

What's New for 2010?

The French Ardennes is set to unveil a new hotel, and two major 'new' attractions for 2010.

One of the best kept secrets of Northern Europe, The French Ardennes has so much to offer its discerning visitors these days – from stylish chateaux and fine food, all the way through to tree house accommodation and a zip wire experience which reaches top speeds of 100 kilometres per hour.

And the latest offering is a brand new hotel in the region's 'capital' of Charleville-Mézières.

The "Dormeur du Val" (inspired by famous local poet Arthur Rimbaud) opened at the end of September and boasts 17 very stylish and modern rooms, along with an eclectic bar. Further details can now be seen at the new, and funky, website www.dormeur.fr.

Deep within the Ardennes forest, meanwhile, popular visitor attraction "Nocturnia" will be welcoming some new and very eye-catching guests in 2010. An enclosed area of one hectare will be transformed to house a wolf pack – where it will be possible to view the relationships between the animals, the raising of young, and their nocturnal behaviour. Operators of Nocturnia are promising "a truly fascinating spectacle for young children as well as for adults".

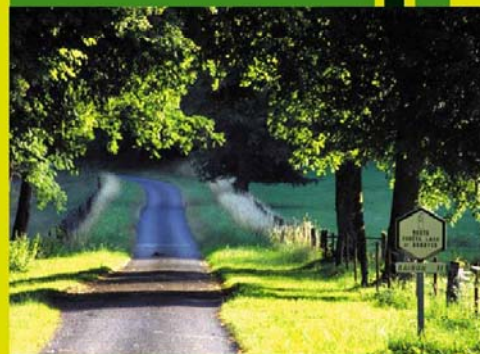
Nocturnia, located in Olizy-Primat, will also feature a new, well-equipped reception building. For further details, visit www.nocturnia.fr.

Having been at the heart of so much conflict through the ages, including both World Wars, The French Ardennes will also be offering its 21st century visitors the chance to experience the life of a soldier on the eve of the First World War.

"Domaine Fortifié des Ayvelles", near to Charleville-Mézières, will replicate a defensive fort capable of housing 900 men. A site designed at the end of the 19th century by General Séré de Rivières to prevent a German invasion, Domaine Fortifié des Ayvelles is a moving, yet strangely serene new visitor attraction, located within a calm and peaceful forest. Further details can be seen at www.fort.ayvelles.free.fr.

The opening date for Domaine Fortifié des Ayvelles will be announced at the start of 2010.

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Another 'new opening' in The French Ardennes for 2010 will be the Viola da Gamba.

Built in 1683, the Baroque church in Asfeld, is one of the most unusual religious buildings in Northern France – thanks to its viola-shaped ground plan. While its domes and colonnades make it a marvelous celebration of Italian Baroque art, its walls do not possess one single straight line. The church, which has recently been closed for renovation, is set to re-open its doors to visitors in 2010. The village of Asfeld, meanwhile, also stages the unique 'Viola da Gamba Festival' in the last weekend of June 2010.

The French Ardennes' Visitor Guide for 2010, can be obtained by telephoning +33 (3) 24 56 06 08, or by e-mailing info@ardennes.com. For full details of *all* short break packages, and further information, visit www.ardennes.com.

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Images, further information, and press packs can be obtained by contacting:

Jörg Hartwig

TEL: +33 (0) 3 24 56 67 77

E-MAIL: hartwig@ardennes.com

or

Ian Weightman

TEL: +44 (0)1782-680963

E-MAIL: ian.iwms@virgin.net

