



## BOUILLON City Trail

### Bouillon, nature and heritage trail

This trail introduces you to Bouillon's rich history and the stunning nature surrounding the city. We start at the modern Archéoscope, where we get to know Godfrey of Bouillon in a rather unique way. In order to get a better view of Bouillon's unique location, we of course need to get to higher ground. This trail will take you to three panoramas clearly showing the meander in which Bouillon lies. After the descent, a visit to the big castle is scheduled. From there as well, you can look at the city from above. We end our walk at the Ducal Museum (*musée Ducal*), which depicts the history of Bouillon.

- Distance: 3.6 km
- Start and finish: Quai des Saulx, Bouillon
- Nature: urban and nature trail
- Surface: paved and unpaved steep roads
- Relief: steep slope outside the town centre
- Accessible to trolleys: no
- Signposting: none, see description and map
- Tourist office: [www.bouillon-tourisme.be](http://www.bouillon-tourisme.be)



### Hints and observations

- Buy a combined ticket when visiting the Archéoscope. This economical ticket will allow you to visit the three museums (Archéoscope, castle and Ducal Museum).
- The walk, combined with a visit to the three museums and the church, will take a whole day. You should start at 11 a.m. at the very latest and refrain from dining sumptuously.
- After the descent, you will probably be thirsty. Of course there are plenty of drinking shops, but maybe you prefer buying a bottle at a low price. Once you have crossed the bridge in the town centre, you will see an off-licence at your left (Le Marché de Nathalie), where you can buy refrigerated beverages. There are no vending machines in town.
- Walking shoes are recommended in case of damp weather. The walk is too dangerous to do in open shoes, but regular, tight-fitting closed shoes will do the job in dry weather conditions.
- You need to be in good shape for this walk, as it involves some steep climbs. The climbs are not very long, but there are no benches on the climbing parts. You will get the best views between points 1 and 2 on the map, and just beyond point 3. There is no need to make the long climb to point 4. Bear in mind that it can get pretty hot en route to the panoramas. After all, you are walking on slate, and there is little to no wind.
- There are only a few parking spaces at the start of the trail. It may turn out to be necessary to park on the other bank (Quai du Rempart).
- Near the starting point, you will also find the tourist office, where you can buy a map containing all the trails of the Semois valley. For a walk around the meander of the city, this map is not suitable, however. The map in the free brochure of Bouillon is totally inadequate as well, not to say incorrect. That is why our map is fairly detailed.
- If you cannot climb up a hill, you can always take the car to the castle. The roads are wide enough, and there is a car park at the top. To get to the car park, follow the signpost to the 'Château-Fort'.

> Key:  = signpost

 = point of interest



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### ITINERARY

1

Starting at the Archéoscope and the tourist office, walk towards the roundabout (square) at the Hotel de la Poste. With your back to the hotel, cross the square and walk towards the right-hand corner (see map). Take the steep road. Just before the steep road, take the flight of steps to your right (in a recess). This is the 'Sentier du Monique'. What follows is a short steep path offering you a beautiful panorama instantly. Once you have reached the top, go left until the end of the road.



A

#### Archéoscope

Through a stunning combination of music, special effects and audio visual techniques, you learn a great deal about Godfrey of Bouillon's mission at the head of the first crusade. The information offered is instructive and balanced at the same time. Attention is paid not only to the activities of the Western European invasion force, but also to the many things the Arab world has contributed to Western civilization. An absolute must-see!

This beautiful museum has found shelter in the old convent of the Sisters of the Holy Grave. During the tour around the museum, you pass their old restored rooms and old photographs of what the convent used to look like are displayed. More information can be found at [www.archeoscopebouillon.be](http://www.archeoscopebouillon.be)

2

At the intersection, go left, then turn right after 100 metres: this is the road sloping down. At the intersection with the Route de Palliseul, cross the street to the left-hand side and then take the parallel narrow road to your right. This will give you a view of the real Bouillon.

3

At the house with number 36, take the flight of steps all the way up. The steps become somewhat narrower, and at times the weeds grow rank, but continue anyway until you reach the top. On the path, take the climbing part as well. Soon you will arrive at the second panorama of this trail. It is situated on top of a slate rock, from where we continue climbing to the top (this is a stiff climb). At the top, you will see a fence with barbed wire.

4

Now go left and down. About 30 metres onwards is another panorama (limited view during the summer). Now continue some 300 metres on a relatively flat path. Immediately afterwards follows another short, mild climb. Bear left immediately afterwards. It is possible that the path is hardly visible due to the many leaves. The path zigzags down. At times it can be very steep, with a high risk of slipping. Bear left at a T intersection of paths (with a tall tree).

5

On the asphalt road near the bank, go left towards the bridge.

On your right-hand side you will see the Dauphin's bastion. If you want to continue walking along the Semois, you can follow the path to your right. It rises a couple of meters more. The map will show you on which side of the town you arrive.



6

Across the bridge, follow the road to the right, then take the first road to the left up the hill. Enter the Saint Peter and Paul's church briefly and then continue on your way. Catching the eye in the church are the modern stained-glass windows, some of which still contain classic saint's pictures. Equally unusual are the Stations of the Cross, which form a beautiful whole with the stained-glass windows.

As you leave the church, bear left and follow the signpost 'Château-Fort'. Turn left at the end. You will arrive at the castle's entrance and car park.

B

### The castle

To visit Godfrey of Bouillon's castle – or what is left of it – you have to be willing to undertake a stiff climb. However, it is worth the effort, and as a bonus, you are treated to a bird of prey spectacle once you reach the top (March to October – with reservation). The visit of the castle takes you along a mapped-out route (there is a guidebook in Dutch which costs about 1 Euro), allowing you to form an image of what it must have looked like and what it was used for. The origins

of the Bouillon castle probable date back to families of noble birth that had fled the Vikings elsewhere. For centuries, all sorts of alterations were made to the castle, up to 1892, when Dutch barracks that were built earlier were destroyed. Just before Assumption, a medieval feast is held in the castle and the town centre with various traditional medieval activities, such as archers, acrobats, a medieval farm, mime and farce artists, adapted dishes, etc. You can find more information at [www.bouillon-tourisme.be](http://www.bouillon-tourisme.be)

7

As you leave the castle, take the small flight of steps to the right (just in front of the car park). It will take you alongside the castle.

Those visiting the Ducal Museum: bear left once you have reached the asphalt road, and keep to the left at the first fork. About 50 meters onwards is the entrance to the museum.

If you are not visiting the museum, bear left on the asphalt road as well, but then immediately descend the staircase to the right towards the bank. Once you have reached the water, go left towards the bridge and back to the starting or parking point.

C

### Ducal Museum

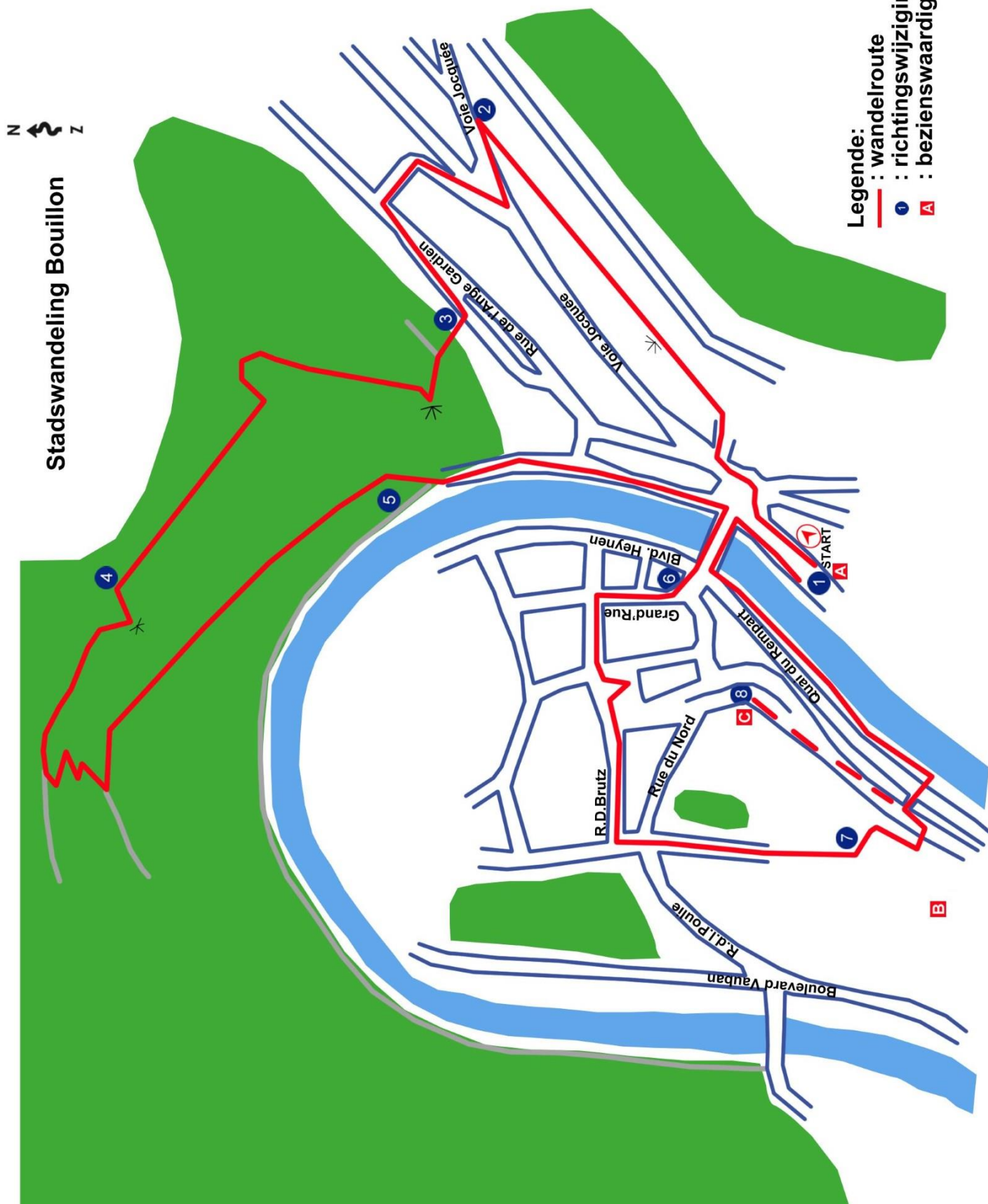
The Ducal Museum pays attention to the thousand-year history of the city of Bouillon. Of course, ample attention is paid to Godfrey of Bouillon as well, amongst others with a scale-model of the intact fortress. Part of the museum gives a retrospective of old occupations of the region.

8

As you leave the museum, bear right again. After 200 metres, take the staircase on your left, between the houses. Walk up to the bank, and then go left towards the bridge. Once you have crossed the bridge, bear right again to arrive at the starting point of this trail.



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