

esprit
HAUTS · DE · FRANCE



Life
in slow mode

*Caring about ourselves,
others and the planet*

UNWIND

*Between Calais
and Paris, 12 gems
off the beaten track*

FAMILY

*Parc Asterix, dragon ride...
Exciting activities
& shared laughter*

SHARED HISTORY

*From Agincourt
to the Great War*

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Welcome

The closest French art de vivre, with the added bonus of the cordiality of French Northerners!

How can you get away from it all without criss-crossing the planet? That's been the hot topic since Covid reformed our priorities: more untouched nature, more security, more authentic encounters, and above all, more time with those we love.

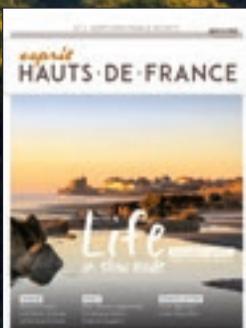
The crisis has opened our eyes to the value of simple things and the value of proximity: jumping on a plane for organized exotic experiences on the other side of the world seems a lot less essential these days.

Find yourself nodding your head? Then dive into our magazine and discover the richness of Hauts-de-France, from Calais to Paris. Take a break from it all in the beautiful land of a close neighbour, refresh your mind and soothe your spirit with our infinite horizons and French gardens, pull up a chair in our cafés and listen to your attentive host recount (sometimes in Français ;-)) the details of the long history which unites us - William the Conqueror, Thierval, Agincourt, and so much more.

A great change of scenery is just a step away - you can already see our coast in the distance!

See you soon,

The Esprit Hauts-de-France team



Receive the Hauts-de-France magazine straight to your door

We offer free subscription to you, your friends and your family on

www.french-weekendbreaks.co.uk/magazine

In the meantime we'll try to keep you inspired on social media:

 **Facebook** page "I love Northern France"

 **Instagram** @ilovenorthernfrance

REST AND RELAXATION

*“There is nothing that makes its way more
directly into the soul than beauty”*

JOSEPH ADDISON

Dunes near Le Touquet-Paris-Plage < Opal Coast < Pas-de-Calais

Get away from it all... close to home

DISCOVER AUTHENTIC FRENCH *ART DE VIVRE* ON A WEEKEND BREAK

Perched on a promontory, Montreuil-sur-Mer is a delight to the eyes with its citadel, ramparts and cobbled streets lined with elegant mansions. But with its wealth of exceptional culinary products and creative dishes, this picturesque town can also be enjoyed with your tastebuds. This is a gastronomic destination that invites you to savour, taste and indulge within a stone's throw of the sea.



MAP: A2

**Montreuil-sur-Mer
Tourist Office**
[www.tourisme-
montreuillois.com](http://www.tourisme-montreuillois.com)
11-13 rue Pierre Ledent,
+33 (0)3 21 06 04 27

In January 2020, for the third consecutive year, the British newspaper *The Times* ranked Montreuil-sur-Mer among its “top 50 French destinations of choice for British holidaymakers”. It was well-deserved recognition for this fortified town long appreciated by Tim Matthews, British owner of the guesthouse Maison 76, and by many of his compatriots.

There are countless reasons for this passionate love story. It was Douglas Haig and the British army's HQ during the First World War. It's steeped in history, surrounded by landscapes reminiscent of English gardens and handy for the beaches of the Opal Coast. But above all, it's loved for its gastronomy and French *art de vivre*.

This miniature gastronomic capital ticks all the boxes for indulgence. Its number one asset?

High-quality products bought directly from producers: organic vegetables, honey from local apiaries, clotted cream served with a ladle, fragrant fruit, aged cheeses... Take your basket to browse the Saturday-morning market on Place du Général de Gaulle, where you can meet the passionate farmers and producers who create these delicacies. The square and surrounding streets are filled with food shops with the same focus on quality.

Alexandre Gauthier, two-Michelin-starred chef at La Grenouillère in La Madelaine-sous-Montreuil, uses his prodigious talents to make the very best of these products in his locavore dishes. This Montreuil native extended his domain over the town by also opening L'Anecdote and Froggy's Tavern (froggystavern.fr), where you can feast on succulent spit-roasted meats.

useful info

STAYING OVER

Maison 76

With its four magnificent guestrooms, Tim Matthews' Maison 76 is a must. It was named one of the 30 best B&Bs in France by *The Sunday Times Travel* magazine in 2019.

www.maison76.com

76 rue Pierre Ledent,
Montreuil-sur-Mer

La Grenouillère (Relais & Châteaux)

Overnight in one of the inn's eight comfortable hunting huts during an interlude in the heart of nature.

www.lagrenouillere.fr

19 rue de la Grenouillère,
La Madeleine-sous-Montreuil

Les Hauts de Montreuil

Recently renovated, this charming 3-star hotel is nestled in a 16th century half-timbered house. Right next door is a cosy English bar and Le Patio restaurant.

www.leshautsdemontreuil.fr

21-23 rue Pierre Ledent,
Montreuil-sur-Mer

L'Hermitage

In a historic 19th century building, an elegant 3-star hotel with a decidedly British style.

www.hermitage-montreuil.com

Place Gambetta, Montreuil-sur-Mer

EATING OUT

Le Clan des Elfes

In a cobbled 18th century street, very close to the ramparts, this crêperie nestles in a picturesque little house. Concerts are held some evenings.

www.creperie-leclandeselfes.fr

3 rue du Clape en Bas,
Montreuil-sur-Mer

L'Anecdote

In the restaurant of the Hermitage hotel, Alexandre Gauthier offers slightly simplified, forgotten recipes from La Grenouillère.

anecdote-restaurant.com

1 rue des Juifs (place de l'Église)
Montreuil-sur-Mer

SHOPPING

The pretty antique shops on rue Pierre Ledent. On July 14, there's also an unmissable flea market in Montreuil-sur-Mer, with more than 500 second-hand and antiques dealers from all over Europe.

Cheeses from northern Europe, other parts of France and beyond from Fromagerie Caseus.

14 place du Général de Gaulle,
Montreuil-sur-Mer



Tim Matthews and two-starred chef Alexandre Gauthier

Montreuil is full of welcoming eating establishments. From the humble Pot du Clape (lepotduclape.fr) to the luxurious Château de Montreuil (chateaudemontreuil.com), they all prove in their own inimitable way that the route to happiness is through the stomach.

Tim Matthews could talk for hours about this delightful destination. "Easy to access at only three and a half hours from London, and a foodies' paradise!" he exclaims. His enthusiasm led to the creation of La Destination Gastronomique (www.ladestinationgastronomique.com), an association of restaurateurs and food professionals aiming to promote the town's culinary excellence while highlighting its rich heritage.

Matthews was also behind the launch of the A Symphony of the Senses festival as well as Club Énergie Vélo, which organises gastronomic tours on electric bikes, chic picnics and unusual dinners, notably at the Citadelle. And the town's ramparts offer an incredible panoramic view for your after-dinner stroll. Good food and old stones: the recipe behind Montreuilloise *art de vivre*... ■



"Easy to access at only three and a half hours from London, and a foodies' paradise!"

TIM MATTHEWS, LOCAL HOTEL OWNER AND EVENT ORGANISER



Walk with a view of the ramparts of Montreuil

Winter Wine Fest at the Arsenal de Montreuil

AN ICONIC MOMENT COMBINING GASTRONOMY AND HERITAGE

Each December, fifteen wine-growers from various regions (including Champagne, Burgundy, Beaujolais, Rhône and Loire) are invited by La Cave de Montreuil, in partnership with La Destination Gastronomique, to showcase their wines and share their passion at the Arsenal. Between tastings, epicureans can walk around the Citadel and take part in an evening tour by torchlight in a event celebrated for its convivial vibe. The Saturday-evening tasting dinner at L'Anecdote restaurant is the highlight of this gourmet weekend. Guests sample five dishes each accompanied by two paired wine vintages provided by the participating wine-makers. Each wine is presented by its producer, over the course of an evening rich in memorable gastronomic moments.

Winter Wine Fest, December www.lacavedemontreuil.com

A revitalising road trip ALONG THE OPAL COAST



Drive just a few minutes from Calais' port to join the breathtaking D940. This tranquil winding road wends its way up and down hills, hugging the Opal Coast shoreline past idyllic beaches and cliffs, and through quaint fishing villages, charming seaside resorts and historic towns... This is the Route 66 of northern France!

One of the most beautiful roads in all Europe, the D940 Opal Coast road through Pas-de-Calais takes in the spectacular scenery of the Grand Site de France des Deux-Caps. Tranquil and a bit of an insiders' secret, it's perfect for a refreshing road trip. There are plenty of towns and villages to stop off at en route: indulge in authentic local cuisine, shop at a market, stretch your legs on a nature walk, enjoy water-sports or just relax and breathe in the fresh iodine-rich air on miles and miles of unspoiled sandy beaches.

Start your journey at sleepy Sangatte, where the wide-open golden sands witnessed the first cross Channel flight by aviator Louis Bleriot in 1909. As you drive on around the coast, watch 'flobarts', the traditional wooden fishing boats, bobbing on the waves and discover secret, secluded bays where you can see seals frolic.

From the soaring cliffs of the Deux Caps, take in the dizzying views across the Channel to the White Cliffs of Dover, and follow the marked paths across this protected natural site for an invigorating hike. Stop off in Wissant, an utterly charming town with family-friendly beaches and welcoming bars. ...



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Coming back with the (grand)kids? NAUSICAA, a must-see



The National Sea Centre of France, is the biggest aquarium in Europe and a recognised UNESCO Centre of Excellence thanks to its role in raising awareness of the need to support the marine environment and its resources. This awe-inspiring underwater world is home to some 60,000 creatures.

The 'Big Tank' alone contains enough water to fill four Olympic swimming pools and, with its 20-metre-long and 5-metre-high viewing window, really makes you feel you've entered a magical marine world as you gaze into the eyes of manta rays and shoals of fish, curious to meet you. Walk through an 18-metre-long transparent tunnel and rendez-vous with sealions, penguins and a giant tortoise. Watch a jellyfish ballet and dip your hands in a thrilling touchpool to feel the soft swish of a ray's fins sweep across your hands. It's a fantastic day out for the whole family.

Boulevard Sainte-Beuve, Boulogne-sur-Mer
www.nausicaa.co.uk

Impressive and hypnotic: Europe's largest aquarium

“The singular light of the Opal Coast radiates soft, delicate hues. It has captivated such painters as Turner, Boudin, Le Sidaner. They all desired to express its muted depths, which transfigure people and things alike.”



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... A little further on, you'll feel as if you've stepped back in time in the enchanting village of Audresselles, where you can buy seafood fresh from the fishermen selling directly from their front rooms and garages.

Admire the 17th century Vauban-built fort at Ambleteuse and visit the superbly presented Second World War museum, covering the Battle of Britain, the Atlantic Wall, the Normandy landings, the war in Russia, and more (*Musée 39-45*, 2 Rue des Garennes, Ambleteuse). Close by are the breathtaking Slack Dunes.

In Wimereux, be wowed by the lovely Belle Epoque style villas and the vast promenade and long sandy beach. Wimereux golf course, which welcomes day guests, has stunning views over the English Channel and a friendly clubhouse.

Boulogne-sur-Mer, a classified Ville d'Art et d'Histoire, is rich in ancient monuments, including a museum in the medieval chateau, and the Basilica of Notre Dame with the longest crypt in France. Pop into the belfry to see the cannonballs that were fired on the city by Henry VIII. In the old town, rue de Lille teems with fabulous bars and restaurants.

Swanky jet-set seaside resort Le Touquet with its glorious golden sandy beach, deemed one of the best in France by Trip Advisor reviewers, boasts sand dunes and pine forests where you can go horse-riding. You can also enjoy shops worthy of Paris and gastronomic delights galore. ■



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Rue de Lille



useful info

Pas de Calais tourist board

www.pas-de-calais-tourisme.com
And local Tourist Offices in Boulogne-sur-Mer, Le Touquet and Wissant

WHAT TO DO

Hire an e-bike from La Maison du Grand Site for a relaxing ride. www.lesdeuxcaps.fr

Take a guided bike tour of Le Touquet. www.letouquet.com

Relax with an aperitif on the seafront at Wimereux or at a beach bar in Le Touquet. Marvel at a market every day of the week.

STAYING OVER

Hotel Atlantic
4-star Art Deco delight on the seafront at Wimereux, with a Michelin-starred restaurant, La Liègoise. www.atlantic-delpierre.com
6 rue Notre Dame, Wimereux

Castel Victoria

A cosy 3-star hotel ideally located in the centre of town. www.castelvictoria.com
11 rue de Paris
Le Touquet-Paris-Plage

Les Argousiers

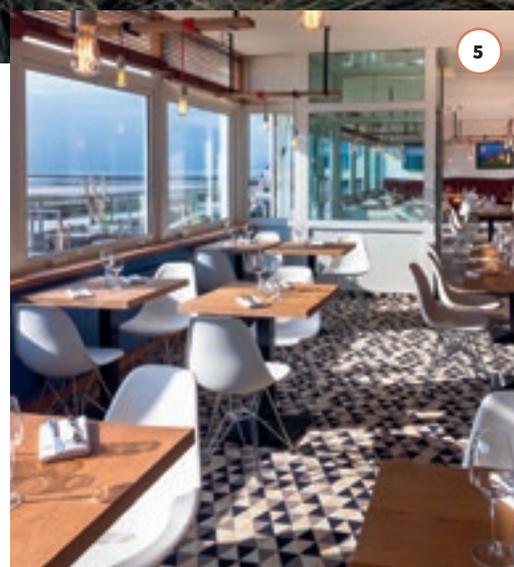
Charming 3-star family-run hotel a 10-minute walk from the pebble beach. www.hoteldesargousiers.fr
28 rue Clemenceau,
Ambleteuse

EATING OUT

Lunch in Boulogne-sur-Mer's fortified town, filled with tempting restaurants with mouth-watering menus, including L'Îlot Vert with its flower-decked terrace. Or choose from a spectacular range of restaurants in Le Touquet. Indulge at Michelin-starred restaurant La Matelote. www.la-matelote.com
80 boulevard Sainte-Beuve,
Boulogne-sur-Mer

SHOPPING

2 Caps Brewery
For both tastings and shopping in a rustic setting in the heart of the French countryside. 1413 Route d'Ausques,
Tardinghen



L'Aloze, the chic Atlantic brasserie



Maison Pérard

TOURING & TASTING NORTHERN FRANCE
free guide book
www.french-weekendbreaks.co.uk/motorbike-touring-france



The Flobart

Champagne,

SUPER-ROMANTIC CHÂTEAU BREAK OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Get away to celebrate your wedding anniversary and surprise your partner. It's a little-known fact that the Marne valley, just an hour from Paris and the big wineries in Reims and Epernay, is home to several wine-growers who together produce 10% of Champagne. This well-kept secret means you'll be among the first to discover its unique oenological delights while strolling through wine villages and stocking up on Champagne to wow your friends back home.



This area near Château-Thierry in the department of Aisne shelters the vines or 'galipes' – the term used by local Champagne growers for their Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay. There are a multitude of exposures and microclimates here that explain the presence of the three grape varieties. Their blending creates a character that is not seen anywhere else.

Easy to discover by car, bicycle or on foot, this part of the Marne valley is lined with vineyards and crowned by forests. The little villages, from Charly-sur-Marne to Trélou-sur-Marne – all centred around part-Romanesque churches – are thriving thanks to the wine-growers. Here, far from the commercial powerhouses, you can really “live” the Champagne: listen, see, smell and taste, all your senses awakened and alive.

VISIT CHAMPAGNE CELLARS AND SPEND THE NIGHT IN A CASTLE: THE PERFECT ROMANTIC GETAWAY

The most important Champagne cellars are those of Maison Pannier in Château-Thierry itself. Set in stone quarries dating back to the 13th century, they give visitors the chance to witness the various stages of making this precious drink.

“A visit to our cellars is a real experience. We descend 30 metres underground to discover the history of the region, the product and the development of this emblematic beverage,” says Laure Renaud, the Maison’s oenotourism manager.

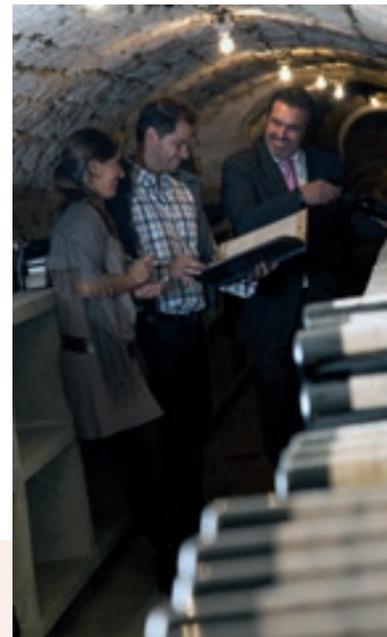
A sensory discovery awaits. Do you know how to appreciate the clarity of the colour? Can you recognise the bitter, the sweet, the mouth feel? Naturally, the tour ends with a tasting.

Take a stroll among the vines with a flute of Champagne in hand

Philippe Mallet in Trélou-sur-Marne, halfway between Epernay and Château-Thierry, is a lovely place for a stopover. This passionate wine-grower drives you to his vineyard for a demonstration of its activities and a Champagne-tasting among the vines. He shares his different vintages with you, as well as the grape harvest and the work carried out in the cellar...

If you want to appreciate more of the local landscapes, he'll also show you where to take a wonderful walk of 4km or 8km, using two newly created hiking trails in the heart of the vineyard. He will also share the best spots in the area for capturing the moment for the family photo album.

Champagne Philippe Mallet
5 route de Courcelles in Trélou-sur-Marne - +33 (0)3 23 70 34 09





With Olivier Belin

“A constellation of small family businesses. Visitors love the idea of discovering unique flavours at independent wineries.”



The 5-star *Château de Fère* hotel & spa

Fruity, herbal, floral, mineral, spicy, woody, balsamic? At the Fontaine des Sens, the Château-Thierry wine cellar and delicatessen, oenologists and sommeliers Stéphane and Jean-Charles await you amidst an array of bottles of Champagne selected for tasting workshops. Food and a talk are included. And yet another sommelier will accompany you during your ultra-romantic candlelit dinner at the prestigious Château de Fère.

In this stunning area, the independent wine-growers all come together when there is an occasion to commemorate or celebrate, such as the October festival or the special vintage for the centennial of 1914-18. Buying their wine means you leave with a little piece of history from their family line, their ‘terroir’, conveyed directly from producer to consumer. ■

REST & RELAXATION...

How about spending the night in an unusual setting... Truly get away from it all in a romantic tree house at the *Nid dans les Bruyères*. www.leniddanslesbruyeres.fr
37 rue du Château, Fère-en-Tardenois

... or even in a barrel in the heart of the vines?! www.parenthesechampenoise.com
Trélou-sur-Marne

EATING OUT

Le Moulin Babet
www.lemoulinbabet.com
8 rue du Moulin Babet, Mézy-Moulins

The *Auberge le Relais* with its high gastronomy
www.relaisreuilly.com
2 rue de Paris, Reuilly-Sauvigny

HAVING A DRINK

Chacun sa bière: a welcoming spot for epicurean delights
66 rue Carnot, Château-Thierry

L’Estaminet du château. Don’t miss the birds-of-prey show or the panoramic views of the birthplace of Jean de La Fontaine and the Marne Valley. Allée Victor Gardeur, Château-Thierry

DON’T MISS

La balade pétillante (‘sparkling walk’) in Charly-sur-Marne on the second Saturday in October – an 8km walk combined with food and accessible to all.
www.balade-petillante.com

The Champagne and You festival in the grounds of the medieval castle of Château-Thierry, the third weekend of October.
www.champagne-et-vous.fr

WINE TASTING

Champagne Belin
www.champagne-belin.fr
30A Aulnois Essômes-sur-Marne

La Fontaine des Sens
www.la-fontaine-des-sens.fr
27 rue Carnot, Château-Thierry

Champagne Pannier
www.champagnepannier.com
23 rue Roger Catillon, Château-Thierry



Les Portes de la Champagne
tourist information centre
www.lesportesdelachampagne.com
2 place des États Unis,
Château-Thierry
+33 (0)3 23 83 51 14

STAYING OVER

The 5-star *Château de Fère* hotel-restaurant: a romantic idyll worthy of a fairy tale. Its Champagne bar offers an array of surprising, delicately flavoured Champagnes. At both lunch and dinner, the seasonally inspired menu promises enchanting surprises from both gastronomic and bistro menus. And there’s also a spa and a swimming pool.
www.chateaufere.com
Fère-en-Tardenois

At *La Porte d’Arcy* B&B, the vegetable garden is not just a pretty face: it produces a good portion of the ingredients used by the kitchen.
www.portedarcy.fr
La Porte d’Arcy, Fère-en-Tardenois

GOLF GREENS IN PANORAMIC SETTINGS
PACKED FULL OF (FRENCH) HISTORY

Fairways of bliss



Wimereux, Chantilly, Hardelot, Le Touquet, Chaumont-en-Vexin... Names that resonate, evoking the harmony of their greens and the great history of France but also the motto *carpe diem*. Take an instant's pause amidst the foliage, somewhere between concentration and contemplation.

“Mr Marconi sends to Mr Branly his respectful compliments...” On 29 April 1899 in Wimereux, Guglielmo Marconi successfully dispatched the first telegraph communication between France and England. The Belle Epoque villas, the gardens of Saint-Jean bay, a superb golf course with the striking white cliffs of Dover in the background: Wimereux on the Opal Coast combines the most harmonious features of the two sides of the Channel. Lynn Dockar, a golf enthusiast from Whitley Bay, was bowled over by the magic of this place and never left. It was a case of love at first sight – one that has lasted for twenty-two years. *“The golf course appears to be hanging between the earth, the sky and the sea. On a clear day, it’s like you are touching the English cliffs. My great joy is playing early in the morning. I feel in communion with nature as it awakens. Between the sea – at times opal, grey or azure – the green, the gorse, the carpets of daffodils, and the wild orchids, it’s a symphony of colours.”*

Lynn Dockar loves sharing this pleasure with friends. *“After a round, we meet at the club house restaurant, the Back Spin, to share a lovely meal of French cuisine.”*

Along the Opal Coast, there are plenty more treasures in store. Wimereux is a pure Scottish links course, while more sheltered Golf des Pins in Hardelot sprawls across a pine forest. As is the case with Chantilly’s course, this is the work of the great golf designer Tom Simpson. American in style, it’s a place where you could easily imagine yourself to be in California.

Meanwhile, just over a mile away, there’s more sporting pleasure to be had at the Golf des Dunes. On the terrace of the club house, with views over nearby valleys and lakes, time stands still. And the Holy Grail itself is not far away... Le Touquet-Paris-Plage, capital

of golf in northern Europe. ‘The Sea’ (*La Mer*) course – laid out in the heart of the dunes by famed golf architect Harry Colt and renovated in 2016 – welcomes top golfers including Seve Ballesteros, who came into his own here at the age of twenty. Between the seagrass and the heather, you can smell the sea spray. The iodine-rich air whets your appetite, readying you to head to the golf course restaurant, The Spoon, with its large picture windows giving it the feel of extending out into the nature beyond. The blue and beige *décor* induces a Zen atmosphere. Golf is a way of life. Closer to Paris, in the Oise, you’re in the holiday domain of the kings and emperors of France. Chantilly is the country’s equestrian capital – don’t miss the Grand Prix de Diane at its horse-racing track if you’re here in June. Chantilly served as a model for no less than Versailles. ...

NEW

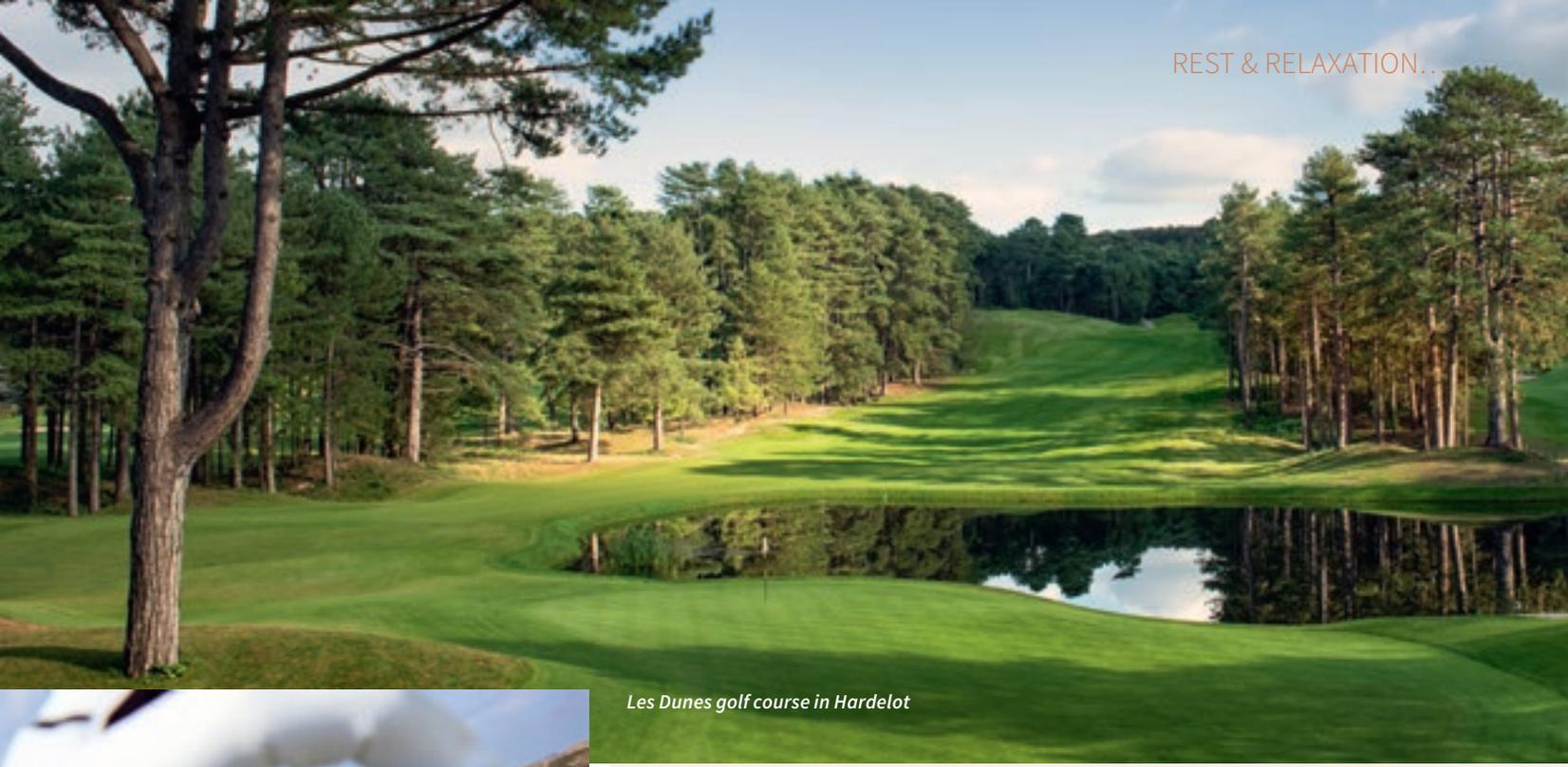
GOLF PASS
HAUTS-DE-FRANCE

A visitors' Golf Pass created by Hauts-de-France, embracing the region's courses for both golf and wellness aficionados alike.

www.hautsdefrance-golf.com



Wimereux golf course



Les Dunes golf course in Hardelot



... Golf courses and gardens are nestled in the surrounding valleys... and are steeped in history. In Chaumont-en-Vexin, on a beautiful 12th-century estate, the Rebetz golf course has just been voted number one in France in terms of value for money. And the Château de Bertichères, part of the Golf Country Club, was the residence of Louis XIV's brother, the famous Man in the Iron Mask. Beyond the immense beech and oak forests, you overlook the Vexin plain – an ideal spot for a moment's pause just before the perfect shot? ■

PROLONG THE SERENITY

*The garden
"is the purest of human pleasures"
Francis Bacon, philosopher*

In Gerberoy, the Temple of Love rises up from a rosebush. Designated a *Jardin Remarquable* ('Outstanding Garden'), Les Jardins Henri le Sidaner created by the eponymous painter Henri le Sidaner in Italian-style terraces. Gerberoy itself is ranked among the most beautiful villages in France. Lined by wisteria, valerian and hollyhocks, its streets convey the impression of stone and plants in harmony. Ambling these narrow cobbled streets and paths lost in time, you'll discover the perfect gourmet stop: "Le jardin des ifs", an oasis of topiary offering rustic but refined bistro cookery in a Zen setting. In Saint-Paul, near Beauvais, tucked between water lilies and dahlias, contemporary painter André Van Beek welcomes you to his "little Giverny". Gardeners are artists. The most notable is perhaps André Le Nôtre, the creator of Versailles. But it was in Chantilly that he designed his favourite garden. Between the castle floating like a swan on the water, the French flowerbeds, the Grand Canal, the islands of the English garden or the Vegetable Garden of the Princes, all is luxury, tranquillity and voluptuousness. "Of all the places the sun shines on, there is none like it," wrote Madame de La Fayette to Madame de Sévigné. Along these paths once surveyed by Molière, La Fontaine, Racine and Rousseau, you can refocus on yourself. The beauty, the sound of water and the smell of flowers reunite body and soul with the world around them.



Gerberoy



useful info

STAYING OVER

In a guesthouse with a garden in Wimereux...

La villa du bonheur
www.villadubonheur.fr
22 rue du Général de
Gaulle, Wimereux

Le Manoir Hôtel in the heart
of the Touquet Golf Resort
(recently renovated).

Najeti - Hôtel du Parc
in Harellet (3-star)
www.parc.najeti.fr
111 avenue François 1^{er},
Neufchâtel-Harellet

Château Hotel Mont
Royal Chantilly (5 star)
www.montroyal-chantilly.tiara-hotels.com
Allée des Marronniers
La Chapelle en Serval

At Domaine de Rebetz in
Chaumont-en-Vexin, combine
pleasures of nature, the
beauty of the castle, French
tradition and an exceptional
18-hole golf course.
www.rebetz.com
5 chemin de Rebetz,
Chaumont-en-Vexin

Bringing together the joys
of art and gardens,
at Clare Howarth's
guesthouse near Chantilly.
La Maison & L'Atelier
www.lamaisonetlatelier.com
26 rue des Croix,
Crouy-en-Thelle

*A little Giverny,
off the beaten
track*



*At the home
of the painter
André Van Beek*

EATING OUT

At the golf clubhouses
(which are open to the
public), in particular the
Back Spin in Wimereux.

For lunch in an
extraordinary garden:
The restaurant at
the Jardin des Ifs
in Gerberoy.
www.lejardindesifs.com
3 impasse du Vidame

*Le Jardin des Ifs*

Whipped cream in the very
place where it was invented:
at Le Hameau restaurant
in the heart of the park of
the Château de Chantilly,
the setting that inspired
Marie-Antoinette's Petit
Trianon in Versailles.
www.domainedechantilly.com/en
7 rue Connétable,
Château, Chantilly

GOLF COURSES

Golf de Wimereux
www.golf-wimereux.com
Avenue François
Mitterrand, Wimereux

Les Golfs d'Harellet
Les Pins and Les Dunes
www.harelletgolfclub.com
Neufchâtel-Harellet

Le Touquet Golf Resort
www.letouquetgolfresort.com
Avenue du Golf,
Le Touquet-Paris-Plage

There's an array of activities
at the Golf Country Club in
Chaumont-en-Vexin: a heated
outdoor swimming pool, a
sauna, a gym, tennis courts
and a horse-riding club.

www.golf-de-chaumont.com
Bertichères,
Chaumont-en-Vexin

For information on the golf
courses in Chantilly, contact
the Chantilly Tourism Office.
www.chantilly-tourisme.com
73 rue du Connétable,
Chantilly
+33 (0)3 44 67 37 37

GARDENS

To find out about of
all the listed gardens
in the region visit

www.balades-bien-etre.com

The garden of painter
André van Beek
www.andrevanbeek.com
1 rue des Auges, Saint-Paul

The gardens of painter Henri
le Sidaner at Gerberoy
www.lesjardinshenrilesidaner.com
7 rue Henri le Sidaner,
Gerberoy

DON'T MISS

Chantilly Arts & Elegance
Richard Mille in July.
An exceptional car
gathering (Bentley,
Bugatti and Porsches),
against the splendid
backdrop of the castle.
www.chantillyartsetelegance.com

Flower shows in May and
October in the park of the
Domaine de Chantilly

Rose Festival in
Gerberoy in June



“Amiens, capital of the Somme is home to a UNESCO-listed ‘lady of stone’ cathedral that has watched over humankind for 800 years. Simply contemplating and touching this work of architecture is enough to feel taken in by the energy of the builders who achieved the near-impossible.”

Intense moments and a lost-in-time feel

THE SETTING FOR THE LARGEST CATHEDRAL IN FRANCE

Wander at your own pace along cobbled streets filled with centuries-old history, take a boat and get lost in the maze of islands of the Hortillonnages dotted with contemporary art, climb up the cathedral towers to take a break from the hustle and bustle and visit the incredibly colorful Picardy Museum...

Follow us and soak up the spirit of this calm, walkable town where most sites can be reached on foot!



It is not surprising that the Amiénois Jules Verne imagined his famous Captain Nemo here in this highly inspiring place. Start by strolling at your own pace in a giant puzzle of vegetable gardens interspersed with canals: 300 hectares of floating gardens preserved in the heart of the city that are sprinkled with works of art thanks to the International Garden Festival.

THE "HORTILLONARTS" IMAGINED BY GILBERT FILLINGER: AN EXTRAORDINARY GARDEN DOTTED WITH MYSTERIOUS ISLANDS.

In the silence, you dream, breathe and admire! As you walk along the towpath, you soon reach a bend and spot strange artworks based on objects rescued from oblivion... Your boat glides near a pack of nicely aligned willows... to a hut bursting



"Au-delà des Saules", your little house in the heart of the Hortillonnages

Light show: breath-taking from the cathedral square

At nightfall, the Chroma show turns the facade of the cathedral into a spectacle of light, like a myriad of fireflies caressing the stone as they swirl. Their multicoloured dance proclaims the genius of the builders of the largest, most accomplished of Gothic cathedrals, built with a high degree of continuity in 60 years. Chroma evokes the wars which miraculously spared the building, and the Middle Ages are reflected by a shower of blue woad petals. But above all, it highlights the great many details of the sculptures. Truly extraordinary. The lady of stone, iron and glass – a miracle of balance – becomes a fantastic, moving character, which ignites, dies out, transforms, blends with the starry sky. Waves of stained-glass flow from the rose window to the columns, strange signs move in response to the frenzy of modern-day music...

The audience is fascinated...

A deep mystery to be savoured over the course of half an hour.

with pottery... Here, a set of mirrors bends the horizon, two wooden sofas are flush with the water. A yellow telephone booth and poems stranded on a quay inspire questions among passers-by... You hear the rustling foliage in a bronze horn, share a swing... What a ride!

If you are looking to truly open your spirit, visit the Picardy Museum, only three minutes' walk from the city centre. It has just reopened after three years of meticulous work to restore its authentic 19th century essence. *"We make art accessible to everyone by telling inspiring stories,"* promises the museum's director Laure Dalon. You arrive via the multicoloured Rotunda painted by Sol LeWitt, opposite the 19th century lounge... Each room has its own style. The walls are punctuated by bold colours, such as a "woad" blue for the medieval virgins. A bit further, a crowd of statues rub ...



Visit the very colourful Picardy Museum...



...with the Sol LeWitt Dome

...shoulders in wide landscapes. The emblematic staircase decorated with frescoes by Puvis de Chavannes leads upstairs, where skylights and tall windows flood the portraits with light and allow the eye to escape towards the city roofs. *"To humanise the journey, we expose the faces that observe us. And we thus emerge from the bits of our reserves."* You forget the time... Then the enticing smell of coffee created by the Dasi brothers draws you to the visitors' lounge, where you relax on sofas and admire the chapel.

POWERFUL EMOTION: "THESE STONES RING TRUE"

In his *Bible of Amiens*, John Ruskin affirms, "it is the 'Parthenon of the Gothic' taming the verticality freed from gravity (in the 13th century!), in a city rich from trading with London alongside pilgrims worshipping the relic of the skull of Saint John the Baptist."

From the cathedral square, the facade makes you dizzy; in the towers, climb the 307 spiral steps leading up to the gallery of venerable kings, their majestic faces radiating humanity. But above all, what a view! Shades of milky greens, shrouded in mist, which turn purple in the evening before sinking into the blue night. The rose window celebrates the sun and on Saint John, the day of the summer solstice, the rays mysteriously point to the heart of the labyrinth.

In the evening, go through the Saint Leu district to feel the beating heart of the city: an interlacing of alleys and canals where colourful homes are located alongside bars and restaurants on the quays along the Somme. Love at first sight on the roof terrace of the Nelson: you toast together, above the fray and with a lovely view of the cathedral! ■



Julien Planchon, cheesemaker and ripener at the "Halles du beffroi"



Climb the towers of the largest cathedral in France

Amiens Tourist Office
www.amiens-tourisme.com
 23 place Notre Dame, Amiens
 +33 (0)3 22 71 60 50



The International Garden Festival, a contemporary art festival to visit by boat

useful info



STAYING OVER

Le Prieuré, 3-star hotel that was the home of a church canon who made his way to the cathedral underground. Unusual, colourful decor with a small hanging garden ideal for a quiet drink at the foot of the cathedral.

www.hotel-prieure-amiens.com

17-6 rue Porion,
Amiens

Le Marotte, 5-star hotel where guests are greeted as friends; a mansion with a contemporary extension, completely quiet, calm, tucked away in the heart of the city centre. The sommelier inspires you to linger in the lounge to taste little-known wines.

www.hotel-marotte.com
3 rue Marotte,
Amiens

Au-delà des Saules holiday homes
In these individual wooden cottages nestled on a small island in the heart of the Hortillonnages, you feel completely secluded... Organic breakfast can be delivered as an option. To top it off, bikes and boats are available to guests!

www.audelades-saules-maisonsdhotels.com

145 chemin de Halage, Rivery

EATING OUT

At the water's edge **Le Quai** restaurant for authentic duck pâté from Amiens, a crusted foie gras appreciated by the Marquise de Sévigné.

www.restaurant-lequai.fr
13-15 quai Belu,
Amiens

Near the cathedral: The **La Peña** family bistro offers inventive cuisine, a friendly team, Sunday brunch. 45 rue Robert de Luzarches, Amiens

In the Hortillonnages, just outside the city centre, **Au fil de l'eau**. Friendly, simple, delicious, with a terrace and garden that dip into the Hortillonnages. 6 boulevard de Beauvillé, Amiens

The robin room original and run by a British team! Whimsical decor and very inventive menus based on fresh, local

produce. A cooperative spirit reigns; cooking workshops are offered and Sunday brunch.

www.robinroomamiens.com
9 rue Flatters,
Amiens

MARKET DAY

Saturday mornings, quai d'Amont. Once a year in June, the «hortillons» bring their fruits, vegetables and flowers by boat to sell along the quay. **L'île aux fruits**: every Thursday, a great place for a sociable rendezvous. This market features local produce, music and a good atmosphere. 325 rue de Verdun à Amiens, Thursdays from 5pm to 9pm.

SHOPPING

Macarons from Amiens can be found at the **Maison Trogneux** on the cathedral square www.trogneux.fr
23 rue André,
Amiens

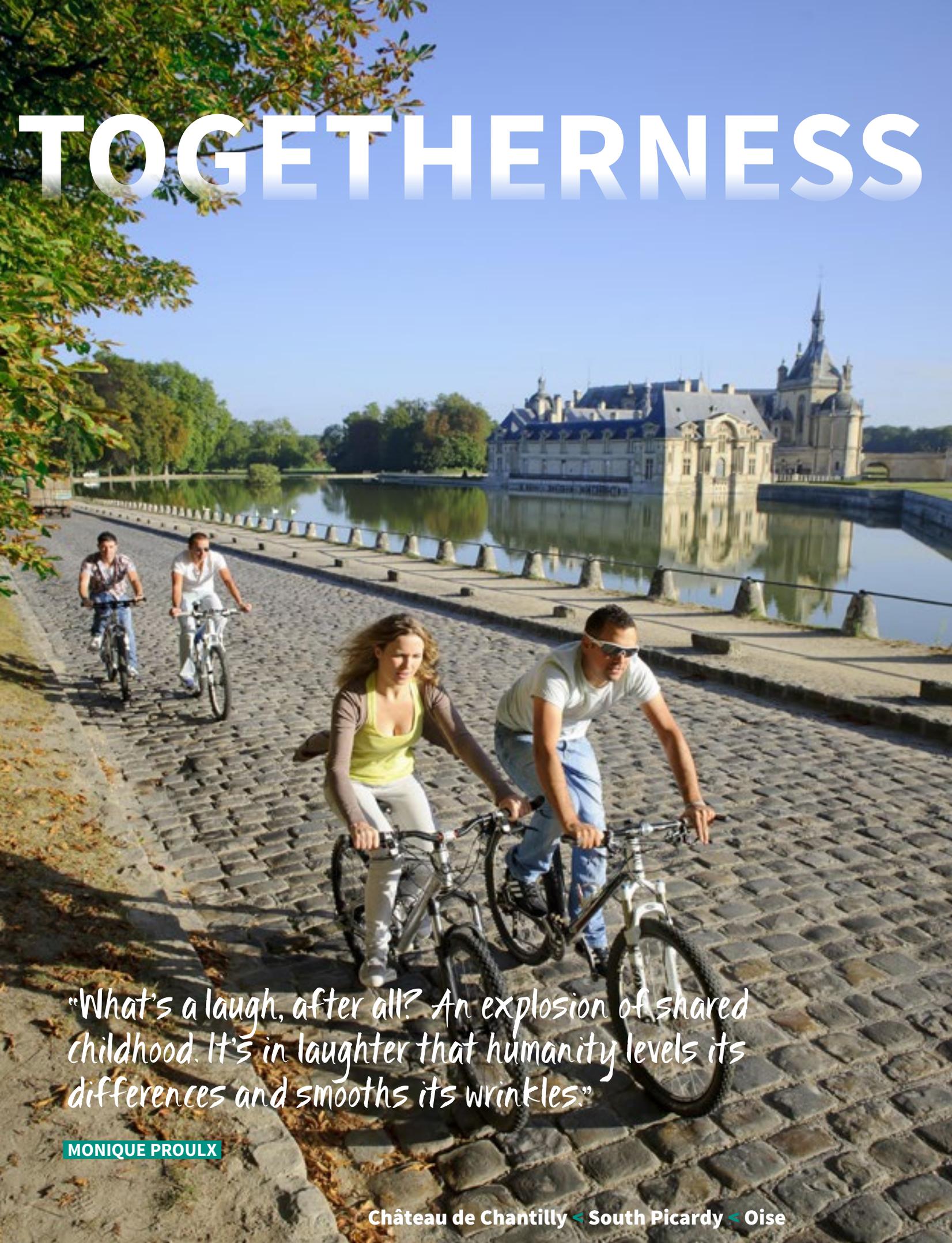
DON'T MISS

Bargain-hunters meet at the foot of the cathedral on the last Saturday of the month in summer and during the giant car boot sales organised in the spring and fall. They attract 80,000 visitors browsing the 2,000 stalls spread over 51 streets (April and October).



The riverside old quarter of St Leu at the food of the cathedral

TOGETHERNESS



"What's a laugh, after all? An explosion of shared childhood. It's in laughter that humanity levels its differences and smooths its wrinkles."

MONIQUE PROULX

Château de Chantilly < South Picardy < Oise

Lille

a trendy getaway destination with friends

CONNECT TO THE BUSTLING LIFESTYLE OF THE CAPITAL OF FRENCH FLANDERS



Indulge in an array of local specialities or check out fashionable ‘fooding’ restaurants and events. Then feed on art, culture and design at countless thought-provoking exhibitions and discover inspiring boutiques and hip sustainable fashion designers. Come and discover Lille’s epicurean lifestyle, *joie de vivre* and urban warmth.

This is where it all starts and ends. The first date and the last drink. The Grand Place, the beating heart of the city, is the ideal place to start your Lille walking tour. On the left, on avenue Willy Brandt, the Tripostal is a former mail-sorting centre transformed into a cultural hub. Lille hosts regularly changing contemporary art exhibitions and as the World Design Capital 2020 (designiscapital.com) displays the very best of international design.

Five minutes away on boulevard J.-B. Lebas, the old Saint-Sauveur train station has also been transformed into a lively focus of Lille culture. Its Bistrot St-So is among the city’s most lively and friendly spots, popular not only for its trendy *soirées* and concerts but for its lovely sun-drenched terrace. We then follow the Avenue de la Liberté to the Palais des Beaux-Arts (Museum of fine Arts - pba-lille.fr), the second-biggest fine arts museum in France after the Louvre in Paris. This majestic building is a lovely space crammed with masterpieces. Its 45-minute self-guided trails include *Love etc.* and the appetizing *Lunchtime*, which may inspire you to prolong your experience with a bite in the museum’s Atrium.

And try a meat-free lunch in France’s top vegan city. Not far from the museum, on rue Gambetta, Annie’s Kitchen (annieskitchen.fr) offers home-made vegetarian dishes from France and around the world. For a more bistronomic cuisine in a tasteful Lille culinary temple, head back to the city centre and rue Esquermoise, where Méert (meert.fr) offers works in the art of culinary creation by Tom Truy-Courties.

But above all, people come to Lille to savour its legendary waffles, in a tea room reminiscent of a chocolate box. Winston Churchill, General de

Gaulle and Jackie Kennedy loved their hint of Madagascan vanilla...

AN À LA CARTE SHOPPING ITINERARY

The afternoon is moving on, so how about meandering to Old Lille to discover its inspiring boutiques? In the highly fashionable rue de la Clef, at number 46, Julie Meuriss (juliemeuriss.com) showcases her leather creations, with pretty, exclusive prints. ...



The Hauts-de-France region, historically France’s first region to brew beer

“An intertwining of narrow streets lined with shops, artists’ galleries and ... the Meert pastry shop, so dear to Churchill.”



The main square

Beer City tour or a ride in a legendary 2CV “Deux Chevaux” Two quirky and unusual ways to enjoy Lille

... And at 10 rue Bartholomé Masurel is Summer Camp (summercamp-home.com), a shop as sweet as the colours of its pure household linens made in Hauts-de-France. A short detour to rue des Trois Molettes reaps decorative inspiration at Momentum (momentum-store.com), best known for its products by Lille designers. Then hop over to La Supérette on rue du Cirque, which stocks local designer brands, including comfy but super-fun ‘Pépère’ slippers (lapantoufleapepere.fr) in vintage, disco, zebra or shiny versions. And if you want to spoil your sweetheart, pop next door to Colonel Moutarde (lecolonelmoutarde.com), a specialist in men’s accessories with the largest collection of bow ties in France.

CRAFT BEERS AND PUBS: THE WARMTH OF THE “NORTHERNERS”

In Lille, we’ve been brewing beer for a thousand years. So why not try a micro-brewery for your aperitif? At the end of the charming rue J.-J. Rousseau, Célestin (celestinlille.fr) produces a wide range of craft beers in a constantly expanding array of flavours.

For dinner, try Au vieux de la Vieille for authentic Lillois fare. There’s an aroma of hops in the air, and generous Flemish cuisine to relish. On sunny days, you can sit on the terrace and enjoy your meal while immersing yourself in Lille architecture. Another good choice is the Barbue d’Anvers (lebarbuedanvers.fr), a chic version of a local pub, with a theatrical staircase and a pendant chandelier. Or you might prefer trendier Bierbuik (bierbuik.fr), a micro-brewery where you eat superb chips with your fingers, surrounded by designer black and powder-pink walls. ■



There’s no better way to let off steam and ease yourself into holiday mode than a nice cold beer. In Lille, where enjoying life is a non-negotiable, beer is an iconic product. It’s no coincidence that this was the birthplace of L’Échappée Bière, the first brewery tourist agency in France, created to showcase the small world of craft beer through fun tastings. Its program includes introductory and tasting workshops, visits that blend beer with heritage and, of course, brewery tours (available in English).

Another way to savour Lille in slow mode: tours in a 2CV – a Citroën *deux chevaux* – with Tradi’Balade®. Expect an English-speaking driver-guide just for you, a VIP visit brimming with anecdotes and stories, a good dose of conviviality and, of course, a break for beer or Champagne along with a culinary experience. All this lulled by the gentle purring of a bumpy ‘Deudeuche’: a convertible, naturally! So mythical, and so French...

www.echappee-biere.fr

www.tradibalade.com



The Museum of Fine Arts



“La Braderie de Lille”,
the biggest flea market in France

**useful
info**

Lille Tourist Office
www.lilletourism.com
Palais Rihour, Place
Rihour, Lille
+33 (0) 891 56 20 04

Hello Lille
www.hellolille.eu
to plan your visit

STAYING OVER

L'Arbre Voyageur
Formerly the Polish
consulate, this 4-star
hotel is like an invitation
to travel, with cheerful
colours, natural materials
and ethnic touches.
www.hotelarbrevoyageur.com
45 boulevard Carnot,
Lille

L'Hermitage Gantois
An exceptional address
in the centre of Lille. This
5-star is a perfect blend
of ancient architecture
and modern design in
the heart of a monument
dating from the 15th
century. The spa is
an added bonus.
www.hotelhermitagegantois.com
224 rue Pierre
Mauroy, Lille

EATING OUT

Aux Vieux de la Vieille
A trip back in time is
guaranteed in this
small typical Flanders
restaurant with tables
on the terrace in a
pretty pedestrian
square. Booking is
recommended.

www.estaminetlille.fr/auvieuxdelavieille
2-4 rue des Vieux
Murs, Lille

Brasserie Coke
In the prominent building
of the headquarters of
the Compagnie des Mines
de Lens, the brasserie
serves local traditional
and elegant cuisine.
www.brasseriecokelille.fr
30 rue Thiers, Lille



At “l'Impertinente” team room

Bloempot
Florent Ladeyn brings
traditional Flemish
recipes up to date in
this chic eatery where
all of Lille jostles to eat
(remember to book!).
www.bloempot.fr
22 rue des Bouchers,
Lille

SHOPPING

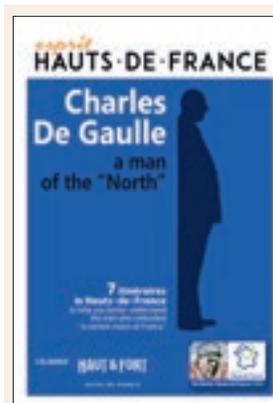
The Braderie de Lille,
the largest flea market
in Europe, takes
over the city centre
the first weekend in
September. Car boot
and attic sales XXXL!



Meert waffles: take them home to friends!



Le Colonel Moutarde’s unique bow ties



From his birth
home in Lille:
7 itineraries
to understand
De Gaulle,
the most famous
Frenchman in history.

<https://degaulle2020.hautsdefrance.fr/charles-de-gaulle-lhomme-du-nord>



Fill up with thrills and laughter on the doorstep of Paris

AN ENERGISING FAMILY BREAK: FUN SPOTS THAT KIDS (AND THEIR PARENTS) WILL LOVE!

Spend the day at an amusement park then cycle through the forest to Pierrefonds Castle, followed by ice cream by the lake after a pedal-boat ride. Then sleep at Parc Astérix for fun, with English hosts to gather more tips on the region, or at Marie's guest-house to enjoy a French pastry lesson (in English, if you prefer). Or why not try one night in each? The whole family will love it...

If you're looking for a holiday jam-packed with family fun, start by heading for Pierrefonds, a town dominated by an imposing castle that looks like something straight out of a fairytale. With its dungeon and pepper-pot turrets, it's a stunning sight after you arrive through grand, beautiful Compiègne forest. Then choose between a round of mini-golf, a bike ride to the quintessentially French village of Saint-Jean-aux-Bois and a pedal-boat ride on the lake in the middle of Pierrefonds. Everyone will love a delicious afternoon snack of ice cream and waffles from the Kiosk, also ideal for an outdoor lunch by the lake. Get into the holiday spirit while unplugging as a family.





SLEEP SOUNDLY AT SARAH'S TRANQUIL B&B, WHERE GOOD WARRIORS REST BEFORE THE ASTÉRIX MADNESS!

After a tour of the castle, overnight at the Maison d'Elincourt, a magnificent B&B with charmingly decorated guest rooms full of attention to detail. Its English owner Sarah Bell-Brill is a real connoisseur of her beloved region. Breakfast (English on request) is served in the old bread oven with its exposed beams, stone walls and large fireplace.

"I found almost all the furnishings at the flea markets in surrounding villages. We English love that. Not to mention the history that resonates in each parcel of land and every stone. In fact, our annex also served as a hideout for English soldiers during the war," explains the hostess from Nottingham.

"I know all about the hectic life of big cities like Paris or London. Here, we find both the warmth of village life and peace and quiet, including during walks or cycle rides in the Compiègne forest. It's fabulous." You can also take a peaceful walk around the ponds, especially near Bellinglise Castle a stone's throw away. And the B&B's spa is perfect for some well-deserved family relaxation after a day of wandering.

BE TRANSPORTED BACK TO 50BC!

Just 30 minutes from Paris, Parc Astérix combines 47 attractions and shows staged in six universes that take you back in time: Gaul, the Roman Empire, Ancient Greece, the Vikings, Egypt and 'Via Antiqua'. It's guaranteed to be a sensational experience for the whole family, with shows, dizzying river splash rides, incredible corkscrew rides for serious daredevils (Oziris is a must!) and restaurants serving the likes of roast wild boar. Stay overnight to make the most of the park: it has three hotels each with a unique atmosphere in the heart of the forest, a 5-minute walk from the attractions. The latest offers total immersion in the city of Lutèce (the Roman city where Paris now stands) from the Astérix comic book series. *"The Quais de Lutèce hotel [a 4-star property] is centred on several majestic buildings that surround a reconstruction of the Seine,"* reveals Guy Vassel, Deputy General Manager of Parc Astérix. *"At the centre is a cheerful and colourful city, to the west is a rural area where craftsmen used their skills, and to the east is the era's industrious and hard-working river transport."*

From a medieval castle to life in Gallic times, Astérix has wonder and laughter enough for everyone in the heart of nature. ■

A pastry workshop and a fortified castle: a double delight for children



The location of the BBC's *Merlin* series, Pierrefonds Castle on its rocky outcrop is visible from afar. You feel tiny standing in front of its immense ramparts, looking with childlike wonder at its medieval fortified architecture. A keep, a parapet, battlements, a drawbridge, a guard's room... It's got the lot! Not far from the castle, high up in the town, is Hauts de Pierrefonds guesthouse. Its owners, Marie and Joachim, serve breakfast and homely family cooking prepared with fresh ingredients, organic or sustainably produced, bought directly from producers. They offer French pastry lessons for children and work with professional masseurs who pamper parents needing a moment of zen. All this in a setting of absolute calm at the edge of the 15,000-hectares Compiègne forest.



MAP: C4

The perched Castle of Pierrefonds



Pierrefonds Tourist Office
destination-pierrefonds.fr
 1 place de l'Hôtel de ville,
 Pierrefonds
 +(33) 3 44 42 81 44

STAYING OVER

Les Hauts de Pierrefonds Bed & Breakfast
www.leshautsdepierrefonds.com
 25 rue du Parc, Pierrefonds

Maison Elincourt Bed & Breakfast & SPA
www.maisonelincourt.com
 8 rue du Maréchal Leclerc,
 Elincourt-Sainte-Marguerite

Parc Astérix
 3- and 4-star hotels
 Convenient but also fun and atmospheric accommodation in wooden structures in a green setting in the middle of the forest right beside the park. Added bonus: VIP access to the park in the morning, half an hour before it opens to the public. Direct bus service from Paris.
www.parcasterix.fr/en
 Plailly

EATING OUT

L'Auberge des chiens rouges
 Lovely, rustic and hugely welcoming.
 10 rue Emerson White, Mélicocq

La Petite Auberge
 Very good French food. Booking is recommended.
 172 grande Rue, Margny-sur-Matz

The Kiosk
 An ideal spot for an outdoor lunch near the lake in Pierrefonds.
"They grill over a wood fire; it's really nice," says Sarah Bell-Brill.
 Deflube, Pierrefonds

FOR A SWEET TREAT

L'Embarcadère
 Deflube, Pierrefonds
Vanille et Chocolat bakery in Pierrefonds; also offers very good ice cream.
 13 place de L'Hôtel de ville,
 Pierrefonds

MARKET DAYS

The main market in Pierrefonds is on Friday mornings and there is also a traditional country market on the first Sunday of the month.



A dragon ride for the whole family!

AN UNUSUAL FRENCH EXPERIENCE JUST ACROSS THE CHANNEL

Looking for an easy change of scenery guaranteed to delight the entire family? Why not try Calais? Imagine the ecstatic faces of children on the back of a dragon. Picture their surprise when they gaze upon the English coastline from the top of a lighthouse. Calais is a place of intense shared emotions!



MAP: A1

A long chilling roar, a few grunts, and there he is - rising from a thick cloud of smoke. The colossal, grandiose Calais Dragon approaches, with amazing agility given his huge bulk. A flutter of wings, a smouldering glance and your family is en route to a magical childhood experience accompanied by the incredibly lifelike 72-tonne wood-and-steel beast. You wait impatiently to climb up his tail and take your place on the platform (secured by a guardrail, of course). There's plenty

of room for the whole family to experience the trip together. Standing next to the operator who brings the wings and tail to life, you're an integral part of the show and have a front row seat to admire all the interesting details. From up high, gaze in wonder upon a perfect view of the beautifully renovated Calais waterfront, the jetty, the garlands of white cabins and the beautiful strip of sand which stretches all the way to Sangatte.



Chips forever!

The urban vista is also shown off by the Dragon Pilot, who will take you to Notre-Dame, the only French Tudor-style church and the place where General de Gaulle got married.

Gaze from afar upon the architecture of Calais town hall, one of the most beautiful of its kind in France. Ascend to the top of its belfry (by lift... it's quite a ride) where from 65 metres up the view of the city will take your breath away. The kids will have shivers down their spine! In the meantime, settle down on the back of the Dragon and escape the daily grind at 4 km/hour (the saurian's maximum speed), gently swaying in the refreshing salty breeze. And it's not the end of this adventure – monitor lizards and a whole family of iguanas will join the Dragon in 2022. Well worth another trip!

THE COAST OF ENGLAND AHOY!

How can you still tantalise the children after such a magical ride? Why not invite them on another climb – up the 271 steps of the almost two-centuries-old Calais lighthouse. It's resplendent in vivid white and topped in black, sitting serenely atop a beautiful cushion of greenery. Upon entry, you plunge into an ancient and poetic universe with rapeseed oil lamps and lighthouse keepers who've spent their entire lives on the winding staircase. At the 58-metre high summit you can enjoy a 360-degree view of the city, the port, the incessant dance of ferries, and the English coast, which seems almost within grasp and yet so far away. An amazing adventure! ■



Climbing to the top of the lighthouse is a must!



WHAT TO DO

A ride on a Dragon?

Ride on the back of the Calais Dragon (free for kids under 4). Reservations at www.compagniedudragon.com
201 Winston Churchill Avenue, Calais

Climb to the top of the Calais lighthouse.

www.pharedecalais.com
Place Henri Barbusse, Calais

Visit the [Cité de la dentelle et de la mode](http://www.cite-dentelle.fr) (Museum of Lace and Fashion) to discover the expertise of the world-renowned Hauts-de-France lace makers. And lift the veil on Calais-Caudry® lace, highly prized even by the English royal family and gracefully worn by Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge (Kate Middleton) at her wedding. www.cite-dentelle.fr
135 quai du Commerce, Calais

Also visit the eclectic [Musée des Beaux-Arts](http://www.calais.fr) (The Museum of Fine Arts), which dedicates a room to the sculptor Auguste Rodin and explains how he gave life to the Bourgeois de Calais sculpture displayed on the city hall square. www.calais.fr
25 rue Richelieu, Calais



[Calais Côte d'Opale Tourist Office](http://www.calais-cote-dopale.com)
www.calais-cote-dopale.com
12 boulevard Georges Clemenceau, Calais
+33 (0)3 21 96 62 40

STAYING OVER

The [Hôtel Ibis Styles Calais Centre](http://www.all.accor.com) is located in the heart of the city, near the car ferry port and close to Eurotunnel. Family rooms and children's play area. www.all.accor.com
46 rue Royale, Calais

[Le Cercle de Malines B&B, family suite](http://www.lecerclademalines.fr)
www.lecerclademalines.fr
12 rue de Malines, Calais

EATING OUT

At [The London](http://www.restaurantlelondon-calais.fr) for its fresh produce and children's menu. www.restaurantlelondon-calais.fr
12 place d'Armes, Calais

At [The Hovercraft](http://www.hovercraft-calais.com), for its Welsh rarebit, homemade fish & chips and authentic British accents. www.hovercraft-calais.com
11 place Foch, Calais

At [L'Aquar'Aile](http://www.aquaraile.fr), for its breath-taking view of the sea and the English coast, its contemporary setting and its fine food. www.aquaraile.fr
255 rue Jean Moulin, Calais

SHOPPING

[Calais Vins](http://www.calais-vins.com) to choose the best wines, Champagnes and beers from France and elsewhere. www.calais-vins.com
28 rue Gutenberg, Calais



The City Hall belfry

Christmas markets in Northern France

A free booklet for the end-of-year festive season

All the towns in Hauts-de-France put on their festive attire well before Christmas. Lille, Arras, Amiens, Chantilly, Saint-Quentin, Boulogne-sur-Mer and Calais... you're spoilt for choice for towns to choose from to experience this fairy-tale atmosphere. Christmas markets, shows, and places to discover – all the winter pleasures await you in this booklet. It comes with an attractions and amenities address book for each city and “made in Hauts-de-France” gift ideas.

Find the guide on our website www.french-weekendbreaks.co.uk/best-christmas-markets-france

Enjoy an exhilarating adventure

AMONG FRIENDS BY BIKE ON THE AVENUE VERTE... TO PARIS!



London-Paris: uniting two European capitals with pedal power. It's not as crazy an idea as you might think. The Green Avenue was designed with just this in mind and makes the journey a lot easier for you. Point your handlebars this way and we'll accompany you on the last stretch from Beauvais to Notre-Dame de Paris!

Some fly from London to Paris in an hour. Others see the trip differently and get on a bike, turning the journey into an adventure, "where you see more and have more fun." From London to Paris, the Avenue Verte [Green Avenue] connects bike paths to small, little-used roads and marks out a week-long journey of discovery and cycling pleasure, through a mosaic of landscapes. And you'll meet a plethora of people too – slow travel makes for endless enjoyable chance encounters! After crossing Normandy from Dieppe, the trail enters the Hauts-de-France region at Saint-Germer-de-Fly, 25 km west of Beauvais. Most of this stage is along a recently developed bike path on a former railway line. It passes through meandering green areas and past ponds, large farms and small traditional timber-frame buildings. You then follow the Avelon river, which takes you to

To plan your visit, the website www.avenue-vertelondonparis.com is particularly useful: it tells you about the unmissable gems to add to your itinerary, the bike hire companies and repair shops near the route, and the Tourist Offices for further info.

the garden of the painter André Van Beek, full of colourful footbridges, asters and waterlilies. You then pass by the Beauvais train station (to which you can also come to directly by train).

UNPLUG YOUR MIND AND ACHIEVE INNER PEACE

Stop wherever you like, and above all have some fun! The physical effort, the vibrations of the handlebars, the scent carried by the wind, and your taut muscles reconnect you to the physical world, your senses and living in the moment. The route becomes very bucolic between the Thérain valley and the plateau of Picardy. The old royal road leads to the splendid church of Saint-Ouen-de-Therdonne, set above the fields. It meanders through countryside which was once the garden of the bishops and counts of Beauvais. After



Stopover in Senlis,
the cradle of the first
kings of France



MAP: B4/C4



useful info

passing through the forest of Hez-Froidmont, stop in Clermont, the old town perched on its mound. Here we met Fred and Bryan, two Englishmen who were taking the trip in the opposite direction. They told us: «Oise is a big surprise. We thought we already knew it well – how wrong we were!»

In the completely different environment of the vast Sacy marshland, the cycle route joins and then crosses the Oise valley. Here you're in the heart of the Parc Naturel Régional Oise-Pays de France [Regional Nature Reserve of Oise]. The Forest of Halatte, which consists of the Royal Abbey of Moncel surrounded by a park with centuries-old trees, offers a welcome, bike-friendly pitstop. The paved old town of Senlis surrounds the cathedral – allow yourself the guilty pleasure of a pastry from Ringeval, in place Henri IV – you deserve it! Next, how about a break in Chantilly? (see box below) Then onwards to the Abbey of Royaumont on the borders of Hauts-de-France, followed by Auvers-sur-Oise, the Île de la Cité and the square of Notre-Dame de Paris... now you've travelled 236 km! Congratulations! ■

STAYING OVER

B&B in
Saint-Germer-de-Fly
Les chambres de l'Abbaye: elegant and congenial guest rooms.
www.chambres-abbaye.com
2 rue Michel Greuet,
Saint-Germer-de-Fly

Holiday cottages in
Saint-Léger-en-Bray
A track leads you to the Domaine du Colombier, featuring an eco-cottage, a mill and an exceptional 4-star dovecote holiday cottage.
www.domaine-ducolombier.com
1 grande rue,
Saint-Léger-en-Bray

In Senlis
Hostellerie de la Porte Bellon (Logis de France)
15th century post house. Bicycle reception and excellent fare near the historic centre.
www.portebellon.fr
51 rue Bellon, Senlis

In Chantilly
Le Montvillargenne
4-star Château Hotel
www.chateaudemon-tvillargenne.com
2 avenue François Mathet, Gouvieux

HAVING A DRINK

La P'tite Cour
"Bistrot Gastronomique"
near Beauvais
4 rue de l'Église,
Rainvillers
www.lapetitecour.net

EATING OUT

L'instant T, a 100% "terroir" [local regional speciality] restaurant.
www.linstantbresles.fr
7 rue de la Chaussée,
Bresles

Auberge de l'Abbaye
A restaurant welcoming cyclists, with a view of the abbey church, open every day.
www.aubergedelabbaye60.fr
5 place de l'Abbaye,
Saint-Germer-de-Fly

Le Scaramouche in Senlis. Don't miss the local "la Félicité" [Bliss] beer to be enjoyed on the terrace in front of the cathedral.
www.le-scaramouche.fr
4 place Notre Dame, Senlis

MARKET DAYS

Market every
Tuesday and Friday
morning in Senlis.

The majesty of Chantilly

In the heart of one of the largest forests on the outskirts of Paris, the Domaine de Chantilly offers a rich tapestry of emotions to its visitors – surprise (a castle on the water!), wonder at the creations of Le Nôtre, the king's gardener, incredulity at the amazing *Grandes Écuries* [Great Stables] and a plunge into the history of France – we're visiting a cousin of Louis XIV, after all. Classified as an Historic Monument, the Château de Chantilly houses one of the most important collections of French and Italian paintings in France, ranging from Raphael, Watteau and Delacroix to the famous illuminations of the painstaking art of the Duke of Berry. It is also home to a collection of rare books and manuscripts, and even a pink diamond. Today, this vast château offers a representation of the different traditions of landscape art in the West since the 17th century. You'll find an English park, French gardens, a large canal and water jets, which made Madame de la Fayette write, "of all the places upon which the sun shines, nothing is quite like this."
www.domainedechantilly.com/en 7 rue Connétable, Chantilly





Climb a black mountain together as day breaks

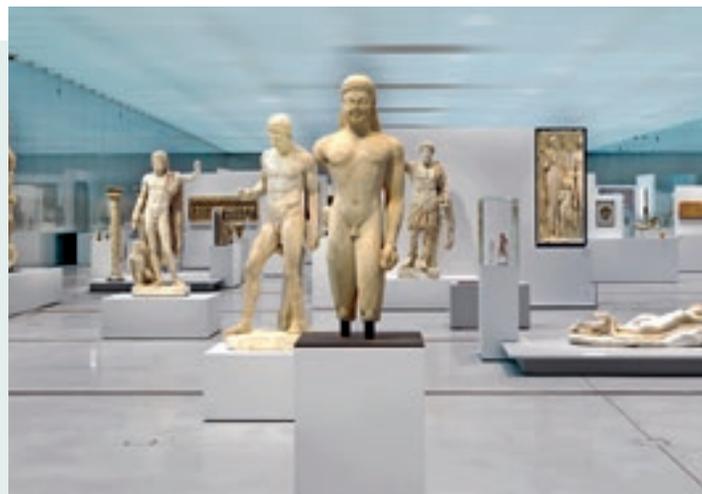
BREAKFAST FROM ON HIGH WITH ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE OF THE WORLD...

Believe us: a salute to the rising sun at the top of one of the slag heaps of Loos-en-Gohelle – the highest in Europe – is something you'll never forget. The slope is steep, but once up there you'll be richly rewarded with a breathtaking 30km panorama, stimulating your every sense. You'll feel invigorated by the experience for days on end.

How about breakfast at the top of a slag heap? Armed with good shoes and a sweater (it's breezy up there), enjoy some fun and sport while gazing down on the world from 186m. Accompanied by a *CPIE Chaîne des Terrils* nature guide, your challenge begins at the pit-head of the old pit, known as 11/19 and classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The extraordinary adventure lasts over two hours, during which you'll absorb the soul of this country of solid and generous miners. It's also a place of solidarity and fraternity which pays tribute to soldiers from all over the world with the Ring of Remembrance in Ablain-Saint-Nazaire: a circle of 500 metal panels upon which are engraved the 576,606 names of those who fell in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais regions during the First World War. From the top of the Lorette Hill, where the Ring is cantilevered as though to emphasise the fragility of peace, you enjoy a panoramic view of "your" slag heap!

8:30 AM: THE ASCENT BEGINS

"We'll stop halfway up on the plateau: the view is superb at 110m. To get there, the climb is pleasant and accessible on a reasonably sloped walking trail. Hiking boots aren't essential," says



The Louvre-Lens museum, among the slag heaps

Less than 20 minutes' walk from the slag heaps, the Louvre-Lens presents more than 200 masterpieces from the Louvre-Paris in a unique open space of 3,000 m², the Galerie du Temps [Time Gallery]. The museum also allows the visitor to get behind the scenes. A set of digital tools reveals the hidden life of the works, while the storerooms and the restoration workshop are visible through large bay windows – and are even open for guided tours. The digital tour of the Louvre-Lens is available in English.

Louvre-Lens: 99 rue Paul Bert, Lens
www.louvre-lens.fr



Tourist Office of Lens Liévin
www.tourisme-lenslievin.fr
 16 place Jean Jaurès, Lens
 +33 (0)3 21 67 66 66

STAYING OVER

Hotel Louvre-Lens: 4-star hotel and restaurant in an old miner's cottage just in front of the museum.
www.hotel-louvre-lens.com/fr
 168 rue Paul Bert, Lens

The holiday cottages of the École Buissonnière in Lens
 4 square Henri Noguères, Lens
www.gite-lens.fr

Holiday cottages at the Cité des électriciens
www.citedeselectriciens.fr/les-gites/chez-roland
 Rue Franklin, Bruay-la-Buissière

EATING OUT

Al'Fosse 7 in Avion: miner's cottage spirit, conviviality, warm and generous fare!
www.alfosse7.fr
 94 boulevard Henri Martel, Avion

Higher-end: Mets et Histoires
 [Food and Stories]
 102 rue Pasteur, Souchez

Elegant: L'atelier de Marc Meurin in the garden of the Louvre-Lens
www.atelierdemarcmeurin.fr
 Louvre Museum, 97 Rue Paul Bert, Lens

HAVING A DRINK

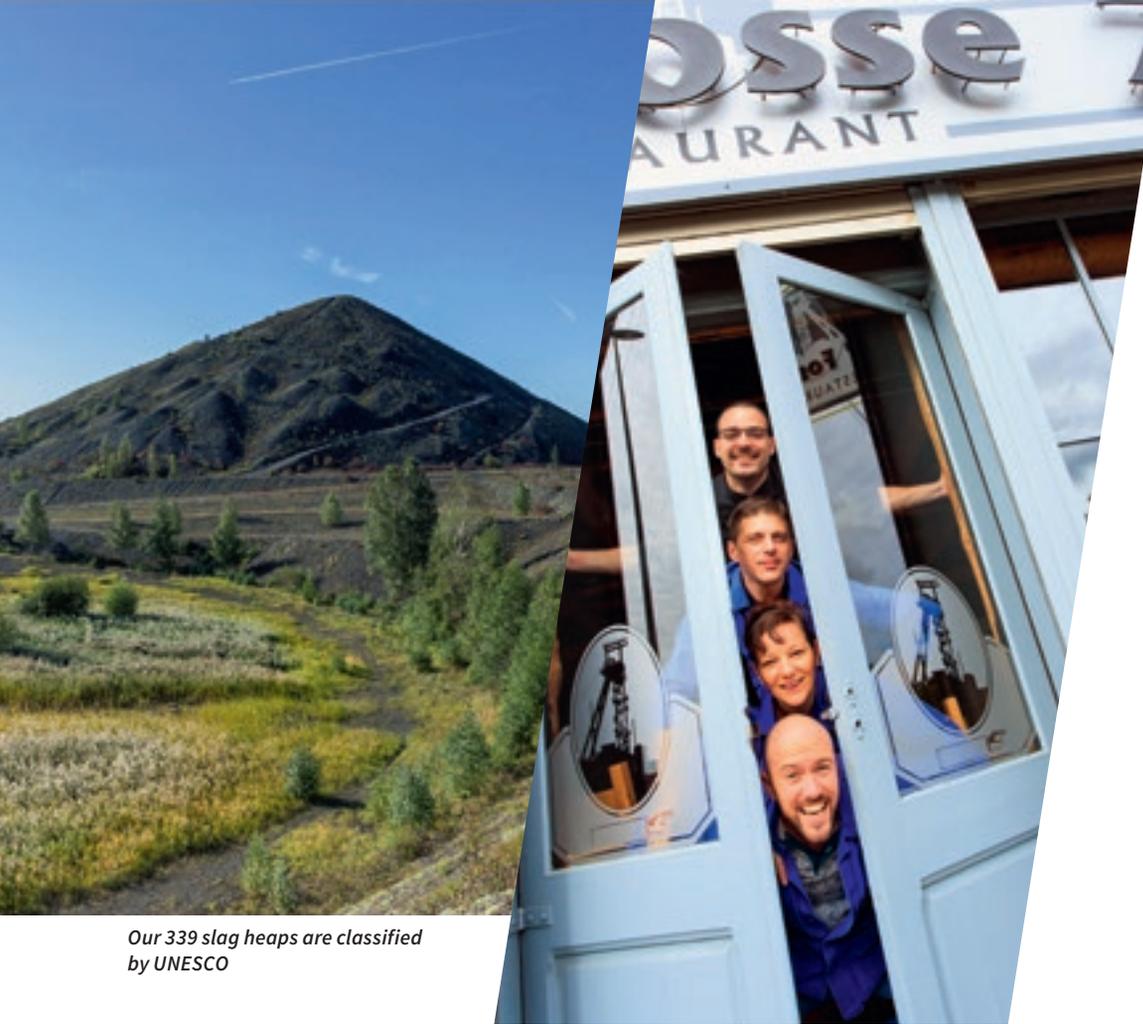
Le Derby/St Théodore Brasserie
 238 rue Paul Bert, Lens

MARKET DAYS

Lens: Tuesday and Friday Salengro Square, Saturday Grande Résistance Liévin Covered Market: open Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday from 9am to 1pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 9am to 7pm.

SOUVENIRS

The snow globe slag heap available at the Tourist Office (Products of the Louvre Lens)
www.autourdulouvrelen.fr/produits-all



Our 339 slag heaps are classified by UNESCO

Capture the spirit of the place at Al'Fosse 7

Hélène Decarnin, our fantastic guide to the Mediterranean-type fauna and flora present on this 110-hectare site. Hikers can spot natterjack toads, a rare species which lives in the wetlands at the foot of the slag heap. Blue-winged grasshoppers blend into the carboniferous shale and sandstone setting (where fossils are often found). Hélène recommends taking off your shoes to walk a few steps barefoot on this almost lukewarm ground. A free foot massage!

IT'S SO QUIET UP THERE...

The best time to hear blackbirds and beautiful coal tits is in the cool of the early morning. "We also have blue tits, who are very curious. They may follow you all the way. Not to mention the lizards!" We breathe, we laugh, we learn, and time flies by. Halfway through, it's breakfast time! Crispy croissants, typical northern waffles, coffee and local apple juice. The ideal spot to enjoy the intoxicating light of the rising sun and the immensity of the surrounding landscape. At 10.30am: arrival at the second observation spot. Silence descends and the beauty of the panorama envelops us. Everyone becomes aware that they've shared an intense moment, perched on the roof of the mining basin.

SLAG HEAP BREAKFAST: AWAKENING THE SENSES AND NATURE

Organised by Lens Liévin Tourism in partnership with the CPIE la Chaîne des Terrils
 Dates: on request
 Meeting point: hiking base café 11/19
 duration: 2-2½ hours
 Book on +33 (0)3 21 67 66 66
www.tourisme-lenslievin.fr

THE RING OF REMBRANCE

International Memorial
 Chemin du mont de Lorette,
 Ablain-Saint-Nazaire ■





Mont Cassel, a favourite village of the French



Daniel Thiriez, brewer in Esquelbecq

Hearty food and drink plus hiking with friends

HOW ABOUT A REAL CHANGE OF SCENERY? TRY A BEER AND BEEF CARBONNADE (DELICIOUS LOCAL STEW) ON A SELF-GUIDED WALK IN FLEMISH COUNTRY.

Among the Flanders hills and the fields of hops, you'll walk a lot, talk a lot, and above all delight in our great regional foods and beverages. The focus isn't on sporting performance, but on conviviality, fine living and strengthening friendships. All the good stuff!

Fruity, finely bitter or floral. Aromas of hazelnut, toasted bread or dark chocolate... these local beers are works of art! Welcome to the roots of beer: plunge into the atmosphere of the *estaminets* (small cafés/shops also serving alcohol and food), micro-breweries and hop farms which nestle between the barley fields.

Daniel Thiriez, brewer in Esquelbecq, (brasseriethiriez.com), is a happy man. "Responsible consumers will be delighted by our quality, authenticity, local ties and traceability."

You'll spot some of these hop fields at the crossroads of the Méteren and Mont des Cats routes in particular. But first let's have a look at the abbey. In the shop (abbaye-montdescats.fr) you'll be spoilt for choice among the plethora of cheeses produced by the Trappist monks – with beer, Flamay or dessert varieties available.

After this welcome refreshment, you can then set off across the Flanders Hills. To orient yourself, follow the network of walking routes, which are indicated via red signs along the way. It's impossible to get lost! Starting from the Mont des Cats, the network links Mont de Boeschèpe and Mont Kokereel a dozen or so kilometres away (about a 3-hour walk). Hiking trails lead off

from tarmac roads. Walk at your own pace. After a long hour's walk, what do you say to a stop off at *La Maison commune de Boeschèpe* [Boeschèpe Communal House] opposite the church, to quench your thirst or have a bite to eat? It's a *Café Rando*® [Hiking Café] and is specifically designed to recharge walkers' batteries.

A few more meters further and you're greeted by the *Ondankmeulen*, the "mill of ingratitude" whose great sails arch



THE unmissable Flemish Carbonnade!



Hiking along the hop fields

over the sky of Flanders. And now we've already arrived at Godewaersvelde, the heritage and gourmet village. We push open the door of Calibou & Co, another *Café Rando*® which offers soups, filled sandwiches and an authentic bookstore in the middle of a tearoom.

In the centre of the village, you'll find the King of the Potje Vleesch (www.auroidupotjevleesch.fr), a former butcher's shop which has become an *estaminet*. You can savour a *potje* (*Potjevleesch*, a dish featuring a kind of terrine/potted meat) with four meats, a traditional dish *par excellence*, before slipping local products and local beers into your rucksack. Then back to the Mont des Cats, unless you prefer to push on to Terdeghem (10 km away). The beauty of its doll-like houses with colourful shutters and its flower-filled gardens are well worth the effort. Then why not Cassel (another 5 km), voted France's Favourite Village in 2018? This is a capital of the *art de vivre*, with names of streets and houses in *Vlaamse* (Flemish), the Flemish *Récollets Garden* (see below), the museum of Flemish art from the 15th century to the present day, Flemish flags flying in the wind, and the iconic *Estaminet Flamand*® Kasteelhof with a great view of the plain below. On Mont Cassel, the exoticism can also be savoured... ■



Tourist Office Destination
Cœur de Flandres,
 20 Grand' Place, Cassel
www.coeurdeflandre.fr
 +33 (0) 3 28 40 52 55

WHAT TO DO

Musée de Flandre
museedeflandre.fr
 26 Grand' Place, Cassel

World War II Heritage site
La Plaine au Bois
Memorial & Museum
 A commemoration of a forgotten massacre of 80 British soldiers during Operation Dynamo.
 9 place Bergerot
 Esquelbecq

STAYING OVER

In Berthen, on the network of cycle routes, **La Garonde** with the 'Accueil Vélo' (Bike Welcome) label is a charming guest house with a view of the Mont des Cats abbey.
www.lagaronde.com
 447 chemin du Mont des Cats, Berthen

Chatellerie du Schoebeque
 A 4-star hotel in an 18th-century house with panoramic views and a spa.
www.chatellerie-de-schoebeque.com
 32 rue du Maréchal Foch, Cassel

EATING OUT

The Kasteelhof
 8 rue Saint-Nicolas, Cassel

L'Estaminet du Centre
 offers various local specialities and craft beers along with its home-brewed beer.
 11 rue de Steenvoorde, Godewaersvelde

Het Kerk Hoek
 A *Estaminet Flamand*® with brick decor - an authentic beer bar where you can also enjoy dishes made with beer.
 43 place Saint-Martin, Terdeghem

SHOPPING

In an 18th century Flemish farmhouse, **La Ferme du Veld**, a homewares shop in a bric-a-brac and country spirit.
www.lafermeduveld.fr
 4 route de Steenvoorde, Saint-Sylvestre-Cappel

Rosselle Antiquités
 an Ali Baba cave for antiques enthusiasts and also featuring a café.
www.rosselle.biz
 69 route de l'Europe, Oost-Cappel

Inspired by the Flemish Renaissance

The Mont des Récollets garden

This garden is neither English nor French. The Mont des Récollets garden is Flemish-inspired, and really is one of a kind. To design it, its owner (the landscape architect Emmanuel de Quillacq) was inspired by Flemish Renaissance painting, in both reality and imagination. Brueghel is of course featured, as are the albums of Croÿ, the *beguinages* [an architectural complex created to house beguines: lay religious women who lived in community without taking vows or retiring from the world] and their thousands of bulbs, and the Flemish "*bocage*" hedgerow landscape, brimming with hawthorn

and blackthorn trees. Landscapes and corridors of lush greenery. A pond and a Flemish farm. Light and dark. Topiaries pruned into spheres or lozenges. The poet-gardener has painted a picture exuding serenity, poetry and dreams. A hectare and a half dotted with surprises, joyfully playing with height and colour, shrubs and flowers. A secret garden where you can gaze in wonder, peacefully rest, be inspired or contemplate the meandering Flanders plain on the horizon.

1936 rue de Steenvoorde, Cassel.



TOGETHERNESS...



Somme Bay: share nature's pleasures

LEARN ABOUT THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE
IN A STUNNING NATURAL SETTING

*The Sailor's Chapel
in Saint-Valery*

The seals and birds here have great taste. They live in a bay considered among to be the most beautiful in the world, a proud holder of a *Grand Site de France* classification. This superb natural spectacle is a priceless treasure to be enjoyed together as a family in the lively, flower-filled medieval village of Saint-Valery-sur-Somme. Introduce your kids to the joy of life's simple pleasures.



Grace-filled moment on Europe's longest boardwalk trail at Cayeux-sur-Mer

The sea ebbs, uncovering the first sandbanks. That's when you see it: the friendly snout of a common seal. You can observe the creatures from Hourdel headland, safely and without disturbing them. Sometimes, at high tide, they come to greet you along the quays of Saint-Valery, their long whiskers bobbing up along the waterfront. Children will be entranced. Adults will be plunged back into their childhood, as was the case for British artist Pippa Darbyshire.

"Together with my grandchildren, we went to meet the seals in dug-out canoes. They really glide across the water! There's no motor and so we don't disturb the seals at all. It's a magical moment. Children experience charming memories they'll keep all their life."

Pippa has been putting the colours of the bay on canvas for nearly twenty years.

"The views are magnificent from the ramparts of the medieval upper town. On the other bank, Le Crotoy appears in a shimmering light. Like the colours are vibrating..."

Edouard Degas, Eugène Boudin and Colette all evoked landscapes that seem to "quiver and float." Jules Verne wrote *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* in his house at Le Crotoy. The immense horizons and light seem to inspire splendid ideas.

WALK AMONG BIRDS AND HORSES, THEN RETURN BY STEAM TRAIN

Pure, unique natural sites is what this place is all about. To the north of the bay, the ornithological park of Le Marquenterre features nearly 300 different species of bird. ...



"In Saint-Valery, happiness isn't a commodity. It's all authentic."

Pippa Darbyshire, British painter



The typical fishermen's quarter in Saint-Valery

The Joan of Arc Gate in Saint-Valery



... Among marshes, dunes and reed beds, thousands of birds come to breed or rest during the great migrations between Scandinavia and Mauritania. The observation posts and telescopes of the nature guides allow you to discover herons, white spoonbills, gravelbacks, storks and elegant avocets. You'll also spot little horses with isabelline coats, which sometimes graze with their feet in the water. These Henson horses are born here. They're rustic and calm; even beginners can ride them over the sandy tracks.

A lot of fun awaits children visiting the area: rides in horse-drawn carriages, trips around the bay by bicycle (or e-bike), crossing it on foot with a guide (English-speaking ones are not hard to find), feeling that the world's just beginning, tasting sea asparagus or pig's ear along the way. Breathe in and savour the sea air...

In the distance you'll hear the whistle of the little steam train that takes you from Le Crotoy to Saint-Valery and Cayeux-sur-Mer. You can take your bike on board if you want to rest your legs and just enjoy the scenery on the way back. A little tip: back at Saint-Valery, the engine room that allows the locomotive to turn around is a permanent attraction.

Make time to stroll along the quays and to push on to the Chapelle des Marins (Saint Valery's sailor's Chapel). Return via Cap Hornu, stopping off for some legendary mussels and chips accompanied by a panoramic view. Wander through the Sunday-morning market, and walk in the footsteps of William the Conqueror (who set sail for England from here) and Joan of Arc (who passed through the gate of the upper town). At the very end of the quay that bears her name, you reach the Buvette de la Plage. According to Pippa, this is the ideal spot to enjoy a drink against the backdrop of the setting sun, while the children are still having fun in the sand. ■

The gardens of Valloires: beauty and goodness

Prepare to be enchanted. The Abbey of Valloires, founded in the 12th century, is surrounded by sumptuous gardens much-loved by the actress Catherine Deneuve (there's even a rose bearing her name). It's in this rose garden that the famous Picardy Rose was created, celebrating the friendship between England and France.

More than 5,000 species make up this garden, one of the most beautiful of its kind in France. Go from the blue garden to the white garden, from the lilac island to the golden island, from the Garden of Evolution to the Garden of the Five Senses. Kids caress the thorns and foliage, listen to the bamboos rustling in the wind, and taste the edible flowers. At the onsite restaurant, *La Table du Jardinier* [The Gardener's Table], the chef cooks daffodils, violets, roses and pansies in omelettes, floral salads and floral sorbets. The result is utterly unexpected and very photogenic dishes - and above all, a delight for young and old alike.

The Gardens of Valloires in Argoules

www.jardinsdevalloires.fr



FIND OUT MORE IN THE SOMME BAY

Somme Bay Tourist Offices
www.tourisme-baiedesomme.fr

In Saint-Valery
Quai Lejoille,
Saint-Valery-sur-Somme
+33 (0)3 22 60 93 50

In Le Crotoy
www.terresetmer-veilles-baiedesomme.com
1 rue Carnot, Le Crotoy
+33 (0)3 22 27 05 25

Discover the seals by dug-out canoe, rent bicycles, and cross the bay on foot with an experienced guide. For practical information, contact the Tourist Offices of Somme Bay.

STAYING OVER

Gîte O'Chatô
A charming 3-bedroom seaside mansion with a garden, a pond and a chicken coop. Sandy beaches are only a 5-minute drive away...
www.gite-quend.fr
51 route de la Plage,
Quend

Hôtel-Restaurant Le Cap Hornu
A family-friendly hotel in a former farm with bay views and a swimming pool. You can hire bicycles on-site for a car-free break.
www.baiedesomme.fr
1350 chaussée du Cap Hornu,
Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme

5-star Le Domaine de Diane
A highly comfortable modern campsite perfect for a chilled family holiday, only a 10-minute bike ride from sandy beaches.
www.domainedediane.com
2 avenue des Pins,
Quend-Plage-les-Pins

EATING OUT
In Saint-Valery-sur-Somme
Le Mathurin (fish restaurant)
www.restaurantlemathurin.fr
1 place des Pilotes

Le Vélocipède
www.auvelocipede.fr
1 rue du Puits Salé

Table d'hôtes **Restaurant Baie**
www.restaurantbaie.fr
30 rue de la Ferté

And let's not forget the chip shop **Friterie Debeauvais** on Route du Cap Hornu, with some of the best chips in the area in a very relaxed setting.

In Le Crotoy
L'Auberge de la Marine
www.aubergedelamarine.com
1 rue Florentin Lefils

Le Bellevue
www.bellevuelecrotoy.fr
526 Promenade Jules Noiret

Le Carré Gourmand
53 rue de la Porte du Pont

HAVING A DRINK

In Saint-Valery, facing the bay: **Buvette de la Plage**, 455 quai Jeanne d'Arc, Saint-Valery-sur-Somme

Have dinner and listen to music: **Le Jardin**, 37 rue de la Ferté, Saint-Valery-sur-Somme

WHAT TO DO

Take a tour of the bay on a **steam train**...
www.chemindefer-baiedesomme.fr

A spot of birdwatching in **Marquenterre Park** in Saint-Quentin-en-Tourmont...
www.baiedesomme.fr
Discover the **Domaine du Marquenterre** on a Henson horse...
www.domainedumarquenterre.fr or www.henson.fr



Shared experience at the Marquenterre ornithological park

Experience the world through the antennae of a snail and get to know everything about gastropods at the **Escargotière du Marquenterre** snail farm.

www.escargotieredu-marquenterre.fr
1 Chemin des Garennes,
Saint-Quentin-en-Tourmont

Discover the secrets of the **Herbarium des Remparts** and the plants that grow along the coast, on the limestone hillsides, in the marshes, in the undergrowth and on the old walls.

www.somme-tourisme.com
36 rue Brandt,
Saint-Valery-sur-Somme

Visit the studio of painter **Pippa Darbyshire** in Noyelles-sur-Mer, by appointment on +33 (0)6 70 93 06 00,
www.pippadarbyshire.com



Pippa Darbyshire

MARKET DAYS

On Sunday morning, stroll about the market of the Place des Pilotes in Saint-Valery while chatting with the farmers of the Bay area.

SHOPPING

Inouïtoosh scarves are in fashion in Paris, London or New York, but the designers' studios are in Saint-Valery, and there's a shop on rue de la Ferté.

Jars of salicornia, sea buckthorn products, local beers, beaten cakes, organic herbs and herbal teas are among the fine products from the Bay available in the Terroirs Hauts-de-France shops: **Les Mets de l'Estran** in Saint-Valery, **La Ferme des Prés Salés** in Noyelles-sur-Mer and **Les 3 Conserveries** in Le Crotoy.

Le relais de la baie in Noyelles-sur-Mer: furniture and vintage objects. Organic wines are also sold at L'Estaminet. 9 route du Crotoy Noyelles-sur-Mer

Antiques/bric-a-brac, 1 Quai du Romerel in Saint-Valery. Local Patrick Deloison and his wife Sophie also offer bed and breakfast accommodation.

Les puces de la baie (The Bay flea market), 17 quai Perrée, Saint-Valery-sur-Somme

Chez Hermann, for great cheeses and wines. 4 rue de la Ferté in Saint-Valery.

NORTHERN FRANCE WITH KIDS
free guide book
www.french-weekendbreaks.co.uk/page/family-holidays-northern-france



SHARED HISTORY

"There's respect, of course - therein lies the grandiosity of any memorial. But there's also an inextinguishable feeling of international brotherhood. Hence our special understanding of our duty of remembrance to build a lasting peace, firelessly and together."



Thiepval British Memorial < Battlefields < Somme



Agincourt

THE TREASURED VICTORY OF THE ENGLISH,
HAS A BEAUTIFUL MUSEUM... IN FRANCE!

Made epic by Shakespeare, this battle was a mishmash of stakes: the crown of France, the domination of Henry V over the west of the country, and that of the dukes of Burgundy over Artois. Agincourt, a key day of the cursed Hundred Years' War, is revisited *in situ* in a now-peaceful countryside with an immersive museum, which captivates children and adults alike.

“This is the story of the noble French knighthood which had to stop the English army, both to protect the integrity of the kingdom and to avenge the affront of Poitiers. The Welsh archers were changing the rules of the game. Tactics, bravery, commitment ... you’ve got everything”

**CHRISTOPHE GILLIOT,
HISTORIAN, DIRECTOR OF THE
INTERPRETATION CENTRE**

The (battle)field of Agincourt. On the 25th of October 1415, there’s no sign of the forthcoming bloodshed. Is this to be a fatal morning for the French? At the new *Azincourt 1415 interpretation centre* opened in 2019 (azincourt1415.com), the English and French historians who designed the tour are keen to restore factual accuracy to the history of the battle, dispelling the myths which embellish history on both sides of the Channel. Passing from one room to the next, learn with games, maps, interactive terminals, poems and beautiful explanatory texts featuring kings entangled in family quarrels bleeding the country dry for 116 years, civil wars, and much more. We follow the English army which arrived in Harfleur to conquer Paris and have Henry V crowned King of France. They were then pushed back to Picardy, where the hungry, exhausted English soldiers

were pursued by the French, who tried to corner them in their flight to Calais. It seemed like the French would have easy pickings, but they lacked preparation, and above all, unity. The result was a swift battle in which the flower of French knighthood, committed body and soul, advanced on foot in the face of a shower of arrows fired by efficient and coordinated Welsh archers. Nothing could stop these valiant warriors from going straight to their deaths: *“It was a matter of honour. The lord had to fight to protect his fiefdom and his people from the English, who plundered everything in their path,”* observes Christophe Gilliot, director of the centre. The French aristocracy was decimated. In the evening, Henry V had the survivors executed – except for the Prince of Orleans, whose ransom was worth his weight in gold.

A 360° SCREEN PLUNGES US INTO THE HEART OF THE BATTLE...

This short, fun (and bilingual) tour funnels all the essential facts, which children absorb without even realising it. Rub shoulders with the infantrymen, explore the contents of their knapsacks and discover their victuals, weigh their weapons and see how well they looked after themselves. Then suddenly, in a circular space a giant screen plunges us into the heart of the battle, a cauldron echoing with the din of halberds and armour. Chaos experienced in virtual reality! Did the children enjoy this immersive story? Then head for La Coupole planetarium near Saint Omer, about 20 miles from Agincourt, a bunker where films (in English) plunge you into the Second World War and the conquest of space. Open every day. ■





useful info

Tourist Office of
7 vallées Ternois
www.7valleesternois-tourisme.com
21 place d'Armes, Hesdin
+33 (0)3 21 86 19 19

STAYING OVER

Le Manoir de la Canche:
hotel restaurant in a park with rooms in the garden. (10 minutes from Agincourt).

www.lemanoirdelacanche.com
30 rue fernand Lemercier, Huby-Saint-Leu

Au Bois Dormant B&B
Family room in a small green village at the edge of the forest. Enjoy lounging in the enclosed garden with swimming

pool, children's games and petanque ground!
www.auboisdormant.fr
8 rue du 8 Mai 1945, Huby-Saint-Leu

3-star Hotel Ibis Saint-Omer Centre
Stroll about and do some shopping in the lively and historic centre of St Omer, with its shops (don't miss the chocolate factory at Place Victor Hugo) and restaurants.
www.all.accor.com
2-4 rue Henri Dupuis, Saint-Omer

Le Clos Marenla gite

A newly renovated 2-bedroom cottage in a 17th-century farmhouse with a huge garden.
www.leclosdemarenla.fr
58 rue Principale, Marenla

EATING OUT

L'Écurie
www.restaurant-lecurie.com
17 rue Jacquemont, Hesdin

La Belle Époque
30 rue Daniel, Lereuil, Hesdin

La Bretèche
9 rue du Général Daulle, Hesdin

La Garenne Huby Saint Leu
52 place du 8 Mai 1945, Huby-Saint-Leu

DON'T MISS

"Le Grenier du Château Flore" every year at the end of June there is a plant festival and big flea market in Humeroeuille (10 minutes from Agincourt). Visit the garden from June to September and don't miss its famous hornbeam maze!

The Halte d'Autrefois "Stopping Place of Yesteryear" is a small educational farm nestled in the enchanting 7 Valleys. Here they bake bread and make goat's cheese and other organic products. Children will love it – Valérie even allows them to pet the goats! Booking required before your visit.
<http://lahaltedautrefois.online.fr>
28 route d'Embry, Hesmond

SHOPPING

Some fine bottles from the "Caves du vieux chai" [Fine Winery Cellars]. Wine merchant for four generations in Fressin, 10 minutes from Agincourt.
www.caviste-vieuxchai.fr
20 grand Rue, Fressin

Quentovic Brewery to bring back local beer and/or taste it on site.
www.quentovic.com
27 rue du Collège, Beaurainville



1st Franco-British festival, a living history event!

Game day! Learn while having fun with your family: see a Roman, a medieval knight, a peasant under the Empire, and more besides. A tribute to the millennia-old ties crossing the Channel. Isabelle Braure opens her park to immerse families in the atmosphere of several historical periods over a great day of fun. "The aim is that you feel as much at home under the Romans as in the Middle Ages," says Christophe Gilliot, adviser for the 1st edition of the festival. Under a sign which chronologically sets out the facts, actors in period costume reconstruct the life of yesteryear in the kind of detail which makes for a really instructive history lesson. The themes are fashion and food, the role of women, weapons, and more. Storytellers talk about the things linking the French and the British and the quarrels which dominated at the time. People come here first and foremost to have fun and enjoy unknown dishes, challenge their friends to archery or fencing, try their hand at sewing or dyeing with plants... so start practising your soup tureen racing and log throwing, like a real Scotsman!

Domaine de La Traxène
2 rue de la Mairie - Coupelle-Vieille
www.festivaldelatraxene.co.uk



Hesdin

The Halte d'Autrefois

Memory: a hymn to life

A HISTORY THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER



Emotion runs deep here, in the Wellington quarry 20m below the town of Arras, beneath the arches of the Memorial to the Missing in Thiepval and in the heart of the Rethondes clearing in the forest of Compiègne. Nearly 10 million soldiers died during the First World War. Visiting them is a way of building peace today.

The face of an elegant woman in a hat appears: the *fiancée*, wife or mother of a soldier of World War I. Her charcoal eyes gaze upon you with tenderness: love is stronger than death. Testimonies of life are everywhere, engraved in the limestone: a crucifix, a Maori poem, graffiti, a tribute to King George V. In 1916, Arras was a pile of ruins. The British Army relieved the French troops there. General Nivelle and Sir Douglas Haig drew up a secret plan. Nivelle planned to break through the German lines in the Aisne at Chemin des Dames, with the British troops creating a diversion in Artois. To ensure the advantage of surprise, Haig had a brilliant idea: to build a network of 20km of tunnels under Arras. This was entrusted to the New Zealand tunnel-boring machines.

AN ARMY OF 24,000 MEN BENEATH THE CITY OF ARRAS

After six months of titanic work, the diggers reached the German lines. This was the largest construction site of the First World War. Tons of rubble are still stored in the unoccupied subterranean galleries. Electricity, running water and telephone lines were installed. A 700-bed hospital was even built there. The underground city housed 24,000 men.

The tunnellers named the series of galleries by consulting a map of New Zealand, hence:



© Stephen Kerr

Lochnagar crater, a witness of 01 July 1916

Auckland, New Plymouth, Nelson and Wellington. The soldiers, meanwhile, christened their quarries Glasgow, Liverpool, London and Manchester. The more remote quarries were named after islands: Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney.

Today an elevator takes you down to the Wellington Quarry and plunges you into the daily life of the soldiers. You see bowls, forks, cans, dormitories, kitchens and latrines. You can almost hear the sound of harmonicas. It brings it all to life. They were people like us.

The soldiers pray one last time at the foot of Pillar 5E, in the underground church. Tomorrow, on 9th April 1917, at 5.30am, they will climb the crude ladder and rush towards the enemy.

No, it's not just the ambient humidity of this special place affecting you. Emotions tend to well up here. ...

THE CWGC EXPERIENCE BEHIND THE SCENES OF LIVING MEMORIES

In the heart of the battlefields of the First World War at Beaurains, near Arras, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains the memory of the 1.7 million soldiers of the Crown who fell in the two World Wars. The interpretation centre, The CWGC Experience, enables visitors to discover the work done to maintain the 23,000 remembrance sites in 153 countries. There you'll discover the work of the engraving machines that create the headstones in cemeteries around the world and the craftsmen in the midst of their art: carpenters, ironworkers and mechanics.

In France, the CWGC employs 450 people, including 320 gardeners, who maintain nearly 3,000 cemeteries. The emotion you'll feel will be heightened when you learn about the exhumation officers, who collect tiny clues that help identify the soldiers who have remained, until now, "known unto God", to use Rudyard Kipling's expression. They give the missing a name, a face and a memory. Each year, newly found bodies are exhumed, sometimes identified, and buried in the presence of their descendants with military honours.

The CWGC Experience, 7 rue Angèle Richard, Beaurains

www.cwgc.org



... “FOR ALL COMMONWEALTH NATIONALS, IT’S IMPORTANT TO REVISIT THE FOOTSTEPS OF A GRANDFATHER, A GREAT-UNCLE, A GREAT-GRANDFATHER...” SAYS JULIE THOMSON.

With her husband David, Julie hosts many Brits in Number 56, their bed and breakfast at the heart of the Battle of the Somme sites.

“Every family was touched. I help visitors find their ancestors. It’s so important to pass this down to children...”

He’s from Liverpool, she’s from London. For the past six years they’ve been living in La Boisselle, where the Battle of the Somme began with a gigantic explosion. The Lochnagar Crater is a testimony to the violence of the conflict. The date 1st July 1916 remains the bloodiest day of the war for the British Army.

At Thiepval, the Memorial to the Missing, designed by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and dedicated to the 72,244 soldiers who disappeared without ever receiving a burial, is the largest Commonwealth



Thiepval, the Memorial to the Missing

IN HAUTS-DE-FRANCE

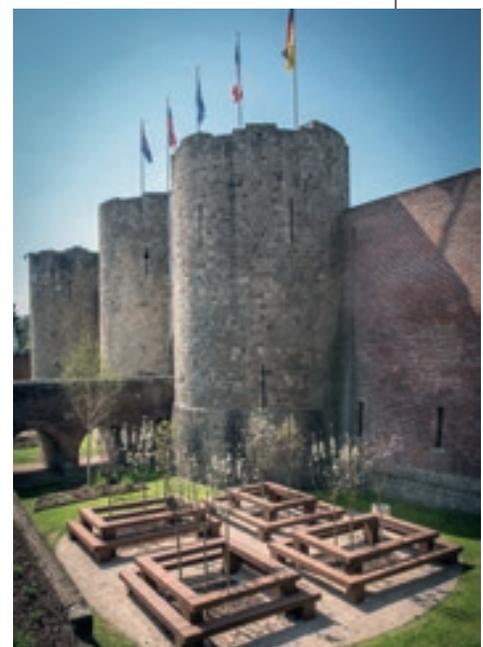
15 Gardens of Peace carry a universal message of brotherhood

The idea could only have been born here, in this region that paid the heaviest price for the conflict. At the instigation of Gilbert Fillinger, director of Art & Jardins (Art & Gardens) Hauts-de-France, 15 Gardens of Peace designed by landscape gardeners from the 35 warring nations were established in places of remembrance of the First World War. They underline the international scope of the conflict and the possibility of fraternity between peoples. In Arras, the Scottish Garden of Peace *Pipers’ Peace* evokes bagpipers

with the blue thistle, the emblem of Scotland. In Thiepval, the garden Through the Light Forest pays homage to Welsh soldiers. An oak bench winds between the trees like a link between past and future. The soil is sown with primroses, the favourite flowers of the Welsh. The English garden *Pax Dryades* offers the visitor a maze of chestnut posts and chalk mounds, symbols of trenches and shell craters. At the end of the route, a clearing of beeches brings calm and serenity. You’ll also find *The garden of the third train*,

a Franco-German garden, set with mirrors. Or in Péronne, the *Garden of Eutychia* is set in the moat of the castle at the entrance of the Museum of the Great War. An Irish and Northern Irish Garden of Peace dedicated to the Greek goddess of happiness is also part of this creative landscaped journey through the remembrance sites of the First World War, which are all part of a desire to create a path of peace throughout the Hauts-de-France region.

www.artetjardins-hdf.com



The Northern Irish Garden of Peace in Péronne



useful info



The Sir John Monash Centre near Villers-Bretonneux

memorial in the world. At 45m in height, it broadcasts the memory of the men far and wide. “The place is even more moving when the sun goes down,” says Julie. And with Joe Sacco’s fresco installed in the Great War Battles of the Somme Museum, “it’s like we’re living alongside the young soldiers of 1916”.

All around, the woods and the English garden inspire a feeling of peace conducive to meditation. “We moved here to remember, but also to live differently. To be more in touch with nature,” says Julie. “Endless poppies adorn the fields...”. The poem by Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel John MacCrae, who is buried at the Wimereux Communal Cemetery, remains poignantly relevant today: “... the poppies blow, / Between the crosses, row on row...” The poppy has been a symbol of hope since ancient times. It also represents resilience: after the conflict, it was the first flower to bloom on the devastated land. Further south, an hour from Paris, under the forest cover of Compiègne and near Rethondes train station, the Armistice Clearing comes into view. Suddenly you’re bathed in light. Peace and serenity envelop you. This twin of the real Compiègne wagon, where the armistice was signed on 11th November 1918, is a symbol of new life.

A gigantic symbolic ring created by sculptor Clara Halter proclaims humankind’s most cherished word in 52 languages...

Peace ■

Tourist Office of Arras Pays d’Artois
www.arraspaysdartois.com
Hôtel de ville, Place des Héros, Arras
+33 (0)3 21 51 26 95

Tourist Office of Pays du Coquelicot
9 rue Gambetta, Albert
+33 (0)3 22 75 16 42

Compiègne Tourist Office
www.compiègne-tourisme.fr
Place de l’Hôtel de ville, Compiègne
+33 (0)3 44 40 01 00

The dedicated “Somme Battlefield partners” network at www.somme-tourisme.com brings together hosts, restaurateurs and all those with a strong interest in the history of the First World War and the battlefields of the Somme. They’re identified by a distinctive sign: a poppy on their façade.

Useful information is available on www.somme14-18.com and on the Facebook page “Great War in the Somme.”

WHAT TO DO

Wellington Quarry in Arras
www.carrierewellington.com
Rue Arthur Deletoille, Arras

Armistice Museum and Armistice wagon in Rethondes
www.musee-armistice-14-18.fr
Route de Soissons, Compiègne

In Thiepval, discover the new Great War Battles of the Somme Museum in the Museum of the Great War, with a replica of Guynemer’s plane and the fresco by Joe Sacco. Prince Charles, Camilla, Kate and Princes Harry and William were deeply moved at the inauguration in 2016.

Museum in Péronne and Thiepval,
www.historial.fr

STAYING OVER

At Number 56 in La Boisselle. Enthusiasts Julie and David Thomson love sharing their knowledge of these places of remembrance.
www.number56.co.uk
56 route de Bapaume,
Ovillers-la-Boisselle

Butterworth Farm
Enjoy a warm welcome from your hosts John and Chantal, who will be pleased to tell you about the history of the region.
www.butterworth-cottage.com
Route de Bazentin, Chemin George
Butterworth, Pozières

Manoir de Bellacordelle
A stylish guesthouse along the Remembrance Trail.
19 rue de la Bellacordelle
Rivière
www.bellacordelle.fr

In the forest of Compiègne near the Armistice quarry, the Villa du Châtelet in Choisy au Bac, built by the famous composer Léo Delibes, offers fine food, guestrooms and cookery classes.
www.villaduchatelet.com
17 rue de l’Aigle, Choisy-au-Bac

EATING OUT

In the tea room Le Cottage de Geneviève et Auguste just in front of the Thiepval Memorial.
10 rue de l’Ancre, Thiepval

Or at the Poppy Coffee Shop in Albert.
29 rue de Birmingham, Albert

Or at the hotel-restaurant La Basilique, with French cuisine based on market produce.
www.hotelbasiliquesomme.fr
5 rue Gambetta, Albert

SHOPPING

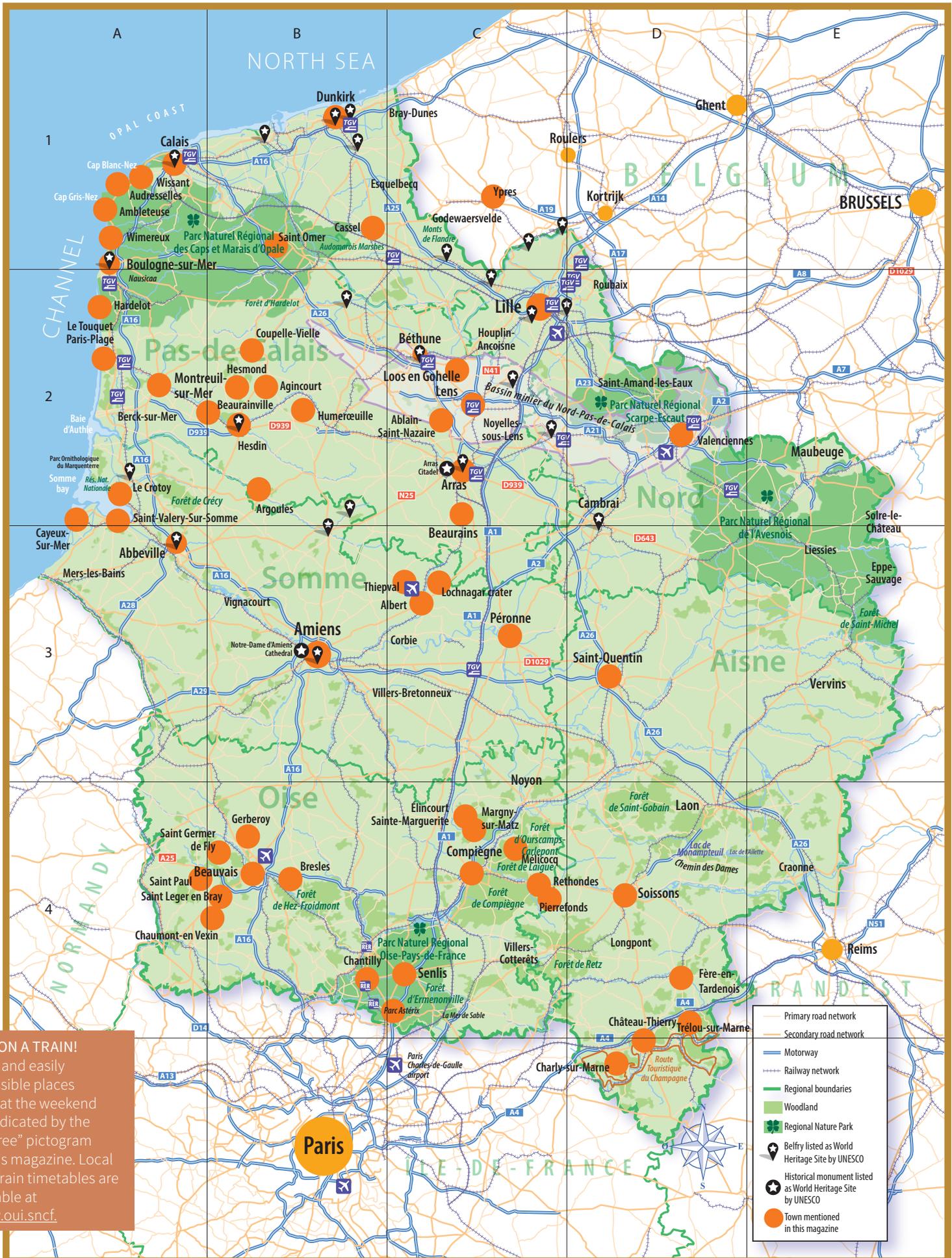
Le Panier de Louise in Albert, near Thiepval, is a grocery store with an array of local, natural and organic products.
39 rue Jeanne d’Harcourt, Albert

La Biscuiterie du Pays du Coquelicot in Albert features the flower of hope on all its products, including mugs and magnets. Gourmet souvenirs such as macarons, “poppy” wine or yoghurt sorbets in poppy, cornflower or violet flavours are unusual gifts for friends.
za n°1 PA, rue Henry Potez, Albert

The wine shop La Dame Jeanne in Arras is also a wine bar that offers many organical wines, along with oenology courses to learn to appreciate them.
1 place des Héros, Arras



“La Dame Jeanne” in Arras



HOP ON A TRAIN!
 ideas and easily accessible places to go at the weekend are indicated by the "car free" pictogram on this magazine. Local TER Train timetables are available at www.oui.sncf.

“Our address recommendations are based on the impartial expertise of our local partners, on Tripadvisor.co.uk traveller reviews and on the official gîtes de France and Relais & châteaux labels. Despite all the care taken by the editorial team to verify the validity of the information mentioned in this magazine, some of it is subject to change due to the current health situation. For this reason, this document is non-binding.”



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welcome.french-weekendbreaks.co.uk

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Cedex. Tel: +33374270000 – www.hautsdefrance.fr

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Cedex. Tel: +33323277676 – www.jaimelaisne.com

Nord Tourism: 54 rue Jean Sans Peur - 59800 LILLE. Tel: +33320575959
– <https://www.jadorelenord.fr/>

Oise Tourism: 22 place de la Préfecture - 60000 BEAUVAIS.
Tel: +33364606060 – www.oisetourisme.com

Pas-de-Calais Tourism: 26 route de la Trésorerie - 62126 WIMILLE.
Tel: +33321103460 – www.pas-de-calais-tourisme.com

Somme Tourism: 54 rue Saint-Fuscien 80000 AMIENS.
Tel: +33322712271- www.somme-tourisme.com

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