



LA SEMOIS, FROM CHINY TO CHASSEPIERRE

Easy and wild, immersed in nature, with small rapids and dam passages — this stretch is ideal for beginners to discover kayaking.

However, be cautious when the water level approaches the maximum authorized level: the current can be very strong in some places, and blockages (trees, branches) may partially obstruct the river. Paddle in the center of the river. Near islands, preferably stay on the main channels and avoid entering the small side arms, especially during high water levels. Suitable for beginner paddlers. Difficulty: WW I (I+ in high water). On the water, the current alternates between lively and calm, without technical difficulty. Still, capsizing is a real risk, particularly at the dam passages, so it is important to anticipate the route by scouting carefully.

Identity Card – SEMOIS FROM CHINY TO CHASSEPIERRE		
Difficulty: WW I	Technical level: *	25km
Points of caution:	Dams, fallen trees and branches, rocks, current	
Open season	All year round; see the website of Site Kayak du Service public de Wallonie	

ROUTE CHINY-CHASSEPIERRE

±25 KM, OPEN ALL YEAR depending on the conditions set by current regulations.

If done in one go, this route is fairly sporty due to its length. Start at the lake in Chiny, upstream of the Saint-Nicolas bridge, on the right bank at the “Chiny beach” area, right at the entrance to Camping Le Canada (parking available). It is recommended to spend a few minutes on the lake to get familiar with basic paddling skills and how your kayak reacts. Current on the lake indicates a high-water level — in that case, extra caution is needed for the descent.

Downstream of the bridge, the first dam can be easily crossed on the left-hand side (sometimes marked with a wooden post and arrow). The front paddler often gets wet when crossing dams — be cautious with young children, especially since the water may be cold.

Reminder: do not enter the Cambier mill canal (on the right). After this passage, the river picks up its pace. A few large rocks will need to be negotiated depending on the water level — a fun way to practice your kayak handling. The river makes a wide bend around the hill of Chiny village and leads quickly to a second dam, the Noue passage.



You can take the small left channel — it is narrow, so do not paddle side by side, but one after the other, keeping space between kayaks (watch for low branches, stones, and strong current).

After 4 km, you reach the footbridge of Chiny, near the Hôtel des Comtes. The Semois then continues through the forest to the lake of Lacuisine. The approach is marked by a noticeable decrease in current. A rocky outcrop on the left bank is often used by local youth to jump into the river from several meters high. A few hundred meters after this outcrop, you reach the Lacuisine landing area, along a beautiful large meadow on the right bank.

From Lacuisine, the route continues by passing over the Lacuisine dam via a wide passage roughly in the center of the dam (it may be wise to warn the front paddler — a splash is guaranteed). The river now meanders through open countryside, heading towards Florenville, whose church stands proudly above the valley on the cuesta. To visit Florenville, stop at the communal campsite area (left bank, easy parking and turning), or better yet, at the “La Rosière” area, also on the left bank (signposted for access to the town center).

The Semois then curves northward toward the village of Martué (1 km), where the remains of an old dam require careful route selection between several small islets, often obstructed by debris. During high water, watch out for strong downstream pull just after the dam. Shortly after, the Semois dives into the forest again for nearly 10 kilometers, winding through tight bends where it's easy to lose orientation (bringing a small compass might be a good idea...). In this section, depending on the water level, rocks may add some extra fun to the navigation — avoiding them becomes a fun challenge and a great technical exercise.

As you exit the forest, the river makes a final large bend through meadows bordering the charming village of Chassepierre. Immediately after the Chassepierre bridge, the “Les Cabrettes” landing area is located on the left bank next to a large meadow (easy parking and maneuvering). One of our buses will take you back to your starting point (Chiny, Saint-Nicolas bridge) to retrieve your vehicle.



IN IMAGES...



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Kayak departure point: Le Batifol, Saint-Nicolas Bridge No. 1, right at the entrance to Camping Le Canada. Swimming area.



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Pass under the bridge through the center, then stay on the left-hand side.



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Aerial view of the start of this section, the Chiny water basin, and the Saint-Nicolas Bridge (view looking upstream). If water levels allow, the dam is best crossed at the spot indicated by the arrow.



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The dam passage at Chiny (Cambier Mill) is the first "splash zone" of the route. Go down the small waterfall at the indicated spot. Upstream view.



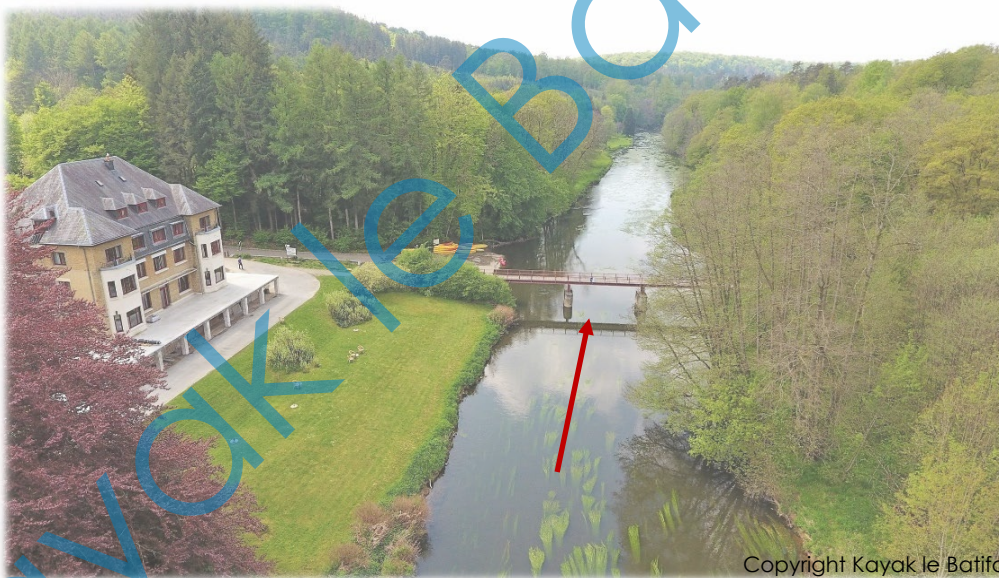
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Passage of the Cambier Mill. Downstream view.



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The Noue passage. This passage is narrow — do not paddle side by side, but one after the other, leaving enough space between kayaks (watch out for low branches, stones, and current).



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Chiny footbridge near the Hôtel des Comtes. Paddle in the center of the river.



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Arrival at the Lacuisine landing area. Distance covered: approx. 1/3 of the total route to Chassepierre.



The Lacuisine dam, to be crossed via the well-designed central passage (beware of possible back current).



The Semois in Florenville.



The Semois approaching Chassepierre, another major highlight of this route.



Landing point in Chassepierre, near Camping Les Cabrettes.

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