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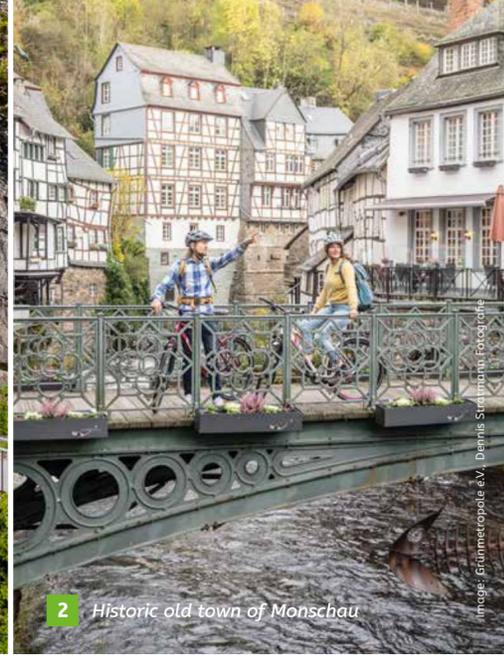
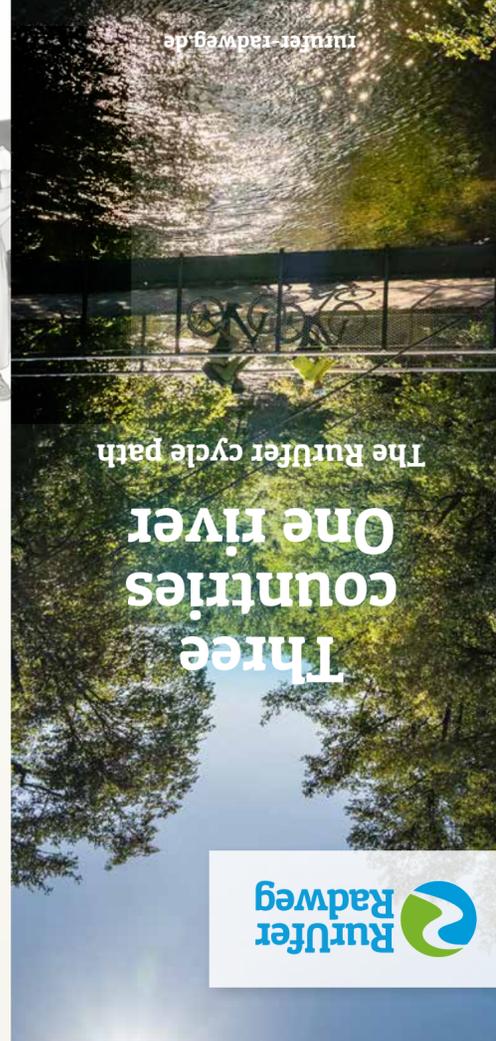


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A river and its region in constant change

The Rur has experienced so much over the centuries and has lots of great stories to tell. Contemporary witnesses from the past and present report on the changes in the natural and cultural landscapes at rest and adventure stations along the RurUfer cycle path.



The RurUfer cycle path
One river
Three countries



For example, along the RurUfer cycle path you will encounter the dyers from the half-timbered town of Monschau. Listen to his fascinating tales of how colourful it was back in the days when cloth makers dyed the Rur all the colours of the rainbow.

The walls of the Jülich citadel come to life again with the story of Duke Wilhelm. The magnificent fortress bears witness to the wars and conquests that shaped the entire border area between Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Where bitter enemies once faced each other, nation-

al borders now exist only on maps, allowing a peaceful calm to return to the old walls.



Further downstream you will meet a great engineer, architect and forester: The domestic beaver once shaped the river landscape naturally, but tended to upset people's plans. Today the beaver is reclaiming its former territories and your route on the RurUfer cycle path leads past many a fallen tree telling tale of his handiwork.

The Rur itself is also undergoing constant change. Where man once tamed it and set its boundaries, it is now regaining its natural character and old form through ecological rethinking and renaturation. History's living witness, the Rur knows what it is like to be always on the move. It is therefore a symbol for the past, the present and the future of the fascinating region that it connects.

Experience the stories of the river and surrounding landscapes brought to life at the 19 rest and adventure stations on your tour along the RurUfer cycle path.



Share our love of cycling

Along the RurUfer cycle path, you'll find numerous hosts and service providers to look after your physical well-being and to help maintain your bike.

Rureifel-Tourismus e.V.
An der Laag 4
52396 Heimbach
Tel: +49 (0) 2446-805 790
Email: info@ruruferradweg.de

facebook.com/ruruferradweg
instagram.com/ruruferradweg
outdooractive.ruruferradweg.de

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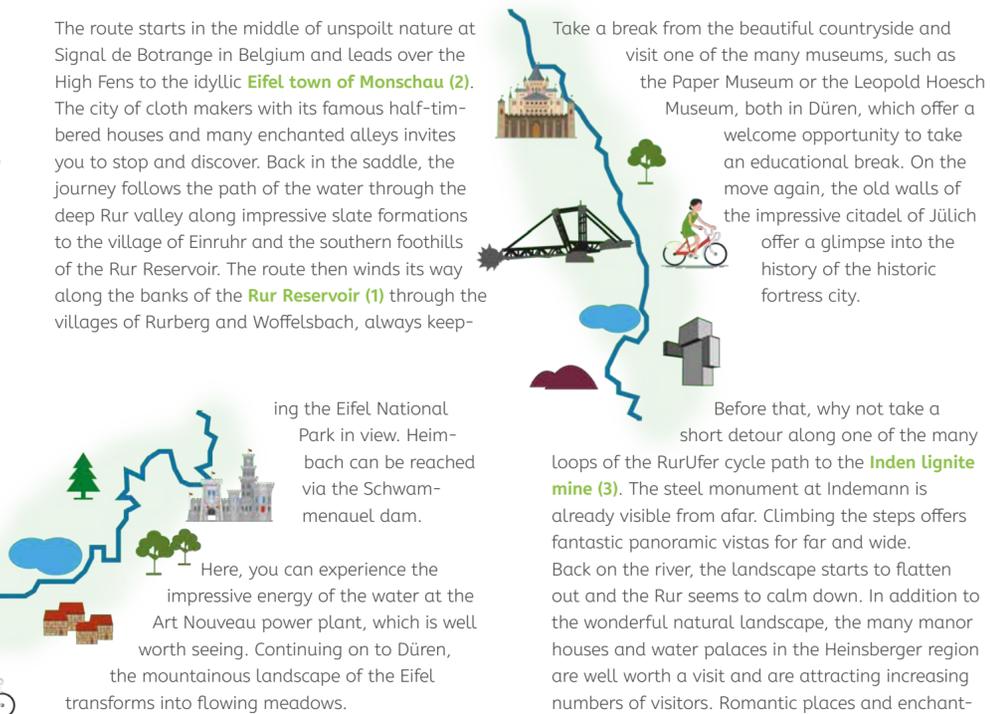


1 Rur Reservoir, Simmerath-Woffelsbach

Three countries - one river: The RurUfer cycle path

Experience natural cycling on the newly designed RurUfer cycle path between the source of the Rur in the High Fens near Botrange (Belgium) and its confluence with the Maas near Roermond (Netherlands).

Your journey begins with a courageous first step on the pedals and a fresh breeze in your hair. Following the 170 kilometre long RurUfer cycle path takes you along the moving waters of the Rur from its source in the High Fens near Botrange (Belgium) to its confluence with the Meuse near Roermond (Netherlands). The route is as varied and formative as the water-course and the history of the Rur itself.



3 Glimpses of the opencast mine at Inden



Image: Grammetropole e.V., Dennis Stralmanh, Fotografie

4 Börde and meadow landscape near Heinsberger



Image: Grammetropole e.V., Dennis Stralmanh, Fotografie

The highlights

Impressive natural spectacles, historic cities and imposing industrial monuments. These are some of the highlights that await you on your tour of the RurUfer cycle path:

1 High Fens / Signal de Botrange

The start of your tour at the highest point in Belgium leads you through the moorlands of the High Fens.

2 Historic old town of Monschau

The numerous half-timbered buildings and winding streets of this former cloth-making town exude a very special charm.

3 Rur Reservoir

The Rur Reservoir with the Rurtalsperre Schwammenauel is the second largest reservoir in Germany and offers day trippers, water sports enthusiasts and bathers a wide variety of activities.

4 Eifel National Park

The 110 square kilometre Eifel National Park allows visitors to experience undreamt-of biodiversity, rushing brooks, fragrant flowering meadows, deep forests and wide panoramic views.

5 Heimbach health spa

North Rhine-Westphalia's smallest city draws visitors thanks to its historic buildings such as the Art Nouveau power plant and Hengebach Castle.

6 Nideggen red sandstone cliffs

The red sandstone formations, which are home to rare animals such as wall lizards, antlions, bats and owls, are several million years old.

7 Obermaubach Reservoir

Water sports enthusiasts, anglers and nature lovers all appreciate this idyllic reservoir which is also home to North Rhine-Westphalia's highest fish ladder.

Hosts and service partners along the RurUfer cycle path can be found at:

rurufer-radweg.de



Region in change

Change is a major theme of the RurUfer cycle path. At the 19 rest and adventure stations dotted along the route, contemporary witnesses of the region recount their stories.

- Belgian customs officer in Katterberg:** "Stop please! From here you can only continue with a pass!"
- Prior Stephan Horrichem from the Reichenstein Monastery:** "A monastery is there for the people - especially in terrible times."
- Dyers of Monschau:** "Today you can no longer see dyers, weavers and shearers in the cloth-making town of Monschau - but there are many visitors with equally colourful clothes."
- Hermann Hammerschmidt in Hammer:** "I built my hammer mill here 550 years ago and the village still bears my name to this day."
- Former Pleushütte resident:** "When the Rur Dam was flooded, my home was doomed."
- National park ranger in the Eifel Reservoir:** "As a forestry worker, I used to only measure the value of the forest in cubic metres. Today I know that for us humans, the forest is much more than just a large amount of timber."
- Werner the diving instructor at Rur Reservoir:** "100 years ago we would have been standing here in the middle of the forest with our diving equipment!"
- Machinist at the Heimbach Art Nouveau power plant:** "When water became electricity, light flooded the darkness of the Eifel."
- Owl in the Rur Valley:** "Formerly the devil's companion - today the king of the night!"
- Forester in Hürtgen Forest:** "The beaver was persecuted and almost exterminated - now it's back."
- Entrepreneur Hoesch in Kreuzau:** "The oldest industrial site on the European mainland that still exists has stood the test of time."
- Grandmother from Düren:** "Today Düren is one of the leading centres of the paper industry in Europe."
- Little Indemann on the Rur:** "There are few places where the term change is as tangible and yet so abstract as here."
- Mother from Inden:** "First my home, then the open-cast mine and then in 20 years, ships: There are few places where the term change is as tangible and yet so abstract as here."
- Duke Wilhelm of Jülich:** "After a good 400 years, I still feel right at home in my home town of Jülich."
- Resting at Linnich Weir on the Rur:** "In the past, the weir was the economic powerhouse for handicrafts in Linnich - today it is used to slow down the pace of life."
- Grandfather with grandchild at Millicher Brook:** "The Rur as a watercourse is now experiencing a renewed change that will return it to its former glory, light, easy and natural."
- Beavers of Ophoven:** "I am an engineer, architect and forester - all in one."
- Rifleman at the Eifel border crossing:** "Here, at the border, you used to be able to make money with coffee in the past."

