

The Town of Spa

SPA, The pearl of the Ardennes, a town of hot springs and thermal baths, a royal town, the Capital of the Fagnes (Fens), the gateway to the Ardennes, referred to by Frederick the Great as the “Café de l’Europe”. It has so many attractions that one might well think of putting them all into an advertising poster were it not for the fact that this little town of 15,000 inhabitants, famous because of its mineral water springs, has received many celebrated visitors in the course of its history. These, following the fashion of the time, came to “take the Spa waters” whose curative qualities were recognised throughout Europe. The fame of this little town was such that in English-speaking countries the word spa or spas has become.



A tranquil town, SPA (from the Latin “Sparsa Fontana”, which means “leaping water”), is always bubbling with life thanks to the various activities organised there. Its Francofolies French-language music festival and its theatre festivals are particularly renowned. Bright with flowers, the town also boasts a famous golf course, a casino and many other places to relax. The quietness and natural warmth of the little town attract large numbers of tourists, ranging from the stroller who winds up in one of the many small bars to the visitor making a tour of inspection whom nothing escapes.

A newly installed funicular railway takes visitors and those taking the waters up to the new thermal baths, perched high up on the hill. The funicular itself, a rarity in Belgium, is a bold new attraction. Spa also has a reputation for its cuisine and its good restaurants serving various local specialities.



But SPA is also the famous motor racing circuit of Spa-Francorchamps, which, in addition to other organisations that are becoming ever more numerous, will again host the Formula 1 Grand Prix.

This is where, as participants in the Legend Boucles de Spa 2007, you will be received in this town of many springs.

