



1 According to oral tradition, **Saint Materne of Cologne** (4th century) built the first church in Walcourt. The Basilica of Saint-Materne/Notre-Dame later became a Gothic-style building (13th century), with foundations dating back to the 11th century. This architectural gem has been an important regional pilgrimage site since the Middle Ages. Its remarkable bulbous spire took its current shape in 1621, thanks to master carpenter Jean le Coustre. Inside, you can admire, among other treasures, the **Charles V 's Rood Screen** (1531), the Marian statue of Notre-Dame of Walcourt (10th century), and a collection of ecclesiastical goldsmith works created by **Hugo d'Oignies**, a master goldsmith born in Walcourt at the end of the 12th century.

2 A **poterne** is a small gate built into the city walls. It allowed access to the suburb. Halfway along this historic lane, you will see the remains of a tower embedded in the walls.



3 This street was the main entrance to Walcourt until 1848. At the top, you can still see the remains of **Saint-Laurent Gate**.

6 This stone building once housed a charitable institution mentioned as early as the **13th century**. It also served as lodging for the many **pilgrims** who came to honor Our Lady of Walcourt. The exterior wall along the river is original.



7 The city walls were demolished in November 1689 by order of the French troops who still bore bitter memories of them. Indeed, on **25 August 1689**, Louis XIV's soldiers suffered a heavy defeat at the **battle of Walcourt**, particularly due to their insistence on trying to storm these very walls, then held by the allied forces.

The town of Walcourt is strategically built on a rocky spur and surrounded by the rivers Eau d'Heure and Eau d'Yves. The settlement began developing in the 10th century and grew significantly thanks to the religious veneration of the statue of Notre-Dame de Walcourt. During the Middle Ages, its location on the border of the lands of the Counts of Namur required the town to be protected by thick walls against frequent attacks. At the end of the 17th century, the fortifications and the Walcourt castle were demolished by the French.



Walcourt - 1567 - L. Guicciardini

9 Will you be able to spot these old turrets and towers, blending into the scenery?



10 The **Vintailles Bridge** controlled the water supply to the mill at the foot of the ramparts. The water was then channeled through a diversion canal, a mill race, following the grassy path you have walked. A sluice gate is still visible.



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A walk along the ramparts



Start : Basilica of Walcourt, Grand Place

3 Km – 1:00

Trail Markings :



This walk takes you through a landscape of old lanes and alleys. Will you be able to spot the few remaining medieval relics of the old town of Walcourt, such as watchtowers, ancient gates, and other fortifications ?

...Look up, observe carefully, and imagine !



Walker's Opinion

A pleasant short walk, but somewhat challenging due to the slopes. Don't miss the information panels to discover the history of the area along the way !

The route

Starting from **Saint-Materne Basilica** ❶, descend to the Christ on the Cross and take **Ruelle Frère Hugo**. After passing under the **Al Vaux postern** ❷, you will find two sets of stairs: the one on the left has a gentle slope, while the one on the right is similar to its original medieval layout.

Once at the bottom, turn right and climb up Basse Rue ❸. You arrive at the back of the Basilica, near a small square called the **Place des Marcheurs**. This square refers to the Marchers who, by tradition, escort the miraculous statue of the Virgin Mary on Trinity Day.

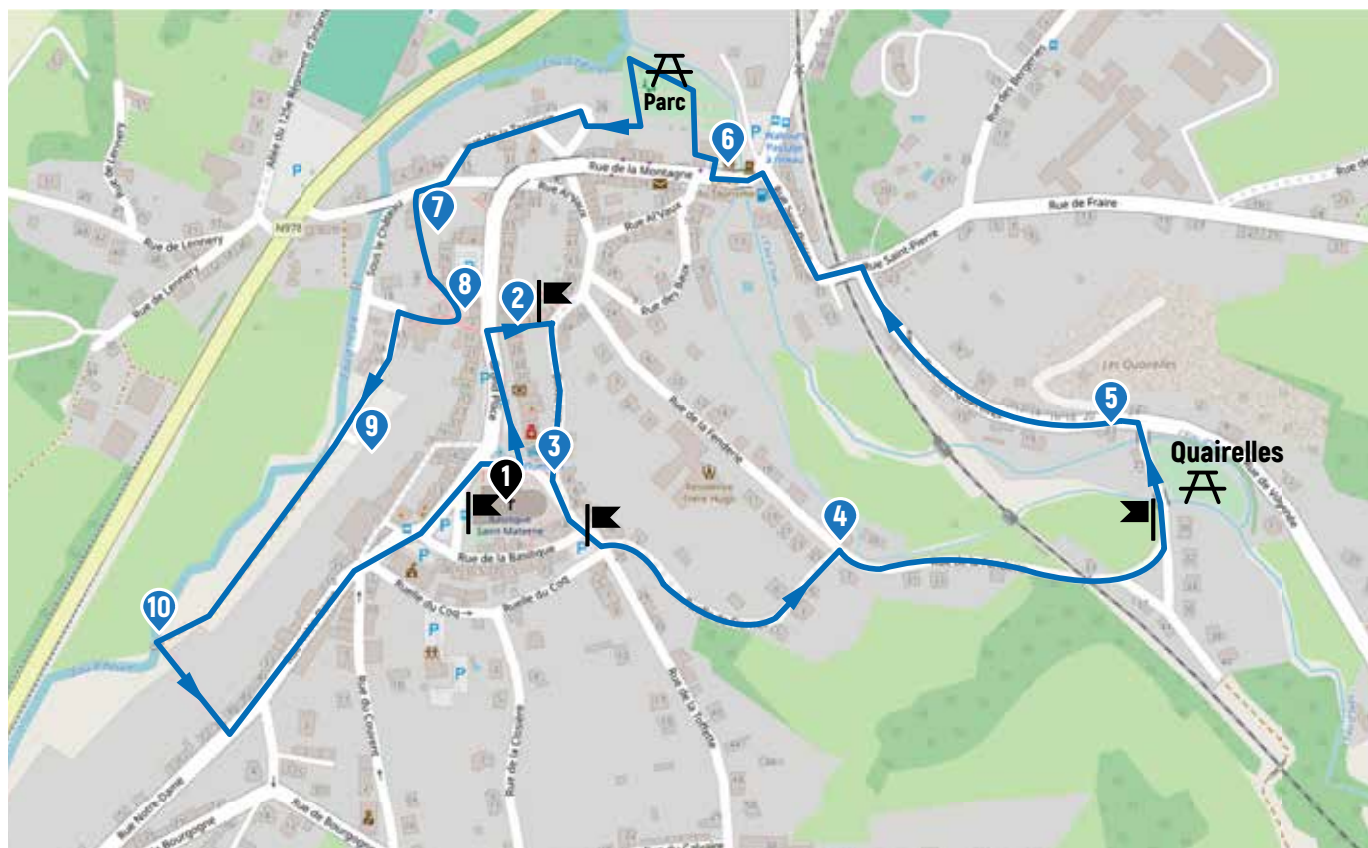
Take the street on your left and climb down to the large brick building. This is the former **Navarre mill** ❹. Behind it, you can still admire a large water wheel. To its right, discover the old Frenet mill. These buildings testify to the intense artisanal and commercial activity of the town's suburbs.

Continue your walk to the level crossing to reach Quairelles. Once you turn left, you can see an old **washhouse** ❺.

At the top left, then at the bottom left, you cross a stone bridge. Use the pedestrian crossing. The building here, one of the oldest in town, is known as **Saint Nicholas Hospital** ❻. Continue towards the communal park, where the Eau d'Heure and Eau d'Yves rivers meet.

Then take rue de la Tannerie, which, as the name indicates, once housed tanners and other leather craftsmen. Cross the road and follow the last visible remains of the **ramparts** ❼.

This street is called "**sous le Château**" because it is here, on the hill spur, that the castle of the Lords of Walcourt once stood. At the top of the cobbled alley, you will find the **Porterne à l'Eau** ❽. Before reaching it, take the stairs to your right. At the bottom, turn left onto a grassy path. On the slopes of the hill, you will notice elements of the town's ancient defenses integrated into the landscape ❾. You arrive upstream at the **Vintailles bridge** ❿. Climb the steep slope



– keep going ! Once at the top, turn left and head back to the Grand Place. After this effort, why not enjoy a refreshing "Charles Quint" beer served in its **four-handed mug** ? And discover a original local **legend** while you're at it !



Legend

- 📍 Start
- 📍 Point of interest
- 🚩 Information board
- ⛶ Picnic table