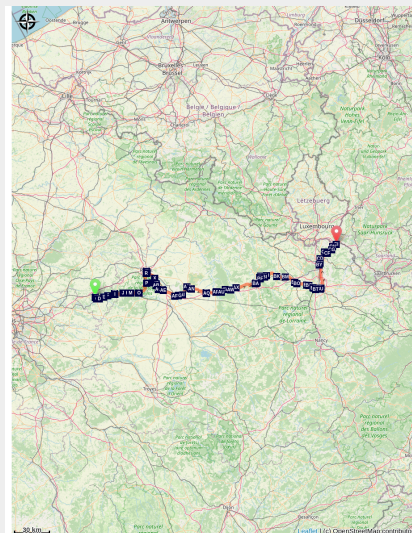


12. 610 France (7/8)

France - Hauts-de-France



Champagne (Amis saint Colomban)



2720km long in France, the route of Colomban's exile in 610 is divided into 8 parts that can be followed successively or indiscriminately. This seventh part of a particularly winding route crosses Champagne and the Grand-Est region to reach the border with Luxembourg.

Around 610, expelled from Luxeuil, Saint Colomban and the Irish monks were taken to Nantes under the guard of armed soldiers who were in charge of taking them on a ship to Ireland. But, barely on board, they managed to escape and, fearing that they would be caught, began an incredible journey through many countries. Most of the journey into exile takes place in France from East to West and then back again after Nantes. The itinerary mainly follows the great rivers and the vineyards often planted on their banks while crossing the historic cities that mark them out.

Useful information

Practice : Pedestrian

Duration : 0 min

Length : 359.2 km

Trek ascent : 4775 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Multi-day trek

Trek

Departure : 02400 Château-Thierry

Arrival : 5444 Schengen (Luxembourg)

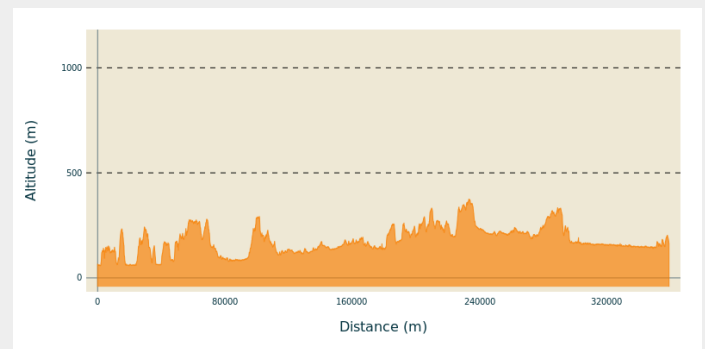
Cities : 1. Hauts-de-France

2. Grand Est

3. Grevenmacher

4. Saarland

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 58 m Max elevation 375 m

These two successive crossings of France are not the most direct way to reach the Swiss border to the east of Luxeuil, only 110km away. But they do reflect the strong image of a strong-willed Columban who had left Ireland for good with no desire to return.

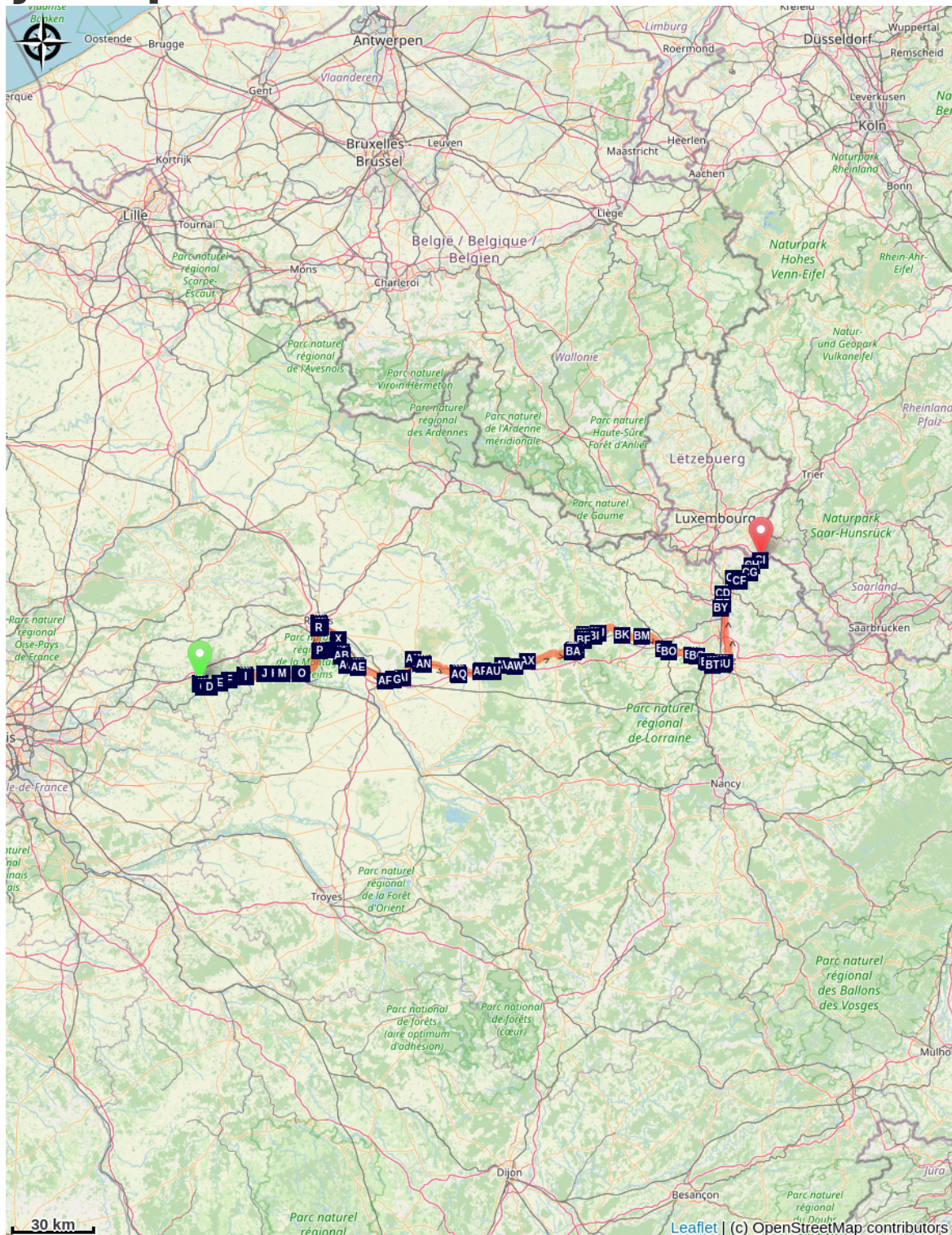
The seventh part (7/8) consists of 15 stages, each averaging 24km per day:





1. Château-Thierry - Dormans
2. Dormans - Damery
3. Damery - Rilly-la-Montagne
4. Rilly-la-Montagne - Reims
5. Reims - Trépail
6. Trépail - St-Hilaire-au-Temple
7. St-Hilaire-au-Temple - Suippes
8. Suippes - Ste-Menehould
9. Ste-Menehould - Clermont-en-Argonne
10. Clermont-en-Argonne - Verdun
11. Verdun - Étain
12. Étain - Conflans-en-Jarnisy
13. Conflans-en-Jarnisy - Metz
14. Metz - Thionville
15. Thionville - Schengen





Stages :

- 1.** Château-Thierry in Dormans
24.8 km / 526 m D+ / 6 h 30
- 2.** Dormans to Damery
22.9 km / 515 m D+ / 6 h
- 3.** Damery to Rilly-la-Montagne
24.3 km / 560 m D+ / 4 h 30
- 4.** Rilly-la-Montagne to Reims
12.3 km / 75 m D+ / 4 h 30
- 5.** Reims to Trépail
25.1 km / 415 m D+ / 6 h 30
- 6.** Trépail to St-Hilaire-au-Temple
20.9 km / 146 m D+ / 5 h 30
- 7.** St-Hilaire-au-Temple to Suippes
17.5 km / 132 m D+ / 4 h 30
- 8.** Suippes to Ste-Menehould
32.1 km / 307 m D+ / 8 h
- 9.** Ste-Menehould to Clermont-en-Argonne
15.6 km / 327 m D+ / 4 h
- 10.** Clermont-en-Argonne to Verdun
29.2 km / 506 m D+ / 8 h
- 11.** Verdun to Étain
28.5 km / 321 m D+ / 7 h 30
- 12.** Étain to Conflans-en-Jarnisy
21.6 km / 140 m D+ / 6 h
- 13.** Conflans-en-Jarnisy to Metz
29.3 km / 399 m D+ / 7 h 30
- 14.** Metz to Thionville
31.9 km / 204 m D+ / 8 h
- 15.** Thionville to Schengen
25.4 km / 264 m D+ / 7 h

On your path...




-  L'Hôtel Dieu de Château-Thierry (A)
-  The Dhuys Aqueduct at Étampes-sur-Marne (C)
-  Notre-Dame de Crézancy Church (E)
-  Saint-Hippolyte Church of Dormans (G)

-  The castle of Château-Thierry (B)
-  Kirche St. Cyr und St. Juliette von Blesme (D)
-  Saint-Martin de Reuilly-Sauvigny Church (F)
-  Dormans Castle (H)

 Battle of the Marne (1914-1918)
Memorial at Dormans (I)

 Église Saint-Martin de Reuil (K)

 Église Sainte-Geneviève de Venteuil
(M)

 Église Saint-Rémy à Mareuil-le-Port
(J)

 Venteuil, la révolte des vignerons
en 1911 (L)

 Champagne vineyards in the Marne
valley (N)

All useful information

How to come ?

Access

Château-Thierry is accessible by bus and train.

From Schengen, the whole of Europe can be reached by train or by plane on international routes from neighbouring towns (Luxembourg or Metz).

Advised parking

Luxeuil

On your path...



L'Hôtel Dieu de Château-Thierry (A)

The Hotel Dieu, founded in 1304 by Jeanne de Navarre, wife of Philip IV the Fair, was a modest establishment until the time of Louis XIV, who endowed it with several offices for lepers scattered throughout the region.

In the XVIIth century, the nuns of Saint-Augustin occupied the establishment and generous donors financed the extension work. Their mausoleums can be seen in the chapel.

The complex was destroyed in 1870 to rebuild a hospital.

It is with the death of the last Augustinian nun in 1966 that the awareness around the remarkable heritage that constitutes the Treasure of the hotel-God goes back to the last Augustinian nun's death. The hospital moved a few years later to the north of the city, freeing up space for a museum that will be inaugurated in 2010 that retraces the history of the Hôtel Dieu.

Attribution : Les portesdeChampagne. com



The castle of Château-Thierry (B)

Archaeology has identified an occupation of the mound from the 4th to the 4th century probably on an ancient castrum.

At the end of the 9th century, a wooden wall with a stone tower was identified by archaeologists.

Thibaud II, Count of Champagne, had the first stone enclosure built in 1130. During the 13th century the imposing Saint-Jean gate was built and the ramparts were raised to make the fortified village more imposing. After a long period of political instability, Château-Thierry was given to Antoine the Bastard of Burgundy by Louis XI in 1478. He was the last to make major changes to the old medieval fortress. First of all, he created a dry ditch in the centre of the esplanade. The northern escape is equipped with two casemates that defend the bottom of the ditch. A sleeping bridge followed by a drawbridge allows to cross this ditch. These structures give onto a new gatehouse leaning against the Thibaud tower. The latter is levelled to be transformed into an artillery platform. Linked to this new use, an ammunition depot and powder magazine was added to the south of the tower in the form of a long corridor which is accessed by a door to the west.

During the Revolution the castle became a National Property and was sold as a stone quarry in 1793. In 1813 Napoleon's soldiers gave it its present appearance by lowering the walls to install artillery batteries.

Attribution : Association Colomban en Brie



The Dhuys Aqueduct at Étampes-sur-Marne (C)

This 131 km long aqueduct supplied Paris (and now Eurodisney in Marne-la-Vallée) with drinking water. It was built in 1865 on the initiative of Haussmann and under the control of Belgrand. This remarkable work presents a continuous slope of 15 cm per Kilometre and cast iron siphons allow the crossing of the 21 valleys. The water takes 3 days from the source to its point of use and provides 20000 m³ per day. The manholes every 500 m are characteristic.

Attribution : Association Colomban en Brie



Kirche St. Cyr und St. Juliette von Blesme (D)

The church is placed under the patronage of Saint Cyr and Saint Juliet, it consisted in its primitive state of a simple nave finished by a choir with a flat chevet. Only the choir and the portal remain from this church. These parts are attributed to the second half of the reign of Louis VI (around 1130). The nave was rebuilt between the end of the 15th and the beginning of the 16th century, after having been destroyed by a fire, a side aisle was added on the south side. Souliac Boileau mentions in 1860 a legend about the source Saint-Cyr located about 15 meters from the church portal, attributing to him the cure of fever and jaundice. In 1858, the town council decided to build the present bell tower.

The bell tower in campanile is original for the region.

Attribution : Association Colomban en Brie



Notre-Dame de Crézancy Church (E)

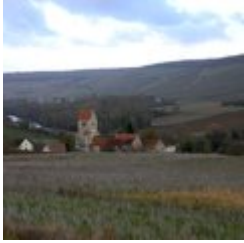
The construction of the first church Notre-Dame de Crézancy dates back to the 12th or 13th century with its Romanesque portal.

Having undoubtedly suffered great damage during the wars of religion, the church was in ruins in the 17th century (parish registers). Important works are undertaken from 1670: the choir, the bell tower and the nave are rebuilt.

The church of Crézancy was rebuilt in the 1840s.

The church is not open to the public.

Attribution : Association Colomban en Brie



Saint-Martin de Reuilly-Sauvigny Church (F)

This Romanesque church has a massive bell tower with imposing buttresses.
Its history is not known.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban



Saint-Hippolyte Church of Dormans (G)

The Church of St. Hippolytus dates back to the 11th century and its bell tower retains the traditional shape of the bell towers of the central provinces, although the details are already completely Gothic. The church of Dormans is small and its transepts are less wide than the nave and choir. The intersection of the crossing therefore gave a barlong plan. It is on this base that a central bell tower was erected.

In the central bell tower of Dormans, except for a base taken in the height of the attic, there is only one floor completely up to date. The crowning of this bell-tower consists today of four gables or "gâbles" of equal height, but with unequal bases, and two attics penetrating with four gargoyles at the fall of the gutters. But this coronation dates from the 15th century.

Attribution : Association Colomban en Brie



Dormans Castle (H)

The first castle was built in 925 from 1340 the Dormans family rebuilt a medieval castle, the building remained in this family for three centuries. It was then owned by illustrious families including the Condé, Conti, de Broglie, de Ligne, de La Rochefoucauld. Its feudal aspect gradually faded with the passing of time as it was transformed into a pleasant residence, while reducing its influence.

It was restored after 1918 in the Louis XIII style. It was private property until 1919 when it was acquired by "L'oeuvre de la Chapelle de la Reconnaissance de la Marne à Dormans" which built the Memorial of the Battles of the Marne.

Property of the town of Dormans, the castle is not open to visitors.

Attribution : Association Colomban en Brie



Battle of the Marne (1914-1918) Memorial at Dormans (I)

The first battle of the marl in September 1914 has already been mentioned in the monument of La Ferté sous Jouarre.

The Dormans memorial was inaugurated in 1931 after 10 years of work, to remember the sacrifice of 112,000 soldiers on the French-English side and 83,000 Germans. The initiative was taken by the de La Rochefoucauld family, the Duchess of Estissac, Marshal Foch, Cardinal Luçon and Monsignor Tessier. According to Marshal Foch the site is the synthetic point of the two battles of the Marne.

The high monument offers a vast view over the valley of the marl, and one will take the time to visit this place of meditation comprising a chapel, a crypt, an ossuary and a cloister. Open in free access from 2 to 6 pm.

Attribution : Association Colomban en Brie



Église Saint-Rémy à Mareuil-le-Port (J)

The church of Saint-Rémi replaced the neighbouring oratory of the former 10th century castle. Its Romanesque bell tower dates from the 12th century. The rest of the building is Gothic but from two different eras. The church underwent important modifications in the 16th century, the bell tower dates from this period, it keeps beautiful stained glass windows from the 16th century.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban



Église Saint-Martin de Reuil (K)

Dating from the 12th and 13th centuries, the church is a three-vessel Latin cross with a transept and a straight chevet. The nave, aisles and chevet are covered with a flat wooden ceiling, while the north transept has a ribbed quadripartite ribbed vault. The crossing of the transept is covered with a masonry vault. It underwent numerous restorations in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban



Venteuil, la révolte des vignerons en 1911 (L)

Following poor grape harvests between 1907 and 1911 as a result of phylloxera, which devastated the majority of French vineyards, Champagne was not spared. The wine growers get their supplies from the Aube, whose Champagne appellation is forbidden following a decree of 1908. Demonstrations are organized to block winegrowers buying from the neighboring department. The destruction of cellars is engaged, the prefect intervenes the army, the two departments are at war. Venteuil was hard hit by this revolt and a plaque on the wall of the town hall recalls this event.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban



Église Sainte-Geneviève de Venteuil (M)

The church of Venteuil is in the tradition of Champagne churches in rural areas. Its construction dates from the end of the 12th century or the beginning of the 13th century. Over the course of time it was rebuilt several times, notably in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban



✦ Champagne vineyards in the Marne valley (N)

The vineyards of the Marne Valley originate on one side, in Tours-sur-Marne, opposite the spur of Bouzy on the last mounds which limit the plain of the Champagne Pouilleuse, and on the other side, in Épernay, develops towards Paris on both banks of the river, but mainly on the right bank and with a south and south-east exposure.

It flows down all along the spread out slopes that follow the meanders of the Marne, sometimes coming closer as if to reflect in its greenish waters, sometimes moving away from them to nestle at the bottom of small picturesque cirques.

Among all the vintages, Aÿ is the grand sire and Mareuil its first lord. The Pinot noir, with its variety the golden green Pinot, gives remarkable wines. Very full-bodied, with a delicate bouquet, less fresh than those from the mountains of Reims, they bring body and finesse to the blends.

It is in Hautvillers, the cradle of champagne, with its marvellous site, that Dom Pérignon, cellarer of the abbey that has remained famous, is said to have discovered the art of champagne preparation. There, Pinot Noir is accompanied by Miller, as in Dizy, Champillon and Cumières, but beyond and on both sides of the river, there are secondary growths made exclusively from Miller grapes, whose less full-bodied and fresher wines are sought after to balance the cuvées.

The region of Epernay includes two series of vineyard slopes planted with Meunier; one stretches from Epernay to Aablois via Pierry, the other starts in Brugnay-Vaudancourt and ends in Mancy, forming an arc of a circle with steep slopes.

This picturesque region produces wines that are quite full-bodied and of a particular freshness, making them sought after in blends.

Attribution : Amis saint Colomban