

Red list of heritage sites in danger

Dinant - BELGIUM



This document contains a list of heritage sites in danger. It is a consequence of the survey results developed within the Erasmus+ project "The Power of Heritage for Civic Engagement and Lifelong Education".



**The Power of Heritage
for Civic Engagement and
Lifelong Education**



DINANT

The heavy price for the wars that punctuated its history

Dinant is one of the most beautiful small cities of the world (2019), and the best destination of Wallonia, the French speaking part of Belgium. Thanks to a rich historical, human and natural heritage, hundreds of thousands of tourists come from the whole world throughout the year. In 2024, the Citadel welcomed 350.000 visitors, a record for our region. Despite the attention paid to sites maintenance and events development, the city cannot meet all requests for rehabilitation. One reason is undoubtedly that Dinant paid a heavy price for the wars that punctuated its history. But the wide range of associations and authorities is working hard to improve the quality of the environment, of the monuments and of the equipment. However, many challenges remain.

However, many challenges remain. Here are some of them:

**SITES*

1.1 WALZIN MILL ON THE RIVER LESSE

1.2 OLD RAILWAY LINE TO BE CONVERTED INTO A CYCLE AND WALKING TRAIL

1.3 MONTFAT HILL WITH WOOD, CAVE, TOWER...

1.4 DRY les WENNES WALLS

**BUILDINGS*

2.1 COLLEGIATE CHURCH

2.2 SAINT-MARCOULT CHURCH AND ANCIENT HOSPICE

WALZIN MILL ON THE RIVER LESSE

The mill stands at the foot of the rock, overlooked by a magnificent castle.

The castle is a private property, the farm and the mill have just been sold and the renovation of the farm has started while the mill could be abandoned... 😞



THE OLD RAILWAY

Railway history of Dinant

The first railway line connected to Dinant was line 154, opened by the Compagnie du Nord-Belge on January 10, 1862, a year before the first passenger service began in 1863 and the city's station was completed in 1864. Later, other lines were added, including the Bocq line (Line 128) connecting Ciney and Yvoir via Dinant and the Givet line (Line 154) to Givet, which saw its last services in 1989.



Railway history of Dinant

The river Meuse comes from France and goes to the Northern Sea in Rotterdam (NL). From Dinant, an ancient railroad was the link to France (20 kms). It was closed +/- 30 years ago. We'd like to transform it into a cycling and walking trail to create a green way between Belgium and the North of France.



MONTFAT HILL & WENNES WALLS

MONTFAT HILL WITH WOOD, CAVE, TOWER...

The MONTFAT park was a wonderful recreative and instructive site for our families and tourists. A walking path through the wood and a chairlift were bringing the people to the tower on the top of the hill where there were a restaurant and a wide playground; a prehistorical cave was in the middle of the hill and was of a great educative interest. It was a private domain but it's been partly bought by the city. The other part should also be sold...



DRY les WENNES WALLS

Only a very very little part of the city walls have been renovated. It's a shame because they represent the only roots of the medieval existence of Dinant, with the Citadel and the Creve-Coeur castle. Many activities could be developed all along these walls.



THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH & SAINT-MARCOULT CHURCH

A NEVR ENDING RENOVATION STORY

The Collegiate Church is the jewel of the city. If it was destroyed in 1914, the renovation was quickly undertaken and the monument regained its splendour : Meuse stone, stain glass windows, statues, furnitures among which brassware pieces made it famous.

Unfortunately, the gates have suffered from bad weather and wear and tear over time. URGENT!



SAINT-MARCOULT CHURCH AND ANCIENT HOSPICE

This group of buildings deserve to be taken into consideration. They are an important part of the local history. The chapel is used to collect pieces of furniture from families that could be distributed to disadvantaged people. The ancient hospice is a part of our social service department... but should be completely renovated and destined to a Youth Hostel or a museum... f.i.

