

The municipality of Niederanven

At the border of the Grünewald, on the Senningerberg side rich in sources, lays in a picturesque natural environment, the municipality of Niederanven, representing the villages of Niederanven, Oberanven, Hostert, Rameldange, Ernster, Senningen, Senningerberg, Waldhof and Staffelter. At the moment, Niederanven counts about 5800 inhabitants. The population shows 43 different nationalities with a foreigners' percentage of about 46 %. It is because of the numerous sources and its protected site that Niederanven's region has ever been populated since the most put off times.

The first written document with reference to Niederanven dates at the time of the roman emperor Diocletian from 284 to 305 AD. Recently an old lime oven, dating from the Celts has been discovered and restored. In December, 1919 Gallia Varicillus's gravestone was found in Hostert. This very particular tombstone representing an important witness of the roman occupation here in Luxembourg, is exhibited in the Luxembourg National Museum. Only hundred years later, in 386 AD, the name of "Andethanna" appears again in handwritten documents: in " Vita St Martin ", where Sulpicius SEVERUS describes one of the numerous journeys of the bishop of Tours to Trier.

" Hof Anwen ", consisting of Ober- and Niederanven, Hostert, Senningen, Rameldange and Ernster, is named in numerous handwritten documents of the 12-th century. One supposes that Franc kings were the first owners of the Hof Anwen. Even today in the vaults of Hostert's chapel you can see the coats of arms of the ancient owners, namely the marquees of Bade. Since 1976, this most ancient building of Niederanven has been classified among the "ancient memorials" of Luxembourg.

For a long time the parish of Hostert profoundly respected the memory of the hermit "Schetzel", who lived up to its death in the year 1138 in a cave of the Grünewald. The Grünewald represents the largest piece of forest of the Grand-Duchy and with its beautiful charm invites all friends of sports, leisure and hiking to a visit.

In 1828 Jacques Lamort buys the paper factory of Senningen and leads it to be the most important paper factory of the Grand-Duchy, but with the release of the French-German war of 1870 began the decline of the company, which closed the factory's doors in 1882. The manufacturer Ernest Dervaux of Paris bought the empty premises. He transformed the host house into a castle and made demolish the factory buildings in order to create a magnificent park instead. It was the moment the "Castle of Senningen" was born. Since 1956 concurrently to its role of the Communication Centre, the castle shelters the Government's reception centre, an international centre and the Crisis centre of the Luxembourg Government.

From the the year 1904 until 1954 a narrow railway, gently called "Charly" by the population, connected the town of Luxembourg with Echternach. Of the stations in Senningerberg and Hostert, only the one in Hostert is still existing. Later on the railway has been changed to a bicycle trail, going to Echternach and linked to the European bicycle trail network.

The national airport "Findel", very close to Niederanven, represents today an important centre of international take-offs to many destinations.

For its visitors as well as for its inhabitants, Niederanven has a large leisure offer. Several thematic and didactic hiking theme path sets have been installed over the years. These trails instruct about the historical and scientific characteristics of the site. They have been specially fitted out, so that every generation, from young to old , can enjoy the trails with a lot of pleasure.

Friends of sports can find a 18-hole golf, riding possibilities and a special fitness trail.

For cyclists there is an interesting cycling trail that has been set up and attached to the European net of cycling tracks. Tennis courts are also available at the local club.

Due to its central situation and its direct access to national motorways, Niederanven offers a good choice of high standing hotels and best quality restaurants. It is the ideal place to stay and start from here the discovery of the Grand-Duchy..