

Ride-outs "International XT500 Meeting" 2014

WAR CEMETERIES - Romagne-sous-Montfaucon (Fr)

165km ***



Stop at the *Port of Burgundy* to take a look over the wide landscape.

In September 1914 the first battles erupted in the forest of Argonne. World War I would last until 1918. A total of 15.658 soldiers left their lives here.

The first destination is the *American Cemetery* at Romagne-sous-Montfaucon. From here you go to the *War Memorial* where you can have a breath-taking view.

Something further you'll be able to stop at the *Deutscher*

Soldatenfriedhof, here also lies four French soldiers.



On the way back you can stop at a *local pub* for a fresh drink.

SPOOKY GRAVEYARD - Marville (Fr)

165km ***

If there is *one* spooky graveyard, it's at Marville!



On the way to Marville, you pass *Fort de Villy La Ferté*. One of the many forts in the neighborhood.

"If we knew how many soldiers have lost their lives here for what we have right now, we might be a little more tolerant for each other."

Let's move further to the *"spookiest graveyard"* here around.

The church and cemetery are dating from the 12th century and have been classified in 1905/1931 as a historical monument, but the Romans already had a cemetery on the hill.

Old gravestones, tombstones and stelles (*an artificial hill*) from 1345.

Visit the ossuary with its 40.000 skulls from the 15th and 16th centuries, in 1876 compiled by the cemetery administrator.



SEDAN CASTLE - Sedan (Fr)

90km **

Worth visiting is the *Tabac-museum* at Corbion (B), when you cross the French border you can see a "*Fortified house*". These houses were built along the Maginot Line to stop the entering enemy.



Arriving at Sedan, a massive *medieval castle* arises in front of us. This is the main attraction in Sedan.

It was built in 1442 by Eberhard II von der Mark.

With its 35,000 m² (7.5 acres) spread on 7 levels, it is one of the largest medieval fortress in Europe.

You can visit the citadel or go in to Sedan town to eat or drink something.

MARDASSON - Bastogne (B)

115km **



The "*Mardasson*" was inaugurated on July 16, 1950, the lasting friendship between the American and Belgian people, who fought shoulder to shoulder during the victory struggle they fought in the Battle of the Bulge, December 1944 and January 1945. The monument has the form of a star with five 31m long branches. The history of the Battle is engraved in golden letters in the wall of the open gallery. The walkway on top is reached by a spiral staircase and offers a panoramic view

of the most defensive positions held during the Battle. The crypt contains three altars (Catholic, Protestant, Jewish).

Here at Mardasson also ends the *Road to Liberty*, the one the Allied Forces made from Sainte-Mère-Église(Fr) to Bastogne(B) on D-day, June 1944.



Don't forget to visit *Bastogne city* where you can taste a piece of the local cake and visit the nice town center.



[FHQ WOLFSSCHLUCHT 1](#) - Brûly-de-Pesche (B)

230km **



In the forest of Brûly-de-Pesche lies Wolfsschlucht I, the "*Führerhauptquartier*" or the bunker where Adolf Hitler planned his attack on France in June 1940.

He used the FHQ only from 6 June 1940 to 27 June 1940 and only occasionally, it was one of his 18 FHQ's during WWII.

The bunker itself can be visited, as well as some surrounding buildings such as the rectory and church, which were cleared by the occupier to make the military leadership to be able to settle.

On your way back take a visit at [Rocroi](#), a fortified village.



[FORT FERMONT](#) - Fermont (Fr)

155km ***



The Fort Fermont is part of the Maginot Line was built between 1930 and 1936. In June 1940, the fort was attacked by German troops unsuccessfully. After 1945, the fort was operated by the French army until it was taken to the open to steal the public in 1977.

It is a complex, 30m under the surface; it has more than two kilometers of underground passages, and covers an area of 27 hectares. During WWII there was "only" one French soldier killed in Fermont and that actually came through an unfortunate bullet via a loophole.



CITADEL MONTMÉDY - Montmédy (Fr)

105km *****

Collective ride-out



Over country roads we will ride today. At a *fort of the Maginot Line*, hidden in the forest, we'll have a pause for 30min.

Next stop is the *Citadel Montmédy*, a setting from the 16th century, 20 years was needed to build it.

It has endured many wars including the *Great War 1914-1918*.

We pause here about 1.30hr so you can stroll in this tranquil setting or maybe bring a visit to the museum.

We also have our picnic here.
(picnic is provided)



50km back to Herbeumont on *almost all country roads*.

Arrival at our starting point in Herbeumont where we will organize *an exhibition* of our **XT500's** to the general public.