

The Valloires Circuit PR®

A country walk in the Authie Valley around an ancestral Abbey and its splendid flowered gardens.

- ⌚ Time: 2 hours 45 mins
- ⌚ Distance: 8km
- ⌚ Route: very difficult (high fitness level required)

Starting at: The Valloires Gardens Car Park, Argoules



Argoules, 35km north of Abbeville, 17km north-east of Rue.



- ① From the car park, turn right along the D192 and follow alongside the Abbey wall.
 - The 7th Cistercian abbey was built here in the 12th century but suffered terrible damage during subsequent wars. Today's abbey was built in the 18th century; no damage was caused during the revolution, but the monks were driven out of their home. Its imposing Louis XV façade is elegant in its simplicity and a pretty dovecote stands in the courtyard.
- ② When the road divides for the second time, climb up the track to the left.
- ③ Turn left, ignore the track to the right and walk down until you meet another path. Turn right along this path, but ignore the next path on the right.
- ④ When the road divides, continue to the left and then take the track that leads down to the left.
- ⑤ Turn right along the track just before the D192.
 - Be careful: steep path, difficult for families with young children.
- ⑥ Turn left at the crossroads and then right when you reach the road. Continue for 100 metres and then turn left. When the road divides, head left to the village. Turn left at the next junction, onto the D192, and then right towards Saulchoy.
- ⑦ Cross the little bridge and turn left before you reach the bridge over the River Authie. Continue straight on at the crossroads following the D192 to the abbey.
 - Wooden engravings, majestic wrought-iron gates and a huge, carved pipe-organ can be found in the chapel.



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Of Interest

An Extraordinary Garden...

The popular song “C'est un Jardin Extraordinaire” perfectly illustrates the abbey's park and gardens. It is a living replica of the monastery's former gardens and the natural architecture is unchanging. Almost 4000 plant varieties, chosen for their particular beauty, take pride of place in the botanical gardens, and 400 different varieties of roses can be found in square patches of soil, where this queen of flowers reigns over other plants and vegetables; a clever way the monks had of covering the ground and naturally preventing weeds from growing.

Tourist Offices:
Crécy-en-Ponthieu: 03 22 23 93 84
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