

Enquin-les-Mines to Arras

Km's to Rome:1856

Day six and I managed to escape the Ghosts of the Knight Templars. They just don't know when to finish a crusade. Today is an easy walk along quite country roads to Amettes. It is difficult to purchase food in this area unless you are in a larger village, which the Via tends to avoid to allow pilgrims to walk on roads with little traffic. I have made do with some leftover bread, a can of tuna, avocado and cream cheese for lunch and it will also have to do me for dinner. The place I stayed at provided me with a fresh baguette which enabled satisfaction of the hunger pains but it was my third meal for the day with bread as the base ingredient I am absolutely overdosing on carbs. On the walk today I encountered numerous windmills, although not pleasant on the eye they must be having some impact on carbon emissions.



Leaving Amettes on Day 7 after yet another meal based around bread,I walked up the path of the dead. It's not as bad as it sounds, the neighbouring village did not have a church or cemetery so any dead were carried to Amettes along the path for the services and burial. I quickly moved onto a path made along a disused railway line, good to get off the roads and onto some dirt and grass.

As the walk is 28km's I fortified myself in the first village I came to with a chocolate and custard cake, it's never too soon to eat chocolate on a long walk. Today I encountered my first wildlife, a red deer and numerous pheasants as I walk along very pleasant country lanes. I left the country lanes to walk on a main road for about three kilometres, this road is part of an historical old Roman road which is virtually dead straight for around 50 kilometres, there is no sign of the original road.

I had to make a detour to purchase some lunch supplies and while consulting my map for the afternoon walk discovered that there were dolmens in the area, this would require a three kilometre diversion but who can not visit a dolmen site especially as death appears to be today's theme. This is me mastering the techniques of my new iPhone 13, the camera is good but not sure the weight justifies the improved technology.



It was in a beautiful glade now surrounded by fully grown trees. No one is actually dead until the ripples they cause in the world die away, the person who is buried here is still having some impact. I spent a relaxing twenty minutes at the site enjoying the serene atmosphere. Headed off for the last five km's to Cambignaul where to my chagrin I found that the shop selling food was closed today, another meal of bread cheese and tomato. I didn't anticipate this problem, obtaining sustenance has never been an issue on these walks before. Day 7 is a shorter 17 km walk to Arras one of the larger towns I will walk through. At least for breakfast I had some cereal biscuits still carbs but at least not bread. Set off for Arras as the mist cleared from the town to reveal another beautiful day. Unfortunately the walk did not match the day, an uninteresting traverse through a few villages and wheat fields. On arriving outside Arras it improved and I encountered my first real forest walk, a nice walk along a shaded forest track eventually walking beside a creek. On arriving at Arras had a lunch with possibly the best chips I have ever had, they were a real treat. I have lovely accommodation but Arras has not been that impressive, my host has suggested I go and visit the "statue of the hero's" which is in the best part of town. I have started the book Fair Stood the Wind for France and so far I am enjoying it, looking forward to finding out exactly where they have crash landed. Bye for now.