

# Baie de Somme Picardy Coast

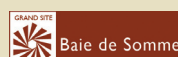
“ While we are wandering, I put people at ease right away. I stimulate their curiosity, I make them feel everything with all their senses! I make them feel the different kinds of light, from the sky and from the ground. I make them taste the plants, such as samphire and sea asters.”

Jean-Michel Doliger, Nature guide

## The Baie de Somme is now the tenth 'Grand Site de France'

The Baie de Somme is a patchwork of lagoons, marshes, dunes and salt flats, where the sky and the sea merge into one, creating a landscape at sea or a seascape on land. Enjoy walks that will leave you light-headed from the bracing sea air with exceptional views that are constantly changing with monochromes of grey, beige or white, huge skies, effects of light evoking opal and mother of pearl. This is one of the major French sites through which migrating birds pass. Eurasian wigeon, common shelduck, Eurasian curlew, and common pied oystercatcher rub shoulders with harbour seals and salt-marsh sheep. At low tide, with a guide you can cross these golden sandbanks. On 3rd June 2011, the Ministry of Ecology awarded this coveted label to the Baie de Somme, in recognition of the quality of its management and of its welcome given to the public in keeping with the spirit of the area, and of a policy of sustainable development that began over 30 years ago. The Baie de Somme has now become a real focus for eco-tourism, receiving almost two million visitors every year, and joining the highly select community of the Grands Sites de France, which also includes the Poitou Marshes, the Ardèche Gorges and the Site des Deux Caps, Griz-Nez and Blanc-Nez.

[www.grandsitebaiedesomme.fr](http://www.grandsitebaiedesomme.fr)



## The Parc du Marquenterre

Thousands of migrating birds choose to stop off at this park, which offers two different trails from where you can observe them in total peace and quiet in the heart of the Baie de Somme Nature Reserve! Concealed in the hides, you can watch the wildlife and contemplate migrating birds who have chosen this haven of peace as a refuelling stop en route from Scandinavia to Mauritania.

Open every day except December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Saint-Quentin-en-Tourmont • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2225 6899  
[www.baiedesomme.fr/parc-du-marquenterre](http://www.baiedesomme.fr/parc-du-marquenterre)

## The 'Maison de la Baie de Somme et de l'Oiseau'

This house is where you can see, hear and understand the Baie de Somme, how it evolved, its flora and fauna, and above all its colony of seals! You can get an excellent introduction to learning how to recognise birds through close examination of their silhouettes, plumage, colours, the shape of their beaks and feet, etc. And to end the visit, you can watch a show of free-flying birds of prey!

Open every day except December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Lanchères • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2226 9393  
[www.baiedesomme.fr/maison-de-la-baie-de-somme-et-de-loiseau](http://www.baiedesomme.fr/maison-de-la-baie-de-somme-et-de-loiseau)



In April, lovers of nature and ornithology gather every year for **the Bird and Nature Festival!** Involved in the protection of nature and in the environment, the festival offers cultural, educational, festive and convivial activities to learn more about in the Bay of Somme's. On offer to the public are nature walks, exhibitions, a festival of animal films, courses and workshops for both adults and children, etc.  
[www.festival-oiseau-nature.com](http://www.festival-oiseau-nature.com)

## The Abbey of Valloires and its Gardens

Head for Argoules, in the heart of the Authie Valley, to discover the only complete 18th-century Cistercian abbey in France: typical cloisters, vaulted chapter house, reception rooms with Louis XV decor, 13th-century paintings, and so on. The church is noteworthy for its unique, unusual decoration: organ, screens, recumbent statues, sculptures in wood, lead, and marble, hanging angels in papier-mâché. "One of the final fruits from the flourishing of the Baroque period".

Guided tours every day from mid-March to mid-November.  
Argoules  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2229 6233 • [www.abbaye-valloires.com](http://www.abbaye-valloires.com)



## Baie de Somme Railway

See the Baie de Somme from a slow train dating from the beginning of the 20th century. Genuine carriages from la Belle Époque pulled by plucky steam engines travel between Le Crotoy, Noyelle-sur-Mer, Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme and Cayeux-sur-Mer... A whistle... and you are thrown 80 years into the past for a voyage through time! All aboard...

Every day from April to September, and during the All Saints' Day holidays. In October, weekends only.  
Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2226 9696 • [www.cfbs.eu](http://www.cfbs.eu)



At the foot of the abbey, an 8-hectare pocket of greenery, designed by Gilles Clément, brings together over 5000 species and varieties of plants. As the seasons go by, you can experience the splendour of cherry-trees in flower, the elegance and perfume of thousands of roses including the unmissable Rose de Picardie®, the luminous colours of autumn, the Interactive Garden of the Five Senses intended for children, and the large Evolution Garden which tells the 400-million-year life story of plants.

Open every day from mid-February to mid-November.  
Argoules • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2223 5355  
[www.jardinsdevalloires.com](http://www.jardinsdevalloires.com)



## The Forest of Crécy

The state-owned forest of Crécy is the main wooded area of the Department, covering over 4000 hectares, and was a theatre of the Hundred Years' War. Beech and oak are the dominant species in the forest. You can also find 23 other noteworthy tree species, ride along 47 km of bridle paths, and go for a walk on one of the 8 blazed trails.

Office National des Forêts  
Forest-L'Abbaye • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2228 3162



## Abbey and Abbey Church of Saint-Riquier

The Abbey Church tells us the whole story of Gothic art: its Flamboyant Gothic façade is copiously sculptured. On entering, you will discover its statuary, fine examples of Picard art, and its magnificent mural paintings in the Treasury. Today the abbey houses a departmental museum devoted to crafts and rural life in Picardy.

The Abbey Church: open every day from April to October except during the Festival. The Abbey: open every day from March to November, and on Fridays and weekends from mid-November to mid-December.

Saint-Riquier • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2271 8220



In July, music lovers flock to the **Saint-Riquier Classical Music Festival** in the Baie de Somme, to hear the vaults of the Abbey Church ringing with the sounds of prestigious orchestras and soloists. The programming is deliberately eclectic, ranging from baroque to contemporary, from jazz to early music. There is so much to choose from: concerts, lectures, opportunities to meet the artists, and so on, during the musical event of the summer in Northern France.  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2271 8210 • [www.festival-de-saint-riquier.fr](http://www.festival-de-saint-riquier.fr)

## The Somme, so close to you

By motorway :  
A1 - Paris-Lille  
A16 - Paris-Calais  
A26 - Calais-Reims  
A28 - Abbeville-Rouen  
A20 - Reims-Rouen

By train :  
Paris-Lille and Paris-Calais lines  
Station: Gare TGV Haute Picardie

By air :  
Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport  
Beauvais-Tillé Airport  
Albert-Picardie Airport



By sea :  
Ports of Dieppe and Calais  
Ferries and the Channel Tunnel

## SOMME TOURISME

21 rue Ernest Cauvin, 80000 Amiens, FRANCE  
Tél : 00 33 (0)3 2271 2271 - Fax : 00 33 (0)3 2271 2269  
E-mail : [accueil@somme-tourisme.com](mailto:accueil@somme-tourisme.com) - [www.somme-tourisme.com](http://www.somme-tourisme.com)

Find all our tourism information on [www.visit-somme.com](http://www.visit-somme.com)  
Read our weekend tips on [www.weekend-picardy.co.uk](http://www.weekend-picardy.co.uk)

Production : Garance. Updates: nord-image.com. Tel: 0033 (0)3 2219 2119



The Somme

Meet the nature, meet the people

# Essentials

Somme < Picardy < France



## Amiens The Amiens district

“ My carriage and horses provide an original way to visit and explore the city of Amiens. Discover the Saint-Leu District, the oldest part of Amiens, formerly inhabited by the many dyers and weavers who made the city prosperous. ”

Atain Dupont, Les Calèches de Samarobryva

### The 'Hortillonnages' (Floating Gardens)

These “floating” gardens have been cultivated since the Middle Ages by *hortillons*. They make a 300-hectare mosaic of both market gardens and those just for pleasure in the heart of the city of Amiens. Nestling in the arms of the Somme and the Avre, the plots are separated by little canals, called *rieux* in Picard. You can visit them in a traditional punt-like boat known as a *barque à cornet*.

Guided tours by electric boat  
Every day from April to October.

Amiens  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2292 1218 • [www.visit-amiens.com](http://www.visit-amiens.com)



© Maison Jules Verne

### Jules Verne's House

Learn about this famous writer's imaginary world as well as his day-to-day life. The house was restored in 2006, and contains more than 700 objects, which evoke Jules Verne's personality, sources of inspiration and memories. It was in this luxurious 19th-century mansion, known familiarly as the Maison à la Tour (House with the Tower), that Jules Verne wrote most of his Extraordinary Voyages. From the winter garden to the loft, you are invited to relive the adventures of Verne's heroes.

From mid-April to mid-October: open every day except Tuesday mornings. From mid-October to mid-April: open every day except Tuesdays, Saturday mornings and Sunday mornings.

Amiens  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2245 4575 • [www.visit-amiens.com](http://www.visit-amiens.com)



© CDT Somme-AB

### The Zoo

A key task for 21st-century zoos is to preserve biodiversity. The Amiens Zoo is active in breeding programmes for endangered species such as the red panda and the maned wolf. Spread out over 6 hectares, you can find around 300 animals from sixty different species, such as elephants, penguins, and sea lions.

Open every day from April to September and on school holidays. In December and January: open on Sundays. The rest of the year: Wednesdays, weekends and public holidays. Closed on 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> December and on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Amiens • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2269 6100  
[www.visit-amiens.com](http://www.visit-amiens.com)



© CDT Somme-AB

### The Museum of Picardy

This museum with its extensive collections stretching from prehistoric times to the 20th century, is housed in a monument in the purest Napoleon III style, and is one of the most beautiful in France. Partially closed for repairs to the picture galleries on the first floor until 2014.

Every day except Mondays and Sunday mornings.

Amiens • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2297 1400  
[www.visit-amiens.com](http://www.visit-amiens.com)



© CDT Somme-AB

## Upper Somme Valley

“ This is a district I love deeply, for its history and for the memories in its earth. Remembrance Tourism is not conventional at all. It's a kind of tourism driven by one's heart and by one's feelings. ”

Peter Smith, from Britain, resident of Picardy

### The Circuit of Remembrance

The Somme was deeply affected by the First World War. The Battle of 1916 was of massive proportions, by the number of nationalities involved, by the number of dead, missing or wounded on both sides, and by the traces it left in the landscape: trenches, mine craters, destroyed vegetation, and villages razed to the ground. The Circuit of Remembrance is a trail that links the two symbolic towns of the Great War, Albert and Péronne. It allows you to see and understand this page of international history.

[www.somme-battlefields.com](http://www.somme-battlefields.com)

The Newfoundland Memorial offers a realistic and moving perception of these battles through its network of admirably well-preserved trenches. An Information Centre gives you further explanations.

Site open all year round. Information Centre open daily from mid-January to mid-December.

Beaumont-Hamel • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2276 7086



© Naoz Bryant

The Australian National Memorial pays homage to the Australian soldiers who died during the Great War. This is where they finally stopped the German offensive in April 1918.

Open every day • Villers-Bretonneux

The Franco-Australian Museum describes the role of Australian troops throughout the First World War.

Open Mondays to Saturdays; closed on public holidays and for two weeks in the festive season.

Villers-Bretonneux • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2296 8079  
[www.musee-australien.com](http://www.musee-australien.com)



The Franco-British Memorial, an imposing brick and stone monument, designed by the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, is 45 m high, and is the memorial to the 73 367 missing British and South Africans who fell between July 1915 and March 1918 and have no known grave. Their names are inscribed on the 16 pillars making up the base of the monument. An exhibition area provides visitors with the keys to understanding the battles of the Somme, and there is an information centre to round off the tour.

Open every day. Information centre open every day, but closed during the festive season.

Thiepval • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2274 6047 • [www.historial.org](http://www.historial.org)



© Nicolas Bryant

The Historical Museum of the Great War in Péronne gives you a better understanding of the causes, consequences and the way the conflict happened, daily life at the front and behind the lines, as well as the political, social and cultural dimensions of that all-out war.

Open every day, closed from mid-December to mid-January.

Péronne • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2283 1418 • [www.historial.org](http://www.historial.org)

The Somme 1916 Museum retraces the soldiers' lives in the trenches during the offensive of July 1st 1916. Sound effects, pictures and lighting plunge visitors into the day-to-day reality experienced by those soldiers. New: The “Heroes' Gallery” introduces nine significant characters from the Great War, such as John McCrae, who wrote the famous poem “In Flanders Fields” as well as Joseph Sadi-Lecoq, the aviator and flying instructor.

Open every day from February to mid-December.

Albert • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2275 1617 • [www.musee-somme-1916.eu](http://www.musee-somme-1916.eu)



© CDT Somme-AB

### Le P'tit Train de la Haute-Somme

The “Li'l Upper Somme Train” dawdles along the banks of the Somme. Fans of the slow trains of yesteryear will be in their element: a tunnel, an overline bridge, a Z-shaped hairpin bend, a gradient in the forest, not forgetting the old wooden benches, the jolting and maybe even a few cinders... However, long gone are the days when the train carried the *poilus* of the Great War!

Departures from late April to late September on Sundays and public holidays. In July and August, from Tuesdays to Sundays.

A.P.P.E.V.A. • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2283 1189 • [www.appeva.org](http://www.appeva.org)

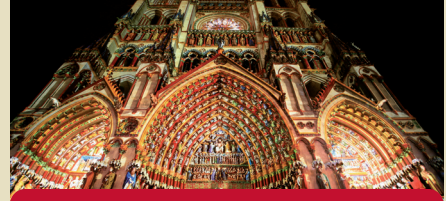


© Bae Attitude

### Notre-Dame Cathedral in Amiens

Picardy, the cradle of Gothic architecture, richly deserves its reputation. In the Somme we find its finest flower: Amiens Cathedral, with its clean soaring lines. The Cathedral is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, and the harmony of its proportions, the purity of its lines, and its abundant statuary forming a lace curtain of stone, make it one of the most beautiful examples of Gothic art. Notre-Dame de Paris could fit inside it twice over, and its nave is the highest in the world!

Open every day • Office de Tourisme d'Amiens  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2271 6050 • [www.visit-amiens.com](http://www.visit-amiens.com)



© AS Picard - Océan Studio pour Amiens Métropole

At nightfall in summer and in December, the show “The Cathedral all in Colour” breathes life once more into the saints, apostles and other figures studding Notre Dame Cathedral in Amiens, through the projection of high-definition digital images in colour.

Schedule: 10:45 pm in June, 10:30 pm in July, 10 pm in August, 9:45 pm in September and 7 pm in December.



### Samara

Dive into the heart of prehistory, in the footprints of our ancestors! From the discovery of fire to the Gallo-Roman period, 600 000 years of human history are retraced in realistic, lively fashion through 1200 sq.m. of exhibitions, reconstructed dwellings, startling presentations such as fire-lighting and the use of throwing-sticks, and craft demonstrations including pottery, flint-knapping, smith-work, etc.

Open every day from March to November.

La Chaussée-Tirancourt  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2251 8283 • [www.samara.fr](http://www.samara.fr)



© Bae Attitude

### A sound and light show

“Le Souffle de la Terre” (The Breath of the Earth) is a lively and enjoyable costume drama with 2,800 different characters enthusiastically demonstrating the real personality of Picardy. Performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 9:30 pm from the end of August to the end of September.

Ailly-sur-Noye • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2241 0690  
[www.aillysurnoye.com](http://www.aillysurnoye.com)



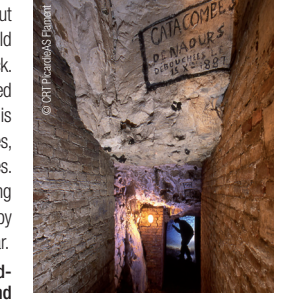
© Le souffle de la terre

### The underground city of Naours

These 28 galleries and 300 rooms carved out of the limestone of the Picardy plateau could accommodate 2600 people and their livestock. In the Picard dialect, these refuges were called *muches* [hiding places]. The organisation is incredible: 300 rooms, public squares, stables, wells, chimneys and a chapel with three naves. These caverns were used by the British during the First World War, and as headquarters by German forces during the Second World War.

Open every day from February to mid-December. Closed on 25<sup>th</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Naours  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2293 7178 • [www.grottesdenaours.com](http://www.grottesdenaours.com)



© CDT Somme-AB

### The Pools of the Upper Somme

The river Somme, winding its way from its source to the Baie de Somme, gives rise to a mosaic of lagoons. How could you resist the call to walk among them? Enjoy the magical misty manifestations and lose yourself in this patchwork of ponds... The presence of *anguillères* (eel traps) evokes the very “fishy” nature of this area, where catching carp and pike is also popular. You can look down over the lagoons of the Haute Somme from a number of special viewpoints dominating the valley (Belvédère de Vaux, Frise, Corbie). The lagoons of the Haute-Somme are a fisherman's and a walker's paradise. All along the banks, look between the reflections from the river to see the glistening carp and taste true serenity.

Haute-Somme Tourist Office  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2284 4238 • [www.hautesomme-tourisme.com](http://www.hautesomme-tourisme.com)  
Poppy country tourist office  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2275 1642  
[www.tourisme-paysducoquelicot.com](http://www.tourisme-paysducoquelicot.com)



© Office du tourisme Haute Somme

The Lochnagar Crater: this impressive mine crater, 100 metres across and 30 metres deep, is a relic of the series of explosions which happened on 1st July 1916. It took place here, at 7:28 in the morning, and marked the start of the Battle of the Somme by the British.

Open every day • Oivillers-la-Boisselle

The South African National Memorial and Museum: erected in the heart of the Bois Delville, rechristened the Devil's Wood, these two edifices pay homage to the South African soldiers who received their baptism of fire here. Out of the 3,153 men who took part in the attack of 15th July, only 143 returned unharmed 5 days later.

Memorial open all year round. The Museum is open every day from February to the end of November except on Mondays.

Longueval • ☎ 0033 (0)3 2285 0217  
[www.delvillewood.com](http://www.delvillewood.com)



© Nicolas Bryant



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### Belfries

23 belfries in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region and the Somme department were given World Heritage listing by UNESCO in July 2005! Originally, a belfry was erected as a sign of the independence of a commune, as a symbol of liberty. Over the centuries, it has become the symbol of the power and prosperity of the commune.

Amiens  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2222 5897  
[www.visit-amiens.com](http://www.visit-amiens.com)  
Abbeville  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2224 0849  
[www.ville-abbeville.fr](http://www.ville-abbeville.fr)  
Doullens and Lucheux  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2232 5452  
[www.doullens-tourisme.com](http://www.doullens-tourisme.com)  
Rue  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2225 6994  
[www.ville-rue.fr](http://www.ville-rue.fr)  
Saint-Riquier  
☎ 0033 (0)3 2228 9172  
[www.saint-riquier.com](http://www.saint-riquier.com)



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