

# Domaine fortifié de la Citadelle de Namur

## Fortified estate of the Citadel of Namur

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The Citadel of Namur, one of the largest fortifications in Europe, recognised and classified by the Wallonia Region is there for you. Several original tours will make you relive the Citadel's history. With the Citadel Pass discover: the trip with commentary in a tourist train, the guided tour of the largest underground rooms in Europe within a citadel, "The Medieval" (a stroll around medieval layers) exhibition, tour of the garden of the two Towers), the film "2000 years of History". Departures from Terra Nova. A historic site not to be missed in Belgium! Guided tour in French, English and Dutch. Events: "The Citadel takes two wings" program – music, theatre, history tours. New! Shuttle service city centre Citadel "the Citad'in". Departure Place de la Station Stops Place de l'Ange and at Grognon. €2/pers return trip. Information at Tourism Office. Located on several GPS tours: see [www.tourismegps.be](http://www.tourismegps.be) Partially accessible to people with limited mobility  
Parking  
Secure site

Even though the original traces of fortifications of the site which today is the citadel of Namur probably go back to the end of Antiquity, nothing confirms the permanent occupation of the rocky outcrop located at the confluence of the Sambre and the Meuse – since Antiquity.

Although, it is known that a noble residence has existed here from the middle of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Towards the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, a stone rampart was built, it was subsequently reinforced by two imposing circular towers between 1250 and the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and, during the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, by a second rampart flanked by four towers.

In 1421, the sale of the Namur earldom by Jean III – last Count of Namur – leads to the progressive disappearance of the site's residential function in favour of an increasing military and strategic vocation: integrated into the States of Bourgogne from 1439, then the Spanish Netherlands, Namur is transformed into a stronghold. The fortress site then slowly adapts to new artillery techniques.

In May 1692, Louis XIV in person places Namur under siege, which capitulates after five weeks.

Vauban was then made responsible for repairing and strengthening the defences, which did not prevent Namur from being retaken in 1695 by the allies led by William III of England. Coehoorn then carries out further work to improve the defensive structure.

In 1746, Louis XV's troops retake Namur; this siege is fatal for the ancient castle of the Counts. After the French depart, the Austrian and Dutch armies make changes to the citadel. Then Joseph II decides to partially pull down fortifications in 1782.

When the Netherlands joined France again, Namur loses its strategic interest and is downgraded in 1803.

Once again under Dutch control in 1815, Namur regains its military role. From 1816 to 1825, the citadel is entirely rebuilt and takes the appearance for which it is known.

Downgraded in 1891, the fortress resumes service in 1914 and 1940 before the army finally leaves it in 1975.