

Travel the Benelux

La Roche, Jewel of the Ardennes shines

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Nestled in a valley along the Ourthe River, La Roche-en-Ardenne has many charms and attractions to recommend it. Nicknamed the “Jewel of the Ardennes”, La Roche has a riverside sculpture park, a beautiful natural setting and even a ghost. For those who like to shop, interesting boutiques line the streets downtown. Military history buffs can enjoy a great museum on the Battle of the Bulge. A mix of restaurants from friteries to fine dining awaits hungry visitors .

The ruins of a medieval castle, Château Féodal (Feudal Castle) overlook the town from a rocky spur known as the Deister. Destroyed by the Austrians in the late 18th century, a panoramic view of the town can be seen from the ruins. Illuminated at night during the summer, the castle

provides a dramatic backdrop for La Roche. In July and August the ghost of Berthe de La Roche, daughter of a former Lord of La Roche, can be seen wandering the castle ruins.

The Battle of the Bulge, the largest land battle in World War II, left the town destroyed after the Allies bombarded the town to drive out the Germans. The town was liberated by the British 30th Corps and the Americans of the 1st Army on January 11, 1945. With more than 350 buildings destroyed or damaged, the people of La Roche, showing great fortitude, rebuilt the town. The Musée De La Bataille Des Ardennes has more than 5,000 original objects on display from World War II. The human dimension of the battle is underlined at the museum with figures of uniformed combatants

from both sides on display.

The town center has plenty of shopping. Boutiques with hand-crafted items, clothing stores with a mix of fashion styles, and butcher shops were you can pick up some of the famous jambon d' Ardennes(cured ham) are all within easy walking distance of each other.

At the edge of town, along the river, a peaceful outdoor sculpture park showcasing some international artists is a great place to relax and unwind.

La Roche is surrounded by hiking and mountain biking trails and has many parks and playgrounds. The Forest park has 40 different species of trees and picnic areas among its 37 acres. In the summer kayaking and rafting the Ourthe River and other adventure sports are popular.



(clockwise) A view of La Roche-en-Ardenne from the castle. • Military history is on display at the museum. • A sculpture by American artist Tom Blatt stands in the sculpture garden. • A wide variety of boutiques have much to offer shoppers in the downtown area.

