

The Royal Rail Rebecq Rognon

The Rail Rebecq Rognon (RRR) is a Belgian association founded in 1975 by railway enthusiasts, including the late Erik Goegebeur, to revive a former railway line (Line 115, dismantled in 1964), as a narrow-gauge (60 cm) tourist line linking Rebecq to Rognon, using old steam and diesel locomotives to transport visitors.

With the help of the municipal secretary André Fagnard, the mayor Marcel Bartholomé and the support of successive municipal representatives, the project became a reality.

Rails from local trams were dismantled, transported back and re-laid on the bed of the old track.

Passenger carriages were assembled, and a shed was built to house the rolling stock and carry out maintenance work. A car park was also constructed.

After several years of work, the Petit Train du Bonheur was inaugurated on 31 May 1977.

In 1990, the line was extended by 800 metres towards the former Rognon station.

Numerous Deutz diesel locomotives [Jules (1940), Marraine (6003), Albert (6004), Armande, the orange and white 911 or 912] and

steam locomotives [Paula ex Trixie – 1973), Pistache (O&K-1911), Aquila (O&K-1908), Birland (O&K-1929), Arthur (Maffei-1905)] were restored and ran on the line. Currently, the two steam locomotives 'Pistache' and 'Paula' are no longer on the network. The former has been returned to service and operates at Saint-Amand-les-Eaux (F), whilst the latter is parked at the Chanteraines railway(F) (in a bend of the Seine).

As for the third locomotive, 'Aquila', it operates at Pairi Daiza.

Rebecq still has several diesel locomotives in working order (Marraine, Albert, Armande, Elisa and the white one, as well as the loaned steam locomotive, Birland (O&K -1929), restored in 2023, and Arthur (from 1905), which is currently being refurbished.

Fifty years later, the association has become "Royal Rail Rebecq Rognon" and volunteers are working to preserve this activity for the enjoyment of many visitors.

The train runs on diesel or steam power every Sunday and public holiday from April to the end of September at 2 pm and 4 pm (timetable available on the website, at the ticket office or by calling (+32 478 234 789).

During the week, it is possible to book a trip for receptions, team-building events, celebrations, groups, birthdays, weddings, barbecues, etc.

A stop is scheduled at Bloc U, where you can visit the facilities and enjoy a drink.

