

# Ruines de Crèvecœur

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shaped like ... a shoe! At that time, the fort's defensive system also included moats and bastions which have now disappeared.

The fortress was put out of service in 1554 during the rout of Bouvignes by the troops of the King of France Henri II, then fighting with Charles V.

On a spur of the left bank of the Meuse, about 2km downstream of Dinant, stand the ruins of the Crèvecœur fortress which overhang Bouvignes. Built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by Godefroy, Count of Namur, this fortress was surrounded by walls by Henri l'Aveugle of Luxembourg in 1176. In about 1321, during the siege by troops of Adolphe II de la Marck, Prince Bishop of Liège, a square keep with 10m sides was built. Its 3-m thick walls enclosed a water tank. After major work carried out in 1388, the fortress lived through a peaceful period until 1430. Once again under siege by the inhabitants of Liège, the city of Bouvignes strengthened the defence of Crèvecœur, in particular by constructing a massive semi-circular tower pierced by seven canonniers.

The fortified structure still has its irregular shape obviously depending on the configuration of the land; seen from above, the site is more or less

However restorations were again undertaken there a few years later, between 1567 and 1580. It has become the symbol of the inhabitants of Bouvignon's heroic resistance over the centuries and the ruins of Crèvecœur have been the subject of excavations and restoration work since 1850. The current appearance is due to restorations during 1950-1951.

During the siege of 1554, it seems that three officers who fought heroically with ... their wives, ended up overwhelmed. Having seen their husbands perish, the three wives, so as not to be delivered into the hands of the barbarous soldiers, climbed onto the platform of the highest tower and threw themselves into the torrents of the Meuse! Thus the legend of the three Dames of Crèvecœur was born.

Free visit.  
Located on several GPS circuits: see [www.tourismegps.be](http://www.tourismegps.be)  
Visit the House of Medieval Meuse Heritage, located in the Place de Bouvignes, old Medieval city, below the ruins.  
Not accessible to people with limited mobility  
No parking  
Site not secure