a fence on the left. About thirty meters further on, a field opens on the right, and a wind turbine is visible above the pines. A little further on, a field also opens on the left making visible a large antenna above the conifers on the left. And at the entrance of a wood a little further, at the crossroads, always go straight ahead.
7. At the entrance to Hosingen, at the water tower, go around the water tower by taking the road on the left. Follow this street until the first real crossroads where you have to take the street on the right and join the main road on the left (towards Diekirch) to reach the church of Hosingen, end of the stage (24 km).

Suggested accommodation: Camping de Hosingen (rooms available): +352 921911

## De Hosingen à Vianden (24km)

1. In Hosingen, in the small square in front of the church with a war memorial 1940-1945, the church in your back and facing the main road: cross this road and take it to the right (direction Diekirch) on the left sidewalk. About 200 m further down, ignore the first small street on the left and note (and follow) the white marker on a blue background with "E" written in the arrow (of the same appearance as the "C" marker of the previous step). Follow this marker for a few km (see number 5). A little further down, following the main road and the "E" marker, turn left into Eesberwee Street, which crosses a small green space and leads to a white chapel. In the chapel, following the arrow "E", take the road to the left of the chapel (Op der Hei 1-7). Landmarks: pass to the left of a cemetery, a campsite and football fields. After these fields the road climbs a little, go straight ahead (slightly to the left) to enter a business zone. Pass in front of "Bako", and about 200 m further up take on the left the small asphalt road (indicated as "cycle path of the Ardennes 22", bordered by a large hedge on the right and fields and forests on the left) always following the white arrow on a blue background "E".
2. This trail, which follows the slightly hilly terrain from hill to hill and village to village, is to be followed for some time.  
Some points of reference:
  - As the track passes to the right of a small wood and underneath electrical wires, it also passes behind a water treatment plant (right) where some domes of methane/biogas tanks are visible.
  - At the top of a hill, the first buildings of the Hosingen Park tourism/ecological/sport/school complex become visible. From this same hill, you can see a small wooden bridge in the valley field on the right. In this small valley there is also a small pond.
3. To cross the Hosingen Park complex, follow the white arrow on a blue background "E" which will soon temporarily leave bike path 22. This marker will first pass behind the school complex. At a crossroads, follow the beacon "E" which indicates to go to the right while the bike path goes straight ahead. Pass to the right of a sports hall and a circular establishment with a cone-shaped roof. The white arrow on a blue background will then lead to the entrance to the swimming pool (through the parking lot). Leaving Hosingen Park, leave the road quickly enough to go straight ahead on a road going down to a village ("zone 30", "An der Deckt").
4. Landmarks:
  - Immediately to the left, the holiday centre of La Sapinière.
  - At the exit of this long village, note the bus stop "Op Solk" as well as the bell tower of the next village (Walhhausen) which goes beyond the horizon on the left. After a few farms, the first house in Walhhausen appears on the left: a small chalet (number 1) followed by a larger chalet and the wooden bus stop "Burebiërg".
5. The "E" marker brings you down to the village of Wahlhausen. It is at the crossroads in front of the church (around km 5) that you will have to abandon the "E" marker, which continues to go downhill. Now you have to take the road that goes up a little to the right (passing to the left of the church, road sign "Vianden 13 km", cycle path 22) and follow the autopedestrian but in (-) until the markers in the Our valley (see the end of number 6).
6. Concentrate well at each crossroads because following the autopedestrian in reverse is not easy. After a small cemetery on the right, at the first crossroads follow the road "Aakescht", at the crossroads 200 m further down, turn left again into the street "Aakescht". At the next crossroads, be

careful: where there is a small tomb and cross and a nice little bus shelter on the left, turn left when you go down, 20 m further on there is the autopedestrian marker (-). The road becomes a small asphalt road that goes down. At a crossroads with a small house on the edge of the woods, go down to the left. The path loses its asphalt in the woods, follow it down for a long time without worrying about the left and right paths, clearly locate the markers (-) of the autopedestrian. Before reaching the bottom of the valley, after entering and leaving the wooded areas several times, be careful: in a wooded area do not miss the crossing with the yellow circle and the green triangle, in a bend with a small stream (around km 10.5): follow this marked path on the right.

7. This path enters directly into the fields, with the Our and a campground visible on the lower left: follow for a while the yellow circle, which will follow the Our up and down more or less strongly, sometimes even in bends, where there are series of steps, which crosses rivers, and which sometimes becomes a tractor path and small road... Be sure to follow the yellow circle/green triangle, which can sometimes turn unexpectedly.
8. Arrived in Stolzembourg, at level with the Our (at the Santiago de Compostela shell: around km 14), pass the church and then straight on follow the signs on the streetlight on the left, a campsite on the left. At the "Neuenburg 18" arrow, follow the signs on the right (rue du Faubourg qui monte). After 300 m uphill be careful: before a very old cottage, take the left over the stream (do not miss it) always following the yellow circle and green triangle which will be joined further on by a yellow cross.
9. Attention: at a place where the trees are all cut, cross at level, the markers are visible in front, where there are small steps. The path climbs, passes in front of the entrance of a cave, and leads, after a few steps, to a crossroads with a wider path. There, leave the markers temporarily (do not go up to the Nikloosbiërg), take the "Naturpark vallée de l'Our" marker on the left (around km 16.9, at the arrow "Vianden 7 km"). This path can be difficult due to forest work. Further on, follow the right-angled bend to the right, go around the first pylon, pass in front of a second pylon, and a third pylon, the path has now become a small road. A little further on, at a crossroads with another small road, slightly downhill, with an arrowed sign, take the road that goes up sharply to the right, follow it for about 400 m: in a bend, join the yellow circle and green triangle, follow them up a little on the left. Follow these markers until you reach Vianden.
10. Approaching Vianden, at the small chapel, the yellow circle and green triangle go up to the right. Instead, follow the Compostelle marker straight ahead, the small road, which becomes a road, cross the aerial network installed in the trees, enter Vianden with the youth hostel on the right. End of the stage.

Suggested accommodation: Youth Hostel of Vianden, +352 83 41 77

## From Vianden to Beaufort (19 km)

1. In Vianden, at the bridge over the Our, take the small gate on the left of the Café du Pont and follow the arrow "Naturpark Süd Eiffel". Attention: this path forks quite quickly on the right (at the pylon and the small transformer building) to go up into the woods. About a kilometre further, when you reach the main road, turn right (towards the petrol station and the hotel). Also follow the mountain bike and Compostela trail and join a little further the yellow circle and the green triangle, leading to a kind of cycle path that overhangs the road that runs along the river.
2. At the old Bettel station, leave the cycle path by taking a left, following the circle and triangle, go around the cemetery and enter Bettel. Note that this path joins the autopedestrian (+) that you will have to follow. At the main road, turn right and, a little further on, follow the direction of Hoesdorf towards the church.
3. As soon as you leave the village, the circle and triangle leave the road and go up to the right: do not follow them, but rather follow the autopedestrian 1 that goes straight on the road. After about 1.5 km, just before a house slightly hidden by trees, you must continue to follow the autopedestrian that takes a path opposite on the right (while Compostela continues straight on) and climbs towards the fields and, a little higher, towards the woods.
4. After crossing the woods on the way up (at the place called the "Ridder"), take the path to the left (towards the woods). Join the yellow circle and green triangle markers, follow them on the right and climb in a long zigzag: the path arrives in a wood, joins another forest path, makes a right angle to the left, then turns to the right, starts to climb again, turns strongly to the right, continues to climb, and be careful: a little higher, leave the two markers and continue straight, then take the autopedestrian (+) and the mountain bike track to the left.
5. Follow this autopedestrian (+) which crosses further a path of trees in a straight line, and leads to a forest road that you have to take on the left. Follow the autopedestrian for about 3.5 km, entering and leaving wooded areas. The autopedestrian will follow the edge of the wood on your left, turning left, then right as it goes downhill, then goes up a little bit as it enters the wood, following, on the right, a field, then a second field, always remaining close to the edge of the wood (on the left).
6. The autopedestrian (+) will eventually enter the woods. There will be a first bend followed by a small descent and a crossroads where the autopedestrian takes to the right. At this crossroads, leave the autopedestrian (+) and follow the left path marked "Mountain Mike Tour". Warning: about 30 m after turning left, while this mountain bike marker turns left, a path through the brambles goes straight ahead. Take the path through the brambles - a small piece of unmarked path. About 300 m farther, this road leads into the bend of a small asphalt road that comes from the right and turns at a right angle to go straight ahead. Go straight ahead (not to the right). About fifteen metres further, as the path passes to the right of a fenced tree garden, note the white arrow on a green background "R4" that you have to follow (until Reisdorf). About 300 m further on, the road makes a right-angled bend to the left (autopedestrian 1), while the "R4" beacon, to be followed, indicates to take the right dirt road that crosses the fields and heads towards a wood.
7. Landmarks:
  - after crossing the fields, and arriving in the woods, note the small historical memorial of the Second World War ("dugout") - always follow R4.
  - About 300 m further on, at the exit of the woods, the path, now paved, begins to descend while "R4" still indicates straight ahead, woods on the left, fields on the right. Reisdorf is hidden in the

valley that can be guessed in front to the right. In the distance, on the hill stands out the village of Bigelbach (see next paragraph).

- A little further down, another historical monument (the engravings on the trees). 20 m further on, a small crossroads: follow the sign "Reisdorf 1,1 km" and the arrow R4. Go downhill into Reisdorf

8. In Reisdorf, turn left, pass the chapel on the right, follow the direction Echternach, and cross the bridge over the Sûre. Follow the road and the "Bigelbach 2" road arrow (also a mountain bike track), pass behind the church, then take the CR 128 Bigelbach/Beaufort on the right. At the first left turn, go straight up into the dead-end lane. At the top, join the road, go up to the right, then, a little further up, take the CR128A towards Bigelbach on the left, until Bigelbach.
9. Enter the village, turn left, turn right, then go up to the church. At the church there is a bench and a tree and a signpost: follow the arrow "R5" to the right, going up into the woods. Just outside the village, arriving at a paved area, where there is a tank with a perforated "1974" on the door, go to the right, then climb the R5 path more or less to the left (where the pale red M goes straight).
10. At the top, the path leads to a field that you have to walk along with the wood on your right. A few metres further on, as path R5 sinks into the woods, take the "path" on the left: this path is not easy to see in summer, it wanders between a field on the right and a small pine-tree wood on the left. About 200 m further, this "path" leads to a small road that you have to take on the right, going up towards a leafy wood (if you miss this "path", follow the R5 and then turn right on the small asphalt road about 1 km further on).
11. Cross the R5 but continue straight ahead, join a main road (Beforterheed), turn left 50 m, then right, and follow the red M and "Beaufort". After a long km in the woods, first along a large campsite on your left, then a residential area, reach the main road to Beaufort. To go to Beaufort (end of the stage), go uphill on the left, to continue the stage to Echternach, go down on the right.

Suggested accommodation: Beaufort Youth Hostel

## From Beaufort to Echternach (15 km)

1. Go down the road that leads to the castle, follow the markers Red M / Yellow Circle / Green Triangle.... Pass in front of the castle on the right, then take the path on the left, going to the right of the pond, following the markers.
2. Follow the stream for about 3 km, arriving at a fork where the yellow circle and green triangle go up to the left. Follow the red M straight along the stream. At some point, a little suddenly, the red M comes out of this "little Switzerland" frame and the stream meanders into a field. A little further on, join an asphalt road where the red M goes to the right. Here, you have to turn left following the "W3" beacon in the opposite direction, so leave the red M.
3. Reach a main road, go down on the right (straight ahead), reach a crossroads a few dozen meters further, and go down on the right towards Berdorf etc. This is the place called "Vugelsmillen". Cross the bridge over the Ernz Noire, and climb up where there is the bench in front of the crossroads. At the bench, take the small path that goes up on the left up to the road. If this small path is inaccessible, do not climb to the bench, but, after the bridge, take the road to the left and make the entire bend (a sharp then a small bend) to reach the place where the small bench path meets this road. At this point, on the other side of the road, there is a track that goes up into the woods with an arrow W3 in the opposite direction "Vugelsmillen 0.4, etc": take this path (follow W3 in the opposite direction). Locate the rock on the right, then ignore the path which, 50 m further up, goes to the left. At a fork a little further on, take the left path. It is a road/trail that was obviously built in the past. Go up, by spotting the W3 (in the opposite direction) (and even maybe the dripping yellow spots here and there).
4. This path leads, at the top, to the foot of rocks that form two walls (on the right and then on the left). After a few wooden steps, the path leads to a crossroads of paths: follow the red M "Berdorf 1.1km" which runs more or less straight into the "valley" between the rock walls.
5. At the exit of the woods, a small path between the fields leads to a residential area of Berdorf. Follow the red M on the left to reach the village centre. After the church, take the street "An der Keier" where all the main paths meet to descend to Echternach. Follow the red M and the tourist signs "Echternach".
6. On arrival in Echternach, either go to the station or follow the arrow "Youth Hostel", which we did, taking a right on the autopedestrian, until the lake at the end of the stage. Spot the Compostelle beacon, which will be the one that will be followed tomorrow. At the lake, for the youth hostel, follow the appropriate arrows, the shortest way being to the left of the lake.

Suggested accommodation: Echternach Youth Hostel, +352 720158

## From Echternach to Grevenmacher (20 km)

From Echternach to Grevenmacher, follow the yellow shell of the Way of Santiago de Compostela. As it is not very redundant and sometimes not very visible, it is necessary to remain well focused on the marking. Below are some places that may be useful to notice.

1. From the youth hostel near the lake of Echternach, turn right onto the autopedestrian 2 and follow the lake on your left. There will be a miniature golf arrow -- just next to this arrow is the shell marker for the Santiago Way. This marker is actually an arrow, the rays of the star/shell point in the direction to be taken. In this case, it points to the right with autopedestrian 2. In the woods, you arrive at a small road where the marker seems to be missing: follow the autopedestrian on the left.
2. At about km 6.5, pass in front of the Gayershaff, then turn directly to the right. Follow the shell a little further to the left, and climb on the Jacobsbiert. After the descent, cross the main road and then take the left lane (the marker can be confusing).
3. In Berbourg, before leaving, at a small crossroads where you can see a bridge on the left, the beacon seems to be missing (it is 20 m further): go straight up the small road.
4. In the village of Manternach, at the "Centre Kueb", turn right.
5. In Grevenmacher, at the roundabout turn left and enter the small town.

Suggested accommodation: Luxembourg Youth Hostel (take bus 130), +352 22688920

## From Grevenmacher to Remich (24 km)

1. In Grevenmacher take the road towards Luxembourg, Diekirch, Larochette. At the cemetery, turn left and walk for about 3 km to reach the yellow rectangle (Moselle path). The yellow rectangle joins a kind of road: go down left on this road. 200 m further down, join the CR146 road on the right.
2. 400 m further on, pass the cross at the top of a hill. Further on, there is a Chapel: go straight ahead passing to the left of the Chapel. Continue straight ahead, there will be a small wood on the left (at the junction before the wood, you have to go straight ahead) that you have to walk along.
3. 30 m after an abandoned house, take the track that goes rather to the left of the main road. This path goes down into the woods. About 400 m further down the road, in a small clearing, join the autopedestrian (+) and the yellow rectangle which will be the marker to follow to Remich.
4. In Ahn, at the "Beim Klengen Wum" café-restaurant (around km 7): follow the yellow rectangle to the right of the café-restaurant. About 1.5 km after leaving Ahn, there are steps going up! As you approach Wormeldange, at the chapel viewpoint (around km 10), take the steps to go down. At the exit of Wormeldange, there is a missing marker: turn right, on a kind of one-way road, come to a small crossroads, pass in front of house number 5 on the left and go straight on.
5. Attention: as you approach Ehnen, follow the yellow rectangle, a path that goes down to the Moselle.
6. In Greiveldange, cross the road and pass to the right of the Caves Coopératives. At the exit of Greiveldange, the marker points clearly to the path on the left, leading higher to steps and, after the steps, arriving at the main road to be taken on the left.
7. Entering Remich, turn left, then right, exit onto the main road, turn right, drive along the Moselle which is on your left and continue straight until the end of the stage: 24 km at the statue of Bacchus.

Suggested accommodation: Remerschen Youth Hostel (bus 185), +352 266673

## From Remich to Bettembourg (26 km)

1. In Remich, starting from the "women washing the laundry" sculpture, take the road towards Luxembourg, then take the pedestrian directly to the left. At the end of the pedestrian, continue straight ahead, join and follow autopedestrian 1 on the right and cross the small park. Arriving at the top of a hill, with the church in front of you, continue straight ahead at the foot of the church, then turn left and follow the church on your left following the "7 Mondorf, Ellange cycle path". Go up this street, arrive at a roundabout, cross the roundabout more or less straight ahead (direction Bous) following directly to the left the cycle path 7 "Jangeli". Walk along the cemetery on the left, then enter the vineyards. Pass in front of the yellow markings CD87, CD86, CD85, CD84 and CD83.
2. At a crossroads crossing the pedestrian, turn left towards the yellow marker E012, and 30 m further on, turn right towards Mondorf/Ellange Gare (around km 3). Just after the sign Erpeldange/Scheuerberg, leave the cycle path and turn right, go down 30 m, turn right and continue the long downhill on Scheuerberg Street. At the bottom, at the "Stop" sign, turn left and pass in front of the yellow marker CD73.
3. Enter Eymengerhaff. Just before the yellow marker CD72, locate the autopedestrian's marker on the streetlight. Follow the autopedestrian straight ahead to leave the village in the direction of Ellange, and pass in front of the yellow markers CD71, CD70, CD69, CD68, CD67. After the CD67, leave the road following the "Reckingerhaff" arrow, with a kind of shed on the right (always follow the autopedestrian 1). At the top of the hill, there is a crossroads with a bench and a bin (around km 6.5): leave the self-pedestrian who continues straight ahead and turn right towards the small woods and the pylon.
4. This small road passes between the woods on the right and the field on the left. After a few dozen meters where the path no longer runs along the wood, turn right onto the dirt path that runs along the wood. Further on, this path will approach the wood and then make a right-angled left turn towards a pylon. Pass by the pylon, under the electrical wires. At the crossroads 50 m further on, take the small road on the right which will pass again under the wires.
5. At about km 9, cross the road CR148 and continue straight ahead -- where there is a yellow marker E033. This small road crosses the fields. Landmark: on the left, in the distance, there is a motorway, and, even further away, the 4 towers of the Cattenom nuclear power plant. Attention: about thirty meters before passing under the electric wires, turn right on an paved road that goes up slightly towards the woods. Go towards the wood and pass in front of the yellow marker E034. Once at the woods, the path splits in two (left and right). Take to the left, the tractor track (stones, dirt...) which runs along the wood on the right. Follow this road for about 0.5 km to a main road.
6. About fifteen meters before arriving at this main road, note the yellow marker E035. The path leads into a bend in the road (note the CR162 marker opposite on the left). Take this road up to the right (note the yellow marker E036 on the right). Go up, pass in front of the yellow marker E037, then in front of the E038 at the beginning of a right turn. Just after this bend, at the yellow marker E039, leave the road and take the cycle path to the left (around km 11) and at the fork just after, take a right following the "Mountain Bike tour" path. Follow the mountain bike track when it turns right at right angles to a dirt road towards Filsdorf, the church of which can be seen straight ahead.
7. Pass under electric wires again and then, at the junction with a main road, follow the mountain bike track on the right. Then, about twenty meters further, turn left across the road (about km 12.5). 200m and two bends further, there is a crossroads with three possible routes: take the middle one (so

you leave the mountain bike track which goes to the right towards the village). Keep straight on this half-land, half asphalt road until Aspelt (first houses around km 14).

8. Enter straight down into Aspelt. At the crossroads below, go straight ahead, pass the traffic light in the direction of Luxembourg/Bettembourg/Frisange and after the cemetery turn right (Kierfeschtstrooss) along the cemetery on the right -- there we are on the yellow circle and Compostelle, though the markers are few.
9. About 300 m further on, at a main road (CR156), turn left (Kruckelshaffstrooss) and stay on this road towards Frisange. When leaving Aspelt, the yellow circle and Compostelle markers are visible.
10. Pass in front of the Krickelshaff, continue and enter the "suburbs" of Frisange, around km 18, cross the Luxembourg/Metz road, and continue straight ahead following the yellow circle on the small road/bicycle path. About 1 km further (after passing a small yellow signal from Créos), follow the yellow circle and enter the woods.
11. As soon as it enters the woods, the road loses its asphalt and becomes a forest path of dirt and stones. (Note that you will have to cross this wood - about two km - always following the same path, but not always following the yellow circle). About 500 m further on, there is a roadblock and a field on the left: continue straight ahead. About 1 km after entering the woods, at the crossroads with the "fitness course" which goes to the right, follow the yellow circle, cycle path and Compostela straight on, in a long straight line. Ignore a small path coming from the right as well as stations 8 and 9 of the "fitness course". At the end of the long straight line, at a crossroads facing the Roeser horse show ground, leave the yellow circle and the "fitness course" which go down on the left and go straight ahead following Compostelle and the cycle path (slightly to the right) with this ground on your left.
12. As you start to guess the end of the wood in front of you, there is another crossroads where the fitness course and the yellow circle go to the right: once again, you have to continue straight ahead following the cycle path marker. Just before the end of the woods, after a very small mound, notice the yellow marker E069 on the left, with a path that goes to the right: ignore this path and follow straight on the path that becomes a small paved road. Exit the woods by taking the asphalted road to the left (so leave the cycle path which goes straight to Crauthem). with a field to the right and the end of the woods, and a small parking air to the left (with yellow marker E070 on your right). About 500 m further down, this small road leads (around km21) to the Crauthem-Hellange road (just before, note the yellow marker E071). Cross this road straight ahead, taking the small asphalt road that goes up in front.
13. Follow this small road for about 1.5 km to the centre of the village of Peppange. As you go up, you start to see, on the right, the Alzette valley, and the other villages with Livange at the bottom and Crauthem closer. On the left, there are fields and small woods. At the top of this small hill, Peppange can be seen in front on the right. Take advantage of this view to spot the Bettembourg water tower which could be visible on the horizon in front of you - in a while you will pass by this landmark. When the first houses of Peppange stand out, there is a crossroads where a small field road arrives on the left, and with on the right a building with a big green door: follow straight on passing to the right of the first house. Just after, another crossroads with a street on the right: follow straight on the small road that will slowly start to descend - just in the line of sight of the water tower. The small road turns a little to the right down, passes behind the café of the rural museum and joins the main road Crauthem-Bettembourg.
14. Take this road on the left (towards Bettembourg), staying on the left sidewalk. Note the convent of Saint Benoît and then the horse-drawn carriage museum on the right. Shortly after the crossroads where a road goes right towards Livange, still following the direction of Bettembourg, before leaving Peppange, take the first road on the left. Very quickly you find yourself in the fields. Two hundred meters further on, there is a crossroads, continue to the right, ignoring the small road that rises

slightly to the left. It is a matter of joining the woods - and the water tower - that can be seen further up the hill. Pass in front of the yellow post E080. While the wood will be joined first on the left, with another field on the right, take the small path that starts on the right at the beginning of the wooded area and runs along the edge of the wood (bike path and CFL) - do not climb into the wood on the paved road.

15. Always stay on the trail at the edge of the woods, never turn left to enter the woods further. On this "nice" trail, at every crossroads, always keep to the right to stay at the bottom of the woods by following the cycle and CFL paths. As you progress along this nice trail, you start to hear the highway rumbling. Go beside the "Parc Merveilleux" (the fence on your left). At the end of the path, after a small mound, the path joins a crossroads with a small asphalt road, and the water tower straight ahead: take a right (cycle path and CFL). Walk past the two pylons and along the motorway for about 100 m: at the top of the hill, take the footbridge on the left to cross the motorway.
16. After the footbridge, at the crossroads, take the middle lane, the pink brick path and get in touch with the first houses in Bettembourg. Go down to the right and then go straight down (do not take rue de la Libération). Join the rue de Peppange, at the "Am Dreieck" bus stop, and turn left then go straight towards the Bettembourg station. Just before going up to the station, locate the stairs and the underpass, take the underpass (under the railway tracks) to reach the centre of Bettembourg. Look for the church further on the right and then on the left. This is the end of the stage (24 km).

Suggested accommodation: Restaurant-Hôtel Bernini, +352 5166110

## From Bettembourg to Esch-sur-Alzette (22 km)

1. On the sidewalk, your back to the church of Bettembourg, go to the right. About 400 m further on, take the road towards Dudelange on the left, following the cemetery on your right. About 300 m further on, pass over the railway and then, immediately after the railway, turn right onto the bicycle path that runs along the railway. Go in the direction of Noertzange.
2. At about km 2, at a crossroads of cycle paths, continue straight ahead in the direction of Schifflange. About half a km further on, there is another crossroads with a series of directions: join the Compostela, yellow rectangle and red triangle markers by going straight ahead (yellow pole A143). About a kilometre further, at the end of the cycle path, on a main road, turn left towards Kayl, and go straight on this unpleasant and dangerous road (signposted Compostela) towards the highway..
3. Pass over the highway after welcoming the yellow rectangle. About 50 m after the bridge over the motorway, take the cycle path, yellow rectangle and Compostela on the left to Budersberg.
4. Enter Budersberg. At a kind of small roundabout, there is a first post of Mont St Jean street: follow the Compostela marker straight ahead. At about km 5, at the third street Mont St Jean, leave Compostela and go up to the right following the signpost "Château fort", "Gehansbiérg" and the yellow triangle. Go uphill by taking parts of the Way of the Cross, then interrupt the climb and descend onto a cement track by following the yellow triangle (**see below, "And for the short story"**).
5. On the road after a few steps, follow the yellow triangle straight ahead. 30 m further on, cross the road and follow the yellow triangle on the path that goes up to the right. You're going to have to follow the yellow triangle until you reach Tétange. However, when starting this path, the marker is not very visible at a fork in the road: cross the barrier and go straight ahead.
6. Entering Tétange, leave the yellow triangle (which goes up rue de Volmerange on the left) and take the cycle path to the left of the junction of the downward lanes (around km 11.5). Follow cycle path 8 "Rumelange". Around km 13, the cycle path arrives in Rumelange and crosses the road. The important thing here is to locate the autopedestrian 2 because it is this marker that will serve as a guide through Rumelange. Go along the railway, then cross it, and at the roundabout turn right towards Esch-sur-Alzette, following the autopedestrian 2. This autopedestrian will cross Rumelange, cross a small car park and turn right to reach the beginning of the two autopedestrians of Rumelange. It is precisely at this sign that you must follow the yellow triangle as well as the autopedestrian 1 (-) which will take you past the mining museum.
7. Go along the small rails on the left, then a small car park, then, a little further on on the right, a kind of stone building with wooden shutters. As you walk forward, you see a yellow triangle on the corner of the building and a sign that defines the place.
8. Continue with the small railway tracks on the left. Follow the asphalt road that will go slightly uphill. Then the rails will go to the left and the asphalt road rather to the right and in between a kind of triangle of grass where there are old machines, old mining trains, and a bench on the other side. Continue straight ahead. Go along a real railway track on your right and arrive at a real level crossing. Locate a blue pole on the left with a yellow triangle and the autopedestrian (-). On the right, ignore the small turnstile that allows you to cross the railway. Instead, continue straight on the asphalt road that turns a little to the left and leads to a crossroads. Here, the road goes in three directions: do not go right or left (yellow triangle). It is necessary to continue straight ahead (marked "wrong way") on the autopedestrian (-) even if the marker is not clearly visible since it is placed to

be visible in the other direction.

9. Very quickly, after the "wrong way" sign and before an abandoned shack (farm or farmhouse), there is a small "SudGaz" post indicating that this is the right way. The road widens and climbs a little with small woods on both sides. The road quickly stops climbing and when you reach the top of this small bump you can see yellow trains in the distance on either side of the road. While the road turns very strongly to the right, there is a first yellow train in front of it, and a second one a little further away (sometimes hidden by the leaves). Continue on this road which passes in front of a autopedestrian (-) arrow and then between two yellow trains belonging to the "museum".
10. This leads to a large space (parking): straight ahead leads to the main road and in the distance to the left is a large factory (also sometimes hidden by trees): continue straight ahead (do not go towards the factory). Cross the railway on a bridge and, just after this bridge and before arriving on the main road, turn left. No autopedestrian arrow (-) seems to be visible here. There is a kind of long straight line (about 100 m), the road goes down, it becomes narrower. The railway is on the left.
11. Locate a yellow "SudGaz" marker on the right. The road becomes much narrower with a kind of green metal building on the right: go straight ahead. In the distance on the left, beyond the railway, the factory is visible. After the green metal building, there is a building painted red/orange ("Toitures Schroeder"). Locate on the left the pipe exit for the fire brigade and another yellow "SudGaz" marker. Continue straight ahead along this long succession of company buildings.
12. Au bout de cette succession, la route débouche sur une sorte de cul-de-sac en rond-point. Prendre bien à droite, en passant une sorte de barrière sur une route de terre -- environ 50 m plus loin bien repérer sur un des arbres à gauche la flèche autopédestre (-). Poursuivre cette route de forêt qui, rapidement, devient plus étroite et qui passe devant une autre bâtisse complètement en ruines (à droite), puis une sorte de construction qui passe au-dessus du chemin (petit tunnel). Beaucoup de mousse sur les pierres et les arbres. Repérer la flèche autopédestre (-) sur le muret avant le petit tunnel. Puis le chemin se met à monter très légèrement.
13. The path runs along a low wall (right) made of large stones full of moss and ferns. The low wall becomes less and less high and finally disappears into the ground. Looking closely, notice the openings in the rocks here and there.
14. Attention: quickly the low wall that had disappeared on the right resurfaces - there, locate an arrow of the autopedestrian (-) on a tree, and take the small path that climbs on the left between the trees (so do not continue straight ahead). A little further on (about 50 m) to the right, locate an autopedestrian arrow (-). The path crosses another forest path with an autopedestrian arrow (-) and an "interdisciplinary circuit No 16" marker on the left. You have to follow the path up, to the right. Many mine openings are found on this somewhat uphill forest road.
15. About 150 meters after the crossing, locate the blue stake with an autopedestrian arrow (-) and continue up the hill straight ahead. Then, about 50 m further on, near a kind of bench covered with moss and a "bouquet" of trees, there is a marker "interdisciplinary cultural circuit 15". Continue to go uphill. On the right, note the beautiful anthills. Ignore a path that arrives on the left, continue straight up with a slightly steeper slope and the trail that becomes more like a path. Ignore another path that comes from the right in a bend and continue, straight up, the path that is between two rocky slopes. At one point, looking forward, above, already spot signs and barriers in the distance. Before reaching a fence, there is a blue post with an autopedestrian arrow (-). The road on the right is audible and then becomes visible. Reach the gate at the end of this path, and access an paved road. At this point, take the yellow triangle (and bike path) on the left.
16. About 1 km further on, let the yellow triangle go left and follow the "8 Terre Rouge" bike path straight on towards Esch-sur-Alzette. 200 m further on, the yellow triangle returns to the left -- continue to follow bike path 8 on the right. Further on, in a bend, when the yellow triangle goes to

the right, continue to follow the bicycle path to the left. Shortly afterwards, the cycle path passes in front of a youth center with a small parking lot on the left.

17. The bicycle path, which becomes a road bordered by a pedestrian path, continues the descent and leads to a kind of asphalted parking lot: no longer take the bicycle path on the left, but follow the autopedestrian and the yellow triangle on the right. You will have to follow the yellow triangle for about 1.5 km (up and down the Galgenberg hill).
18. The yellow triangle, after having finished its ascent, passes in front of a small zoo on the left, then the campsite on the left, and towards the end of the campsite, the path, which has become an paved road, starts to descend again, still following the yellow triangle. Locate, on the left as you go downhill, a stone commemorating the resistance fighters of 1944, then a small dome on columns, then the entrance road to a hotel.
19. Be careful, on this descent, when the road makes an almost right-angled bend to the right, there are vegetable gardens on the right, while there is a car park with an antenna tower on the left: leave the road and follow the yellow triangle rather straight ahead to go down into a small park. A few meters further down, follow the yellow triangle on the right. A few steps further on, follow the triangle to the right. A hundred meters further on, at the fork, with the yellow triangle going to the right (indicated on a tree in the corner of the fork), leave the yellow triangle and take the left track, which, a few meters further on, meets a red gravel path that you must take on the right. Fifty meters further, at a crossroads, turn left into the reddish gravel path. At the crossroads a hundred meters further, take the flight of stairs to the right, in front of you. Continue straight ahead with the rose bed on the right, pass a monument (Michel Welter), take the undulating cobbled path on the right, and head towards a playground. When you reach the playground, take the stairs to the left, the left flight, towards a plateau of small trees lined up below. Arrived at this plateau, take the path of undulating paving stones which goes down to the left. At the end of this ramp, opposite, there is a footbridge, take the footbridge that crosses the railway. At the end, take the elevator and go down to 0 to reach the end of the stage. The end of "The Wee".
20. And its beginning!

## And for the little story

# Dudelange, May 17 1794

A peaceful walk is, going up the Gehaansbiërg, or Mont-St-Jean, overlooking Budersberg and Dudelange. Walk up the Way of the Cross, and you will be amazed. You will also find the ruins of a 16th century castle. But - strangely - the chapel is in good condition.

The chapel. Reading a small sign, you meet the hermit friar who lived there in the 18th century. It is still written that the man was killed by French soldiers in 1794. Strange, because the Revolutionaries are best known for having razed down religious buildings - but this chapel is anything but destroyed.

What the sign does not say is that the death of the hermit Pierre Pirsch, at the age of 50, was a consequence of one of the bloodiest misunderstandings in the country's history.

The walk through this history, which is certainly much less peaceful than today's, is told in a 1846 Historical Memoir written by a certain J.-B. Wolff, a professor at the Athénée de Luxembourg. "What happened in Dudelange, he writes, is not an adventure, an accident, an isolated event; it is a ring in the historical chain of that time, and a memorable ring, which deserves to be known to posterity."

So what happened in Dudelange on May 17, 1794?

To understand this, it is important to remember the region's place in the European geopolitics of the time. While the French Republic was beating to the rhythm of the guillotine and paranoid fear of a foreign invasion, the Austrian enemy occupied the Fortress of Luxembourg located a few miles from the French border. But - was it more out of fear of its own weaknesses than the unwelcome border incident? - the Austrian occupier had turned the border region into a kind of demilitarized zone, arming the villagers in charge of their own defense, left to their own devices.

The village of Dudelange was "sensitive" in this area where the two great powers, tirelessly, "provoked me provoked me not". In addition, the inhabitants of this territory were relentlessly exposed to the wild ingenuity of looters and other French marauders, both military and civilian. And despite complaints to a French general in charge of the new Moselle army, "instead of improving" wrote J.-B. Wolff, "the situation was getting worse by the day". Sometimes a herd is coveted "near Zoufftgen", sometimes parishioners are blocked in the church by "a large group of Republicans" who want to empty the houses of the village. Over the months, as the French military along the borders became more nervous, the looters, always better armed and enjoying de facto impunity, became more daring.

The Dudelangeois, in order to defend property and people, eventually created and organized a militia of "about 300 armed men" - mostly hunters -, articulated around three "companies" and ready to react quickly to any alert launched by the church bell.

It was in this chaos that, on May 17, 1794, the French army launched a surprise incursion of more than a thousand men with the aim of seizing Bettembourg. The troops, arriving at the border, will be spotted the day before by the Dudelange guards, who, very impressed, will inform the leaders of the local militia that this time they are soldiers armed to the teeth and not poor looters, strongly advising against any intervention. But the militia leaders, preferring to believe in a new trickery of the French marauders rather than in a military attack difficult to imagine, decided to welcome the assailants firmly and to fiercely defend their families and their property. The head of Dudelange's defence, a certain Christophe Hamilius: "What, you advise us to abandon to looters, without coup to destroy our properties that we have defended so far with courage and success?"

As understandable as it may be, this determination will prove to be dramatic. Combining with the

Republican sanguine culture, it will contribute to a fierce massacre.

It was around five in the morning that some French scouts arrived on horseback at one of the entrances to the village of Dudelange. One of them "pushes his horse forward and sounds the trumpet". Convinced that he was dealing with robbers, a local militia peasant killed him with a gunshot and shouted: "Waart, ech wel dech lehren blosen" ("Wait, I'll teach you how to make music"). This act will light a fire of rage in the ranks of French soldiers. The latter quickly organized a manhunt, a fierce hunt governed by an insatiable thirst for revenge and combat. Anything that resembles a civilian man in any way is killed.

Very quickly, the French troops will have surrounded the three Luxembourg defence companies, which will take some time to realize their misunderstanding, that they are not looters in front of them but soldiers of one of the greatest military powers in Europe. Then a scramble, a desperate rescue, will follow towards the surrounding woods - especially the Wald and, above all, the Leh.

But the French soldiers easily caught up with them and massacred them one by one. Wolff's account is chilling in describing specific examples. Especially that of the forest ranger, Pierre Gaasch, who will find a hiding place from which he will be able, with the help of his twelve-year-old son, to shoot down the passing soldiers. "Every shot he fired, it is said, put a soldier out of action. His audacity surprises, it irritates. He is surrounded, overwhelmed and crushed (...). To prolong his agony, incisions were made in his face, filled with gunpowder and lit. Ammunition was put in his mouth and blew him up."

As the number of fugitives quickly decreases, those who remain try to disperse as best they can, trying to hide in the trees, in the hedges, behind mounds... Untiringly, the French soldiers hunt them down, and, one by one, seize them, dragging them to a small meadow on the western edge of the Leh. There, the peasants are shot.

When a French general learns what is happening at the Leh, he immediately put an end to it. The survivors, taken prisoner and brought on foot to Tiercelet, will eventually be shot after being forced to dig their own graves. In all "72 men, a woman and a girl, aged 5 to 89 years old, died on this murderous day of May 17, 1794". Also the villages were looted, "cattle, provisions, linen, furniture, carts, everything was taken away".

And Pierre Pirsch, the hermit of the chapel of Mont-St-Jean, in this story? According to J. B. Wolff's account, on the eve of the massacre, he welcomed guards into "his" chapel on the top of the hill. The next day, surprised by the savagery of the French soldiers, he tried to escape, like everyone else. "On the way, he realizes that he has forgotten his silver watch, an object rare at that time and which was essential for him to know in his solitude the time of his service. As he was losing it with regret, he returned to the hermitage to take it and hurried back down. At the foot of the mountain, he was assaulted and shot." Pierre Pirsch was the first civilian casualty to fall.

(Inspired by an article published in Le Jeudi du 28 juillet 2016)