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LILLE 2015



ALL YOU NEED IS LILLE

Press Release

Just 80 minutes away from London, 1 hour from Paris and 35 minutes from Brussels, Lille could quite easily have melted into the shadows of its illustrious neighbours, but instead it is more than happy to cultivate and show off all that makes it stand out from the crowd!

Flemish, Burgundian and then Spanish before it became French, Lille boasts **a spectacular heritage**. A trading town since the Middle Ages, a stronghold under Louis XIV, a hive of industry in the 19th century and an ambitious hub in the 20th century, Lille is now imbued with the memories of the past, interweaved with its visions for the future.

While the Euralille area is a focal point of bold architecture by Rem Koolhaas, Jean Nouvel or Christian de Portzamparc, the Lille-Sud area is becoming a Mecca for fashionistas. Since 2007, some young fashion designers (sponsored by Agnès b.) have set up workshops and boutiques in this new “fashion district” in the making. With lille3000, it’s the whole city that has started to look towards the future, enjoying a dramatic makeover for this new recurrent event, geared towards contemporary art and innovation.

The **European Capital of Culture in 2004**, Lille is now a leading light in this field, with the arts making themselves quite at home here. From great museums to new alternative art centres, from the Opera to the theatres through the National Orchestra, culture is a living and breathing part of everyday life here.

Proud of its **tradition of festivities and fine food**, the capital of the Nord-Pas de Calais Region is still a reassuringly easy-going city, where you are bound to be bowled over by the Northerners’ generosity and warmth. Thanks to this unique charm, Lille offers visitors **a tempting mix of Flemish cheerfulness and French elegance**, in the youngest region of France!



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LILLE

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UNDERSTANDING LILLE

The founding legend

According to a delightful legend, Lille was founded by the hero **Lydéric du Buc**.

In 620, Salvaert, prince of Dijon, was driven out of Burgundy by a revolt. He headed for England, accompanied by his wife Ermengaert and an escort of loyal supporters.

In the Buc country, he crossed the sinister “Forest of No Mercy”, named after the crimes committed by the lord of the land, the cruel giant Phinaert. Master of the Deûle marshes, Phinaert and his companions massacred Salvaert and his escort.

Miraculously, the pregnant Ermengaert managed to escape and take refuge in the forest where the Virgin Mary appeared to her and predicted the birth of a son who would avenge his father’s death and become lord of the land. Ermengaert gave birth to her child and managed to hide him before being captured by Phinaert. The child was taken in by a hermit who gave him his own name, Lydéric; a deer nursed him.

When he was 18 years old and had become a handsome young man, Lydéric entered the service of the King of England. However, he came back to the continent in 640 and asked King Dagobert to organise a legal duel. Lydéric fought Phinaert on the Pont de Fins, killed him and freed his mother.

Lydéric was given Phinaert’s land and possessions by the King of France and was given the title of First Flemish Prince. Drawn by the security Lydéric provided, the people flocked to settle around his château. And the town of Lille was born...

Lydéric and Phinaert’s features can be seen on two giant processional figures on display in the council room of the town hall. Their stone effigies also support the town hall belfry.



UNDERSTANDING LILLE

The history of Lille

The first written evidence of the existence of the town of Lille may be found in a charter dating back to 1066 in which Baudouin V, Count of Flanders, endowed the Saint-Pierre collegiate church. In this document **the town is called Isla**, from the Latin insula, literally meaning island. In fact, Lille was born out of the water of the Deûle River, a slow-flowing tributary situated on a major route between the great Flemish towns and the Champagne fairs. The town initially developed at a transhipment point on the Deûle River, which required boats to be unloaded until they reached a more navigable section of the river. The town's origins were therefore as a port, which preceded its role as a merchant town.

In the Middle Ages the city was organised around the forum, the market square (now called the Grand Place) and the castrum (now Vieux Lille). The castrum was a fortified urban centre, enclosed by protective watercourses. It included the castle mound (demolished during the construction of the 'Cathédrale de la Treille') and the Residence of the Counts of Flanders, known by the name of 'Palais de la Salle', which is no longer in existence.

Through a succession of political marriages, Lille shared in the existence of several dynasties without violence.

Lille was initially the **possession of the powerful Counts of Flanders** and was coveted by the Kings of France. After the battle of Bouvines (1214), during which her husband Ferrand of Portugal was taken prisoner, Countess Jeanne of Flanders governed alone and made Lille her primary residence.

In 1369, Marguerite de Mâle, the last Countess of Flanders, married her second husband, Philippe the Hardy, Duke of Burgundy. When Louis de Mâle died in 1384, **Lille became part of Burgundy**. This was a time of prosperity for the town. The dukes made it one of their favourite residences, along with Dijon and Brussels. Under their government, Lille was the setting for some magnificent banquets, notably those of the two chapters of "The Golden Fleece" (1431 and 1436) and the lively "Pheasant Banquet" (1454). In 1453, Philippe the Good ordered the construction of the immense Palais Rihour to house his court of 1200 people.

Lille's destiny changed radically again in 1477 with the death of Charles the Bold. His daughter, Marie de Bourgogne, married Maximilian of Austria, son of emperor Frederick III of the Hapsburg family. **Lille became part of the Spanish Netherlands, from Charles V to Philippe IV**. In 1598, Philippe II gave The Netherlands, now a sovereign state, to his daughter Isabelle who was married to Archduke Albert. This was Lille's golden age and many prestigious buildings were built, including the Commercial Exchange (now known as the 'Vieille Bourse').

UNDERSTANDING LILLE

The history of Lille

But the main break in Lille's history came in 1667, **when the town was conquered by Louis XIV** in the midst of the War of Devolution.

The look of the town changed drastically with the introduction of the classical French style. From 1667 to 1670, the architect Vauban set about building 'the queen of citadels'. From 1670 a new district began to take form, the 'quartier Royal', which was remarkable for the regularity of its road layout. Nobles and dignitaries chose this neighbourhood to build their sumptuous private mansions. Renovation also spread to the old part of the city where the City Council ensured the coherence of building styles. This was how the rows of almost identical houses were constructed, combining the French style of the period with local architectural traditions.

During the War of Succession with Spain, Lille was conquered by the Dutch, and **became French once and for all in 1713 with the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht.**

The Revolution saw the rise to power of a liberal, dynamic and entrepreneurial middle class. Under their momentum, Lille became a great industrial power in the 19th century, its main industries being metalwork, chemistry and, most importantly, textiles (cotton and linen).

In 1858, at the height of its industrial expansion, the town underwent major growth. By annexing the neighbouring communes of Wazemmes, Esquermes, Moulins and Fives, Lille tripled its surface area and doubled its population. Large avenues and vast squares were laid out in Haussmann style and were the setting for imposing monuments such as the Prefecture, the Palais des Beaux-Arts and the universities.

The industrial crisis that began in the 1970s hit the town in the '80s. Every sector of activity was affected, beginning with the textile industry. Unemployment went from 3% in 1975 to 13% in 1990.

Lille entered a period of restructuring based on the development of the service sector. The city of factories and workshops was replaced by one of offices and services and, in a certain way, appears to have rediscovered its medieval role as a merchant city. The Lille-Paris TGV link in 1993, as well as the creation of the new Euralille district and the arrival of Eurostar in 1994, has allowed the city to enter the third millennium with confidence.

France's fourth largest metropolitan area, an international crossroads and a dynamic financial centre, Lille is also an artistic and historic city. In 2004, it was designated as the **European Capital of Culture**. Since then, Lille has become an important tourist destination, recognised for its welcoming living environment, well-preserved heritage and active cultural life.



UNDERSTANDING LILLE

Lille timeline

1066: Lille is mentioned for the first time in a charter in which Baudouin V, Count of Flanders, endowed the Saint-Pierre collegiate church (a church he himself probably established in 1055).

1363: Marguerite de Mâle (only child of Louis de Mâle, Count of Flanders) marries Philippe the Hardy, Duke of Burgundy.

1384: Death of Louis de Mâle. Lille becomes Burgundian and will remain so until 1482.

1431: The first chapter of the Order of the Golden Fleece in the Saint-Pierre collegiate church is established.

1454: Philippe the Good hosts the “Pheasant Banquet”.

1477: Death of Charles the Bold. His daughter, Marie of Burgundy, and her husband, Maximilian of Austria, take control of the city. At the death of Marie of Burgundy, Maximilian reigns until his son, Philippe the Handsome, reaches his majority.

1506: Charles succeeds Philippe the Handsome. He becomes King of Spain in 1516 and Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire in 1519 under the name of Charles V.

1598: Philippe II of Spain yields Lille and the Spanish Netherlands to his daughter Isabelle, who marries Archduke Albert.

1667: Siege and capture of the city by Louis XIV.

1667-1670: Construction of the Citadel by Vauban.

1708-1713: The Dutch capture and occupy the city.

1713: Lille becomes French once and for all with the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht.

1792: The Austrians lay siege to the city but Lille resists courageously.

1803: Napoleon Bonaparte chooses Lille to replace Douai as the capital city of the Nord

region.

1846: Inauguration of the first Paris-Lille railway.

1858: Lille undergoes its largest expansion. With the annexation of the communes of Fives, Moulins, Esquermes and Wazemmes, the city’s surface area triples and its population doubles.

1888: The Internationale, composed by Lille native Pierre Degeyter, is sung for the first time in Lille.

1890: Charles de Gaulle is born in the home of his maternal grandparents on Rue Princesse.

1913: The bishopric of Lille is created. The church de la Treille becomes a cathedral.

1919: Demolition of the old city walls; they are replaced by large boulevards.

1968: The first Paris-Lille motorway is opened.

1980: Creation of a protected district in the Vieux Lille quarter.

1983: Inauguration of the world’s first automatic metro, the VAL (light automatic vehicle).

1987: Construction of a new business district, Euralille, begins.

1993: The first Paris-Lille TGV.

1994: The first Lille-London Eurostar. Inauguration of the new Euralille district and of the Lille-Europe TGV station.

1995: The first Lille-Brussels TGV.

1997: Reopening of the Palais des Beaux-Arts (Fine Arts Museum).

1998: Lille is nominated to be the European Capital of Culture for 2004.

2001: Lille is listed as a tourist destination.

6 December 2003: Official launch of the Lille 2004 European Capital of Culture festivities. More than 600,000 people partici-

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Lille timeline

pate in the great white opening gala held in Lille's streets.

2004: Lille is the European Capital of Culture.

18 June 2004: Lille receives the City of Art and History label.

2011: Lille gets a third star in the Michelin Green Guide.

Implementation of a self-service bike system (V'lille).

Summer 2012: Inauguration of the **Stade Pierre-Mauroy** in Villeneuve d'Ascq. It is the first multi-purpose retractable-roof stadium in France, with a capacity of more than 50,000 seats for football or rugby matches. www.grandstade-lillemetropole.com

4 December 2012: Inauguration of the **Louvre-Lens museum** in Lens (25 miles from Lille). In a brand new building designed by Japanese architects Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa (SANAA agency), collections from the Louvre is put on display in a temporary and cross-disciplinary manner. www.louvrelens.fr

18 July 2014: Inauguration of a new **WW1 museum** in Fromelles.

And soon...

2015: Opening of the **Villa Cavrois** in Croix (near Roubaix). Famous modernist private home designed in 1929-1932 by French architect Robert Mallet-Stevens.

2015: opening of a new **Maison du Tourisme** (Tourisme Centre) in Lille.

2015: lille3000's cultural season, called **Renaissance**.



UNDERSTANDING LILLE

Lille in figures

Population

- **220,000** inhabitants in Lille (10th largest city in France)
- 1.1 million inhabitants in Lille Metropole (85 towns), **France's 4th largest urban area** derrière Paris, Lyon et Marseille
- 1.8 million inhabitants in the Franco-Belgian Eurometropolis, including the Belgian areas of Kortrijk, Mouscron, Roeselare, Tournai and Ypres.
- Lille is the capital of Nord-Pas de Calais (4 million inhabitants)
- **36% of the population of Lille Metropole is under 25 years of age.**

Economy

- **100,000 students** and 3,000 lecturer-researchers: France's 3rd largest university complex (after Paris and Lyon)
- Working population: 500,000 people
- **European Capital of distance selling** (La Redoute, Les 3 Suisses, La Blanche Porte) **and large-scale distribution** (Auchan, Camaïeu, Castorama, Décathlon, Leroy-Merlin, Norauto, Pimkie, etc.)
- France's leading centre for clothing and technical textiles
- France's 2nd city for accommodating international head offices
- 2nd largest insurance centre (6 head offices, including AG2R - La Mondiale and Lloyd Continental)
- France's 3rd largest river port
- 3rd largest centre for banking, food processing (Bénédicta, Bonduelle, Heineken, Leroux, Lesaffre, Paul, Roquette, etc.) and mechanical and electrical industries (Dassault)
- 3rd largest office market
- In Lille Metropole, **4 clusters are granted by the French Government:** MAUD (sustainable materials for domestic use), NSL (Nutrition, Health, Longevity), PICOM (trade industries), Up-Tex (innovative textiles) and I-Trans (rail transport).

Tourism

- **more than 350,000 people visited the Tourist Office in 2014**, out of an estimated total of 1 to 2 million tourists in Lille.
- 55% are foreign visitors, of 60 different nationalities and from 5 continents
- 123 approved hotels with a total of 8,000 rooms
- + 1.5 million travellers in Lille-Lesquin airport (2014)
- environ 22 millions de voyageurs par an dans les gares de Lille
- Lille Grand Palais: 300 events a year (exhibitions, conferences, performances), with 1 million visitors.

KNOWING LILLE

The main sites and monuments



PALAIS RIHOUR (PLACE RIHOUR)

It is the only architectural reminder of the period during which the dukes of Burgundy ruled Lille. **Begun in 1453 by Philippe the Good**, it was completed 20 years later by his son, Charles the Bold. At the time, the buildings formed a huge quadrilateral around a central courtyard.

The palace was abandoned in the 16th and 17th centuries, but was bought by the City Council in 1664 and became the town hall. A number of illustrious guests, such as Henry VIII of England, Charles V and Louis XV, stayed there.

Damaged by fire in 1700 and largely redesigned by Lille architect Charles Benvignat in 1846, it was home to the town hall until the accidental fire of 1916. Only the main staircase and the two superimposed chapels were left undamaged. On the ground floor, the low chapel, known as the “Salle des Gardes”, now houses the Tourist Office. Upstairs, the “Salle du Conclave” is the former ducal chapel, next to which is a sacristy illuminated by antique stained glass windows.

On the facade, the monumental straight

staircase heralds the arrival of the **Renaissance**, while the chapels are in **flamboyant gothic style**. On the west wing, a projecting tower contains a spiral staircase known as the “Garde des Joyaux”, whose vault is a marvellous example of brickwork (not open to visitors).

The “Salle des Gardes” (Tourist Office) is open every day (except the 1st of January, the 1st of May and the 25th of December), Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm, and Sunday and bank holidays from 10 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm.

The “Salle du Conclave” is open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm, and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm. Opening times may change depending on scheduled events.

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RUE RIHOUR

Between the Place Rihour and the Grand Place, Rue Rihour allows us to follow **the evolution in Lille's architecture** through two facing rows of houses.

The even-numbered row was built around 1687, twenty years before the city was annexed to France under Louis XIV. At the time, the wealth of a Lille merchant could be measured by the exuberance of his facade.

The odd-numbered row was built nearly fifty years later (1733) and already illustrates the influence of the French style through the simplicity of its lines and the almost exclusive use of stone.

On both sides, the ground floors of the buildings were made of sandstone to prevent rising damp. In fact, Lille was originally an island, and many plots of land in the city are marshy.

GRAND PLACE

Its official name is Place du Général de Gaulle, in tribute to Charles de Gaulle who was born in Lille in 1890.

The Grand Place has always been the beating heart of the city. **In the city's early days**, it was the forum or market place, as illustrated by a few old cobblestones at the foot of the Goddess column.

Today, it is where crowds gather spontaneously. It is a habitual meeting place and venue for festivities. At the slightest hint of sunshine, the restaurant and café terraces are literally taken by storm.

Despite their eclecticism, the facades of the Grand Place form a harmonious whole and offer an interesting **view of Lille's architecture from the 17th to the 20th centuries**.

The Vieille Bourse (old stock exchange)

It is without doubt the **finest monument in the city**.

The decision to build it was made in 1651, to offer a home for tradesmen and financiers, who, up until then, usually met in the open air. The project was entrusted to architect Julien Destrée in **1652-1653**.

It appears to be one whole building, but in fact is made up of twenty-four identical houses, built at the expense of twenty-four merchants. They form a quadrilateral around an arched courtyard, whose peaceful atmosphere contrasts with the bustle of the surrounding streets. Entry is via four gates guarded by Flanders lions, a reminder of the city's former attachment to The Netherlands.

The **abundant sculpted décor** of the multicoloured facades offers an infinite variety of pilasters animated by Atlases and Caryatids. Above the windows, the arched or triangular pediments are adorned with rotund cartouches, garlands of flowers and plump fruits in Flemish Renaissance style.

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On the second floor, the trademarks of big modern firms are painted discreetly. Thanks to their sponsorship, major restoration work in the 1990s returned the building to its former glory.

On the Grand Place side, a lantern tower topped by a statuette of Mercury, god of trade and messengers, reminds us of Lille's trading traditions and enterprising spirit.

The **inner courtyard** of the "Vieille Bourse" is open every afternoon from Tuesday to Sunday. It houses a second-hand book market and, sometimes, chess players. Tango evenings are held here on Sundays from 7 pm to 10 pm from July to September.

The Goddess Column

Standing in the centre of the Grand Place, the column **commemorates Lille's resistance to the Austrian siege in September 1792**. In her right hand, the bronze Goddess holds a linstock used to light the fuses on cannons. Her left hand points to an inscription engraved on the base, the courageous response of the Mayor of Lille, André, refusing to surrender the besieged city. This victory was also saluted by the National Convention, proclaiming that "Lille had fully deserved its place in our country". The monument, designed by



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architect Charles Benvignat, was erected in 1845. The Goddess' sculptor was Théophile Bra, from Douai, who also created two bas-reliefs on the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

The Grand Garde

Built in 1717 by Thomas Joseph Gombert, it symbolized the King of France's royal presence in the centre of the recently annexed city. The building was in fact used to house soldiers from the sentry guard. More particularly, it **introduced a new style of classical architecture** to a Flemish city built of brick and stone.

On the triangular pediment, we can see the sun of Louis XIV, and, on either side, the coats of arms of France and Lille.

It is currently the headquarters of the "Théâtre du Nord", directed by Christophe Rauck.

La Voix du Nord

Successor to the "Echo du Nord" founded in 1819, La Voix du Nord was born in 1941 within the French Resistance and was to become the region's leading daily newspaper in 1944. On the building's imposing facade, built by Albert Laprade in **1935-1936**, you can read the names of the twenty-eight towns that publish the newspaper. At the top of the corbie-step gable, a golden bronze statue by sculptor Raymond Couvignes portrays the **three Graces**, symbolising the provinces in the Nord-Pas de Calais region. On the left, maritime Artois carries a Newfoundland terrier. In the center, Flandre holds a sheaf of wheat and, on the right, Hainaut releases a carrier pigeon (a "coulon").

The Furet du Nord

Founded in 1936, the "Furet du Nord" has been established on the Grand Place in Lille since 1959. Its name refers both to a local tradition for hunting rabbits with ferrets ("furet") and to the transformation of a furrier's shop into a bookshop. In its early days, the Furet was France's leading self-service bookshop. Today, its 8,000 m² dedicated to culture and leisure make it **one of the largest bookshops in Europe**.

The shop is open Monday to Saturday, from 9:30 am to 7:30 pm. www.furet.com.

PLACE DU THÉÂTRE

An extension of the Grand Place, it owes its name to a theatre built in the neo-classical style in 1785 by Lille architect Michel Lequeux and destroyed by fire in 1903.

The square offers an excellent view of the very Haussmann-like Rue Faidherbe, which was laid out in 1870 to link the station with the city centre. At the end of the street, the facade of the Lille-Flandres station is that of the former **Gare du Nord in Paris**, built by Léonce Reynaud between 1845 and 1846 and re-erected here between 1867 and 1869, with the addition of the central bay, the upper floor and the clock.

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The Opera House

In 1907, following the fire at the theatre, Lille architect Louis-Marie Cordonnier was given the task of building an Opera House, **in the style of those built by Charles Garnier** in Paris and Monte Carlo.

Built just before the First World War, it was inaugurated by the Germans in 1914, then a second time by the French in 1923.

On the pediment above the facade, Apollo surrounded by his muses is the work of sculptor Hippolyte Lefebvre. On the left, the allegory of Music is by Amedée Cordonnier while, on the right, that of Tragedy is by Hector Lemaire.

Reopened in December 2003 after six years of restoration, the interior contains a monumental staircase and a **sumptuous décor in Louis XVI style** made of marble, stucco, bronze, gold and sparkling crystals.

The Italian-style auditorium is one of the last examples built in France and can hold 1,136 spectators.

Apart from scheduled performances, the Opera House may be visited during open days organised each season.

The Chamber of Commerce

Founded in 1701 by Louis XIV, the institution sat in various places in the city until industrial growth meant that a new building had to be erected (1906-1921). It is situated at the beginning of Boulevard Carnot, opened in 1909 by engineer Alfred Mongy to link Lille with Roubaix and Tourcoing.

As with the Opera House, the chosen architect was Louis-Marie Cordonnier from Lille, who had just won the competition for the construction of the Amsterdam Stock Exchange. Here, he used a **neo-regionalist style** inspired by the Beauregard row (1687) just opposite.

The **belfry**, 76 metres high, symbolises the power of the merchant cities (can't be visited). In 2015, the Chamber of Commerce will become a luxury shopping centre with restaurants. The Chamber of Commerce offices have moved to the Lille harbour.

The Beauregard row

In 1667, the Lille City Council wanted to create uniformity in new buildings to ensure that they were in harmony with existing buildings, particularly the "Vieille Bourse". Rules were imposed on owners: new buildings had to be aligned with their neighbours and follow a standard blueprint design of three floors over a huge cellar, with an attic above. Only stone and brick were authorised.

With its simple lines dominated by a vertical momentum and its discreet decoration of cartouches with angels' heads, scrolls and cornucopias, this row of houses built in 1687 by Simon Vollant represents a **combination of 17th century French architectural style and the local tradition**. A few cannon balls can still be seen stuck in the facades, a reminder



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of the Austrian siege of Lille in 1792.

VIEUX LILLE (OLD TOWN)

The most picturesque district of the city extends north from the Grand Place and covers nearly two square kilometres. It includes two different areas, each with distinctive architecture: **the historic Flemish old town and the royal district**.

Between the Grand Place and the Notre-Dame de la Treille cathedral, the historic Flemish old town is teeming with boutiques, art galleries, cafes and restaurants. This is more or less the former castrum, which was the original core of the city. Its cobbled streets, often narrow and sometimes winding, follow the route of former canals. There are still many small houses from the first half of the 17th century, with facades of sandstone, brick and limestone. The most beautiful ones are **brightly painted and covered with baroque sculptures**. Some show typical triangular corbie-step gables. (See the rue Lepelletier, rue de la Monnaie, rue Basse, rue de Gand, place Louise de Bettignies and place aux Oignons). To the west of the cathedral and up to the Deûle River, lies the royal district. It developed from 1670 onwards, in order to connect the newly built Citadel with the rest of the city. The perfectly straight streets are lined with **aristocratic houses and mansions in the French classical style**. (See the rue Royale and its cross streets).

The Notre-Dame de la Treille cathedral (place Gilleson)

It is built on the site of the former Madame “motte”, a mound 10 to 12 metres high on which the original castle of the Counts of Flanders was probably built, and which was surrounded by the Cirque canal. The canal took its name from a green cirque from which hot air balloons set off in the early days of aerostation. The mound was flattened and the canal drained in 1848.

In 1854, the idea of building an imposing basilica on this site dedicated to the Virgin Mary was born. Lille had been known for the miraculous statue of the Virgin protected by an iron trellis (hence her name “Notre-Dame de la Treille” – Our Lady of the Trellis) since the Middle Ages.

The 13th century Gothic style, with the cathedrals of Reims, Amiens and Chartres as references, was imposed on the architects. The initial project was massive: 132 metres long, with spires reaching up to over 115 metres. However, wars and financial difficulties soon put an end to these plans. With the creation of the bishopric of Lille in 1913, the basilica became a cathedral, but the project, although reduced to more modest proportions, began to drag on and the cathedral remained unfinished.

It was not until the 1990s that public funding allowed for the completion of the **main facade, inaugurated in 1999**. Designed by Lille architect Pierre-Louis Carlier, it is the result of great **technical prowess**, made possible by the collaboration of Peter Rice (engineer for the Sydney Opera House and the Pompidou Centre in Paris). The central section is composed of a 30-metre high ogive, covered with 110 sheets of white marble 28 milli-

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metres thick, supported by a metal structure. From the inside, this translucent veil reveals a surprising orange-pink colour.

At the top, the glass rose window on the theme of the Resurrection is the work of artist Ladislav Kijno. The iron doorway is by Jewish sculptor Georges Jeanclos.

Inside, the cathedral boasts a Danion-Gonzales organ, moved from the Maison de la Radio in Paris at the end of 2007. It is one of the 4 biggest in France with 102 stops and 7 600 pipes.

The Cathedral is open every day, from 9:30 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 6:30 pm (non-stop on Thursdays and until 7 pm in summer).

THE P'TIT QUINQUIN STATUE (SQUARE FOCH, RUE NATIONALE)

In 1853 in Lille, Alexandre Desrousseaux composed L'canchon dormoire (literally Lullaby), which became famous under the name "P'tit Quinquin". Using the **local dialect**, it tells the touching story of a poor lace-maker from the Saint-Sauveur district who is trying to get her baby Narcisse to sleep.

The monument in Square Foch is a recent replica of the original, which is on display at the Town Hall. It is the work of sculptor Eugène Desplechin (1902).

THE TOWN HALL AND ITS BELFRY (PLACE ROGER SALENGRO)

The town hall belfry has been a **UNESCO World Heritage monument** since 2005.

After the fire in the Palais Rihour in 1916, the city council decided to build a new town hall in the working-class district of Saint-Sauveur, which had been badly hit by bombing in the First World War.

Designed by architect Emile Dubuisson, the town hall's size and the ingenious nature of its layout give it an impressive appearance. Built between 1924 and 1932 under Mayor Roger Salengro, it combines **the heritage of local traditions** (triangular gables, use of different colours, mullioned or basket-handle windows) and **modernity**, through the use of concrete for the structure and décor.

The use of concrete also allowed for the development of a very functional conception of the interior space. The building is designed around a 143-metre long gallery that is divided into three aisles by two series of columns with "Art Nouveau" motifs. More generally, the major aspects of the décor have Art Deco influences.

The staircases, corridors and council rooms are adorned with a fine collection of contemporary art. A fresco by the Icelandic artist Erro tells the eventful story of the city in comic strip form.

The belfry was built between 1929 and 1931 and inaugurated in 1932. It was the first building in France over 100 metres high to be made entirely of reinforced concrete. At **104 metres**, it is the highest belfry in the region. Designed to be a true "Flanders skyscraper", it is both a symbol of communal freedom and a landmark for the entire area. At its base are sculptures of the giants who founded the city, Lydéric and Phinaert. It has been listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO since September 2005, along with 22 other belfries in Northern France.

KNOWING LILLE

The main sites and monuments



The Town Hall is open Monday to Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm and on Saturdays from 8 am to 12 pm.

The belfry is open to visitors (with binoculars and an audio-guide available in English, Dutch, German and French). From Wednesday to Sunday from 9.30 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5.30 pm (opening hours subject to change, see the Lille Tourism and Convention Bureau for more information).

The Old Paris Gate (place Simon Volland)

This **Triumphal Arch** was built on the ramparts (no longer in existence) from 1685 to 1692, to celebrate Louis XIV's conquest of Lille in 1667. It replaced the original Porte des Malades (Sick-Quarter Gate), which had formed a part of the city wall since the Middle Ages.

Simon Volland, architect of the Citadel alongside Vauban, developed a sculpted décor that expressed the Sun King's power and magnificence. At the top, Victory, sitting amongst trophies of arms and flags, places a crown of laurels on the head of Louis XIV, which is

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KNOWING LILLE

The main sites and monuments

carved in a medallion. On the right, in a niche, Hercules, with his club, symbolises strength. To the left is Mars, the god of war.

THE CITADEL (AVENUE DU 43^E RÉGIMENT D'INFANTERIE)

This fort was built between 1667 and 1670 by Sébastien le Prestre, marquis de **Vauban**, by order of Louis XIV, who had just conquered the city. It formed part of the “Pré Carré”, a double line of strongholds stretching from the North Sea to the Meuse to protect the borders.

It is a true city within a city, surrounded by bastions that form a five-pointed star. Known as the “**Queen of Citadels**”, Vauban himself said that it was the finest and most accomplished citadel in the kingdom. It is **a masterpiece of fortification**, urban art and French architecture.

The Lille Citadel is still occupied by the army and may only be visited as part of a guided tour (in French only) organised by the Tourist Office.

EURALILLE

Designed at the end of the 1980s by Dutch urban designer and architect **Rem Koolhaas**, and built between 1993 and 1995, the main part of the Euralille district is centred around the **Lille Europe TGV High Speed Train station** (by architect Jean-Marie Duthilleul). The futuristic lines of this “new part of town” have become a symbol of the city’s transformation from an industrial capital to a metropolitan area based on the service sector.

Transparency is the motto for the various buildings that make up the district. Glass, combined with other raw materials, particularly concrete and steel, prevails.

The main buildings were designed by the most prestigious names in contemporary architecture: **Christian de Portzamparc** for the Lille Tower, **Claude Vasconi** for the Lilleurope Tower and **Jean Nouvel** for the Euralille shopping centre. Rem Koolhaas also designed the Lille Grand Palais, a vast ellipse that houses a convention centre, exhibition centre and auditorium all under one roof.

The Le Corbusier viaduct (by architect François Deslaugiers) offers an overlook of the Parc Matisse. This 8-hectare garden, created by landscape designer Gilles Clément, leads to the Porte de Roubaix (1620). In its centre, an inaccessible 2500-m² island set on a 7-metre high foundation has remained untouched by man.

In the Place François Mitterrand, between Lille Europe station and the shopping centre, the giant, multicoloured tulips by Japanese artist **Yayoi Kusama** are a lasting reminder of lille2004 European Capital of Culture.

Since 2000, the Euralille district has extended south with the creation of two new sectors: the Chaude Rivière and Euralille 2.

At the end of 2009, the Chaude Rivière sector saw the completion of the Onyx building



KNOWING LILLE

The main sites and monuments

designed by **Dominique Perrault** (creator of the François Mitterrand French National Library in Paris) and of the Barrière hotel and casino complex created by **Jean-Paul Viguier**.

The Euralille 2 sector extends over 22 hectares and brings together public facilities, green spaces, offices and accommodation. It is dominated by the huge headquarters of the Nord-Pas de Calais region (51 000 m²), designed by **Jean-Michel Wilmotte**, **Gilles Neveux** and **Luc Delemazure** (who designed sets for shows by Johnny Halliday) and opened in 2007. Its “Signal” tower, a sort of 21st-century belfry, is 67 metres high. Most of the accommodation has been built in an inhabited wood, specially created to accommodate buildings of a reduced height and town houses.

KNOWING LILLE

The main sites and monuments

THE « MAISONS FOLIE » (MAISON FOLIE DE WAZEMMES : 70 RUE DES SARRAZINS / MAISON FOLIE DE MOULINS : 47-49 RUE D'ARRAS) AND THE «CECU»

For the lille2004 European Capital of Culture year, 12 “maisons Folie” were created throughout the Nord-Pas de Calais region and in Belgium.

These **newly redesigned venues** in the heart of each district are used by artists, associations and inhabitants as places where people can meet, create and exchange ideas. They offer exhibition areas, rehearsal rooms, artists' residences, auditoriums, and more.

In Lille, **abandoned industrial buildings** were renovated to house the two “maisons Folie”. The Wazemmes district's “maison Folie” is **a former spinning mill**, to which was added a contemporary wing by **the Dutch architectural group NOX**, on the lines of a waving metallic shell. The former factory's vaulted brick basement now houses oriental baths. In the Moulines district, **a former brewery and malt factory** was also transformed. Its buildings, arranged around a central courtyard, bear witness to the attention given to architectural detail on 19th century industrial buildings.

In october 2014, **a cultural centre dedicated to street arts and to hip hop opened in Lille**. Right next to the maison Folie de Moulines, it gives artists a space to work in as well as a cultural space for the inhabitant of Moulines.

Maison Folie Wazemmes: 70 rue des Sarrazins / www.mfwazemmes-lille.fr

Maison Folie de Moulines: 47-49 rue d'Arras / www.mfmoulines-lille.fr

CECU: 2 rue de Fontenoy / www.cec-lille.fr

GARE SAINT SAUVEUR (BOULEVARD JEAN-BAPTISTE LEBAS)

The Gare Saint Sauveur (boulevard Jean-Baptiste Lebas)

Inaugurated in March 2009, the Saint-Sauveur site (around 15 hectares) is **a former goods train station closed in 2003**. Rehabilitated by the city authorities (Dora Marques architect), it comprises a large exterior square and two spacious, covered exhibition halls. Hall A, built in 1865, is a prime example of traditional architecture with its 1000 m² brick, metal and wood structure. It now houses a bar and a cinema. Hall B, built in the 1930s, is an immense concrete nave. Its 5000 m² welcome exhibitions, concerts, clubbing events, and more.

From the moment they enter the complex, visitors are welcomed by **a monumental sculpture by the Russian artists of the AES+F Group**: a 6-meter-tall chubby-cheeked baby, strangely endowed with bat wings and made out of glossy black fibreglass. The tone is set – Saint-Sauveur is the place for festivals and contemporary art, in an offbeat frame of mind!



KNOWING LILLE

The main museums

THE FINE ARTS MUSEUM (PLACE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE)

Thanks to the quality of its permanent collections, the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Lille is considered to be **the second largest general-interest museum in France**, just after the Louvre.

The building, completed between 1885 and 1892, is typical of late 19th-century monumental architecture.

Fully renovated in 1997, its 22,000 m² house prestigious collections of European painting (Rubens, Van Dyck, Goya, Delacroix, etc), a few key examples of 19th century French painting (David's Belisarius, Courbet's L'après-dînée à Ornans, Puvis de Chavannes' The Slumber, etc), a large collection of drawings (including 40 sheets by Raphaël), a sculpture gallery (Carpeaux, Rodin, Claudel, Bartholdi, etc) and 17th- and 18th century ceramics. Also worthy of note is the presentation of relief maps (18th century models) of fifteen fortified towns in Northern France and Belgium, used by the French Kings during wars. The administrative building's "mirror" façade, in which the historic building is reflected, won the "Equerre d'Argent" (French architectural prize) for its architects Jean-Marc Ibos and Myrto Vitart in 1997.

Open on Mondays from 2 pm to 6 pm and Wednesday to Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. Closed on Tuesdays and some bank holidays.

Phone: +33 (0)3 20 06 78 00. www.pba-lille.fr.

Free with the Lille's City Pass and on the first Sunday of every month.

THE HOSPICE COMTESSE MUSEUM (32 RUE DE LA MONNAIE)

Located in the heart of Vieux Lille (old town), the museum is housed in the hospital founded in 1237 by Countess Jeanne de Flandre and which remained in service until 1939. The current buildings date back to the 15th, 17th and 18th centuries. They consist of a hospital ward with a panelled barrel vault ceiling, a chapel decorated with the coats of arms of the hospital's main benefactors, and buildings belonging to the community of Augustine nuns, all arranged around two courtyards and a medicinal garden.

Since 1962, these buildings have served as the setting for a collection of paintings, tapestries, wood sculptures and porcelain from the region, thus creating the peaceful atmosphere of **a small 17th century Flemish convent**.

A major restoration campaign has brought the facades back to their former glory.

Open on Mondays from 2 pm to 6 pm and Wednesday to Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. Closed on Tuesdays and some bank holidays.

Phone: +33 (0)3 28 36 84 00.

Free with the Lille's City Pass and on the first Sunday of every month.

THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY (19 RUE DE BRUXELLES)

Located in the former university district, this museum offers **a journey through time and across the continents**.



KNOWING LILLE

The main museums

Ethnographic and industrial collections have been gradually added to the original zoology and geology galleries. This type of collection is unique in France and includes over 250,000 objects. The museum regularly organises temporary exhibitions in which to present them.

Open from Monday to Friday from 9 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm, and on Sundays from 10 am to 5 pm. Closed on Tuesdays, Saturdays and some bank holidays.

Phone: +33 (0)3 28 55 30 80.

Free with the Lille's City Pass and on the first Sunday of every month.

CHARLES DE GAULLE'S BIRTHPLACE (9 RUE PRINCESSE)

Charles de Gaulle was born in Lille on November 22, 1890, in the house of his maternal grandparents at 9 Rue Princesse. He was baptised on the same day in the nearby Saint-André church.

Listed as a Historic Monument, the house was bought in 1967 by a group of friends of the General. Now a museum, it recreates the atmosphere of a typical late 19th-century home of the northern French industrial middle class. The exhibited **family keepsakes and personal objects** (cradle, christening robe, Saint-Cyr sword, etc.) are a reminder of De Gaulle's younger days. A recently-developed multimedia centre also looks back over the great statesman's historic work.

Open Wednesday to Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm and on Sundays from 1:30 pm to 6.30 pm (last admission 1 hour before closing). Closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and bank holidays. Closed between Christmas and New Year.

Phone: +33 (0)3 59 73 00 30. www.lenord.fr/maisondegaulle

Free with Lille's City Pass.

THE CONTEMPORARY SACRED ART CENTRE (MODERN CRYPT OF THE NOTRE-DAME DE LA TREILLE CATHEDRAL, PLACE GILLESON)

Currently closed for renovation. Due to reopen in October 2013.

The Contemporary Sacred Art Centre organises temporary exhibitions that show, in rotation, the estimated 120 works of art that make up the outstanding 'Dunkirk Passion' collection, gathered by Gilbert Delaine.

Housed in a stunning concrete hall, the paintings, sculptures and photographs encourage contemplation and dialogue concerning **Christ's Passion and mankind's sufferings**.

Come discover works by Georg Baselitz, Sergio Ferro, Paul Jenkins, Ladislav Kijno, Jean Roulland, Andy Warhol, and many others.

Phone: +33 (0)3 20 31 59 12 / www.facebook.com/centredartsacredelille

KNOWING LILLE

The main museums

Around Lille:

LA PISCINE, MUSEUM OF ART AND INDUSTRY IN ROUBAIX (23 RUE DE L'ESPÉRANCE)

This museum is housed in **a former Art Deco swimming pool** built by Lille architect Albert Baert between 1927 and 1932. It was converted in a museum in 2001 by The pool, shower cubicles and a few bathrooms have been kept to act as a background to an applied arts collection (ceramics, textiles, fashion, design furniture) and a collection of 19th- and 20th century paintings and sculptures (Ingres, Dufy, Claudel, etc.)

Open Tuesday to Thursday from 11 am to 6 pm, Fridays from 11 am to 8 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 pm to 6 pm. Closed on Mondays and bank holidays.

Phone: +33 (0)3 20 69 23 60.

Free with the Lille's City Pass and on the first Sunday of every month.

LAM, MODERN ART, CONTEMPORARY ART AND ART BRUT IN VILLENEUVE D'ASCQ (ALLÉE DU MUSÉE)

Founded in 1983 to house the Geneviève and Jean Masurel donation, the Lille Metropole Museum of Modern Art is located in the middle of a vast urban park in which monumental works by Deacon, Dodeigne, Lipchitz and Picasso stand side by side.

The permanent collection includes Cubist masterpieces (Picasso, Braque, Laurens, Léger) and significant works from the Fauvism (Derain, Rouault), Paris School (Modigliani, Utrillo, Buffet) and Surrealism (Miro, Masson) movements.

The museum also presents a wide range of contemporary art (Boltanski, Buren, Messager, Soulages), and France's largest collection of Art Brut (the Aracine donation). It is **the first museum in Europe to present modern art, contemporary art and Art Brut under the same roof.**

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. Closed on Mondays and some bank holidays.

Phone: +33 (0)3 20 19 68 68. www.musee-lam.fr.

Free with the Lille's City Pass and on the first Sunday of every month.

KNOWING LILLE

The main theatres

Lille has a large number of theatres and companies offering a wide variety of quality entertainment. The list below is not exhaustive but contains the main live entertainment venues in Lille Metropole.

LILLE OPERA HOUSE (PLACE DU THÉÂTRE)

Having been closed for 4 years for renovation work, the Lille Opera House re-opened its doors in late 2003 with a new team and new artistic projects. Lille Opera House stages three operas a year, with the participation of the Lille National Orchestra and two resident ensembles: the “Concert d’Astrée”, directed by Emmanuelle Haïm, and the contemporary music ensemble “Ictus”. Contemporary dance also plays a significant part in the programme. In addition, the season includes concerts and musical shows, with a total of around 90 performances.

Phone: +33 (0)820 48 9000 / www.opera-lille.fr

LILLE NATIONAL ORCHESTRA (30 PLACE MENDÈS FRANCE)

The LNO was founded in 1976 and has an ambitious plan to bring music to every sector of the public. In addition to performing its repertoire, it is involved in contemporary creation, promoting young talent, cultural activities and activities for children, all under the direction of its conductor, **Jean-Claude Casadesus**.

Phone: +33 (0)3 20 18 82 40 / www.onlille.com

THÉÂTRE DU NORD (4 PLACE DU GÉNÉRAL DE GAULLE)

Directed by **Christophe Rauck**, the Théâtre du Nord is a National Drama Centre whose dual role is to perform a repertoire of “great” works and support new work, particularly within the region.

Phone: +33 (0)3 20 14 24 24 / www.theatredunord.fr

ROUBAIX NORD-PAS DE CALAIS NATIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY CENTRE (33 RUE DE L'EPEULE À ROUBAIX)

The famous American choreographer **Carolyn Carlson** took over the direction of the ballet in December 2004. **Olivier Dubois** has been the new director since April 2013. He constructs his work in cooperation with an artistic company as well as other guest choreographers and resident companies.

Phone: +33 (0)3 20 24 66 66 / www.ccn-roubaix.com

THE TOURCOING «ATELIER LYRIQUE» (PERFORMANCES AT THE TOURCOING TOWN THEATRE)

In Tourcoing, **Jean-Claude Malgoire**, the undisputed master of baroque music, works

KNOWING LILLE

The main theatres

with the “Grande Ecurie” and “Chambre du Roy” to perform the finest operas of the 17th, 18th and 20th centuries.

Phone: +33 (0)3 20 70 66 66 / www.atelierlyriquedetourcoing.fr





LOVING LILLE

Festive Lille

Lille has a considerable and long-standing festive tradition. Fun-loving and outgoing, the city boasts the highest percentage of young people in France. Bustling energy marks all events, both large and small, festive and inviting participation, such as **the famous September “Braderie” (flea market).**

In 2004, **Lille European Capital of Culture** attracted 9 million people to 2 000 events. Today, lille3000 is taking up the torch. The focus of this new, recurrent cultural event is the future, innovation and contemporary creations. The first event, entitled Bombaysers de Lille, took place from October 2006 to January 2007 and turned the capital of Flanders into an Indian city.

After Europe XXL in 2009, the next edition, entitled Fantastic, took place from 6 October 2012 to 13 January 2013. There will a new lille3000 festival in 2015, **Renaissance.** Meanwhile, Lille moves to the rhythm of its carnivals and festivals of all kinds. And at nightfall the party went on in the numerous bars and clubs that make Lille nights famous...

A list of the main Lille events in 2013 is available upon request and to be downloaded from the press section of www.lilletourism.com.

A few important recurrent events:

- Art Up! : European contemporary art fair (February)
- “La Louche d’Or” (The Golden Ladle): international soup festival (1st May)
- Spring in Saint Sauveur (Spring)
- lille piano(s) festival (June)
- Latitudes Contemporaines - contemporary dance (June)
- “Braderie de Lille” (Lille flea market): the biggest flea market in Europe (5 & 6 September 2015)
- NAME festival: electro music festival (September)
- NEXT Festival - contemporary theatre & performances (November)
- Lille Christmas Market: 80 wooden chalets at Place Rihour (iNovember and December)



Spotlight on... the “Braderie de Lille” (Lille flea market)

According to historians, it goes back to the 12th century. At the time, the Fair took place a few days after Assumption, a period during which foreign merchants were exceptionally allowed to come to town to sell their products.

Non-professional sellers, who are referred to nowadays as the “Bradeux”, probably made their appearance at the start of the 16th century. At this time, servants obtained permission to sell their masters’ old clothes, as well as products in inferior condition, such as crockery and kitchen utensils.

Today, **the flea market takes place each year during the first weekend in September**. Preceded by a half-marathon on Saturday morning, the flea market officially opens at 2pm on Saturday and carries on until 11pm on Sunday (33 hours non-stop).

The city is transformed into a **huge pedestrian zone** where **thousands of traders, antique dealers, second-hand sellers and especially “Bradeux”** (non-professional sellers) continue a tradition, which is both commercial and festive! **All of the city’s restaurants sell mussels** during the flea market, and the dish is generally accompanied by a local beer. In addition, each restaurant participates in an unofficial competition to see which one is able to build the highest pile of empty mussels shells: it’s quite a sight!

2015 Braderie de Lille: 5 & 6 September



LOVING LILLE

Gourmet Lille

In this region of festivities and hospitality, we like to get together around a good table! Regional food is to be found in the “estaminets”, small Flemish restaurants with a rustic décor and a convivial atmosphere. Local favorites are “carbonnade”, “waterzoï” and “potjevleesch”, usually washed down with a traditional, locally-brewed beer. The Lillois chefs are also renowned for the French gastronomy in their gourmet brasseries and trendy or Michelin-starred restaurants.

LOCAL CUISINE

All the conviviality of the people of Lille can be found in their regional food. Tasty and hearty, these dishes are the product of an outstanding rural region, proudly upheld Flemish traditions, and a touch of the French “art de vivre”.

Amongst the many culinary specialities, three strange-sounding dishes embody all that is special about Lille cuisine: **carbonnade flamande** (small chunks of beef stewed in beer), **waterzoï** (poultry or fish in a creamy sauce, served with baby vegetables) and **potjevleesch** (literally “small potted meat”, a white meat terrine in aspic). There’s also rabbit with prunes for lovers of sweet-and-savoury dishes, and the famous “moules-frites” (mussels and chips), a culinary symbol of the great September “Braderie”!

This is all usually washed down with a traditional, **locally-brewed beer**. Lager, amber, dark or white, Nord-Pas de Calais’ special beers are typically strong-flavoured and have a high alcohol content.

Then, of course, there’s the **cheese**: Boulette d’Avesnes, Crayeux de Roncq, Crémets du Cap Blanc-Nez, Mimolette... there are more than 50 different varieties in the region! The most famous one is indisputably the Maroilles cheese (or its cousin the Vieux Lille, nicknamed the “Lille stinker” for its strong smell).

For the sweet tooth, there is “vergeoise” (light or dark sugar made from sugar-beet syrup), which is found in sugar tarts, custards, the popular **“gaufres fourrées”** (or thin, filled waffles), and “babeluttes de Lille” (“vergeoise” toffees).

Finally, all good meals are finished off with a glass of **“genièvre”**, an eau de vie made from grains and flavoured with juniper berries.

Young chefs are shaking things up in Lille: Florent Ladeyn at the Bloempot (22 rue des Bouchers), Steven Ramon at the Rouge-Barre (rue des Halles), as well as Nicolas Pourcheresse, Patrick Bragato (Le Trademark), Laure Platiau (La Laiterie) and Maxime Schelstraete (Meert) represent a new innovative kind of gastronomy, affordable to all.



Spotlight on... «P'tits Quinquins» Sweets

These sweets have been made in Lille since 1921. Created by Mr. Regnière, the business was taken over in 1933 by the Brassart family, which has carried on the tradition for four generations. The exact composition of these sweets is kept secret and the confectionery located on rue des Arts is not open to visitors. However, we know that the recipe includes sugar, glucose, acidulants and fruit oils, but no preservatives or artificial coloring. The production is small-scale (about 1.5 tons per year) and only the packaging is done mechanically. Each sweet is stamped with an image of the lacemaker and her child, and their pretty, metal box contains the lyrics of Desrousseaux's famous lullaby. On sale at the Tourist Office and in local bakeries.

LOVING LILLE

Gourmet Lille

A FEW RESTAURANTS

It's difficult to choose from amongst the **900 restaurants and cafes** in the city (600 of which have terraces)... The addresses listed below are a personal choice, but they are all leaders in their category and are popular with Lille residents and food critics.

Gourmet restaurants

A l'Huîtrière (chef: Philippe Lor)

3 rue des Chats Bossus - +33 (0)3 20 55 43 41 / www.huitriere.fr

Since 1928, this restaurant, one of the finest fishmongers in France, has stood behind its astonishing Art Deco facade. Also one of the best restaurants in the city, it boasted a Michelin star every year, without fail, from 1930 to 2011. It is still run by the original family (the present owner, Antoine Proye, is from the 4th generation). The menu concentrates on fish and seafood and offers traditional and creative dishes. Turbot and crêpes Suzette are two of the restaurant's specialities.

An oyster bar was opened in the fish shop in September 2008.



LOVING LILLE

Gourmet Lille

Le Restaurant de Monsieur Jean (chef: Marc Meurin)

10-12 rue de Paris - +33 (0)3 28 07 70 78

In the Nord-Pas de Calais region, Marc Meurin is the only chef of a 2-Michelin starred restaurant (Le Château de Beaulieu in Busnes). In October 2010, he opened in Lille a new restaurant of creative food, based on local and seasonal products.

Le Bloempot

22 rue des Bouchers - www.bloempot.fr

This new place is housed in a former carpentry workshop hidden deep in a small courtyard with greenery... A haven of peace in the heart of Lille where you can enjoy a good meal in a rustic atmosphere. On the menu, a wild and creative cooking centred around local products. A culinary experience provided by Florent Ladeyn, who was a finalist in the TopChef TV show in 2012.

Le Rouge-Barre (chef: Steven Ramon)

50 rue de la Halle - www.rougebarre.fr

Fresh and local products are Steven Ramon's choice to cook delicious dishes for you, in a lovely setting that mixes tradition with modern times... You will love the inventive menu as well as the wine list, top-notch quality!

Restaurants in historic settings

Le Compostelle

4 rue Saint-Etienne - +33 (0)3 28 38 08 30 / www.lecompostelle.fr

A unique reminder of Lille's French Renaissance architecture, this 16th-century residence is particularly well-suited to romantic dinners.

Le Restaurant de l'Hermitage

224 rue de Paris - + 33 (0)3 20 85 30 30 / www.hotelhermitagegantois.com

Beneath the red and gold vaults of a 15th century hospice, now converted into a luxury hotel, the Hermitage restaurant combines a prestigious setting with a peaceful atmosphere.

Les Remparts

Logis de la Porte de Gand (rue de Gand) - +33 (0)3 20 06 74 74 / www.lilleremparts.fr

Built in 1620, this former city wall gate is now the setting for a stylish, cosy restaurant.

LOVING LILLE

Gourmet Lille

Unusual places

Le Café-Livres

35 rue des Bouchers - +33 (0)3 20 78 17 56 / www.lecafelivres.fr

In a charming house in Vieux Lille, which is enlivened by a small interior terrace, Agnès Boitelle has created a peaceful place where old armchairs and shelves are the décor of a bar, restaurant and second-hand bookshop. Simple, fresh meals are offered, as well as second-hand books that you can page through on site or take away!

Morel et Fils (Le Moulin d'Or)

31-33 place du Théâtre - +33 (0)3 20 55 00 10

This small restaurant is a welcoming café bar. It is located in the former hosier's shop founded in 1813 by the present owner's ancestor. The setting has kept many details that remind guests of the address' original function: dummies, fitting rooms, mirrors, and more.

Tous les jours dimanche

13 rue Masurel - +33 (0)3 28 36 05 92

A delightful restaurant and tearoom decorated with a wonderful jumble of second-hand furniture and sundry objects. Simple and delicious dishes, including quiches, salads and cheese-topped dishes, are prepared with seasonal produce. We particularly recommend the home-made desserts.

Coffee Makers

151 rue de Paris - www.facebook.com/coffee.lille

Collin, from the Netherlands, and Mat, from Poland, have brought the best of coffee to Lille with Coffee Makers: roasted at the back of the coffee shop, their coffee might very well be the best in Lille... in a Nordic, lounge inspired setting, enjoy your hot beverage while using the free wifi or reading the magazines put at your disposal. At lunchtime, Mat and Collin cook fresh snacks using local products. And let's not forget the home-made cakes that will make you come back again and again!

Estaminets

"Estaminets" were originally small cafés where people came for a drink, a chat with friends, to listen to music and play traditional Flemish games. The term now describes restaurants with a simple décor and a convivial atmosphere that offer simple, hearty regional food, generally accompanied by local beer.

LOVING LILLE

Gourmet Lille

In Vieux Lille (old town)

Le Barbue d'Anvers

1 bis rue Saint-Etienne - +33 (0)3 20 55 11 68 / www.lebarbuedanvers.fr

Chez la Vieille

60 rue de Gand - +33 (0)3 28 36 40 06 / www.estaminetlille.fr/vieille

Le Petit Barbue d'Anvers

3 avenue du Peuple Belge - +33 (0)3 20 06 81 65 / www.lepetitbarbue.fr

't Rijsel

25 rue de Gand - +33 (0)3 20 15 01 59 / www.estaminetrijsel.com

Au Vieux de la Vieille

2 rue des Vieux Murs - +33 (0)3 20 13 81 64 / www.estaminetlille.fr/auvieux

Le Barbier qui fume

69 rue de la Monnaie - +33 (0)3 20 06 99 35

In the Gambetta / Wazemmes district

Le Chat qui Fume

3 rue Henri Kolb - +33 (0)3 20 78 93 24

La Ducasse

95 rue Solférino - +33 (0)3 20 57 34 10

L'Gaïette

30 rue Masséna - +33 (0)3 20 54 81 88 / www.lgaiette.fr

THE MAIN MARKETS

The Wazemmes market - place de la Nouvelle Aventure

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 am to 1 pm, and Sundays from 7 am to 2 pm.

With food, flowers, fabrics, and exotic products, it's one of the largest markets in France, and perhaps one of the liveliest (up to 600 vendors and 70,000 people some Sundays).

Colourful and with a "Soho" atmosphere, you'll often hear an accordion being played. On Sundays, a flea market is set up around the Saint-Pierre Saint-Paul church.

Covered market in the "halles" (market hall) every day except Monday.

The Concert market - place du Concert

Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 7 am to 2 pm.

A quaint upscale food market at the heart of Vieux Lille featuring a few regional growers. It's also the place to be on Sunday morning for the local "happy few"...

The Sébastopol market - place Sébastopol

Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7 am to 2 pm.

A small, peaceful food market in the city centre, with regional growers.

Press Info: Audrey Chaix

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LOVING LILLE

Gourmet Lille



SOME GOURMET SHOPS

Here, too, the list is not exhaustive, but these are a few essential addresses if you're looking for quality products and good recommendations.

Beer and regional specialities

L'Abbaye des Saveurs

13 rue des Vieux Murs - +33 (0)3 28 07 70 06 / www.abbayedessaveurs.com

The Vieux Lille shop is first and foremost a beer cellar, but is also a regional grocery store, offering all the sweet and savoury Flemish specialities.

L'Estaminette

10 rue de la Barre - +33 (0)3 62 10 13 54 / www.estaminette.com

In a lovely yesteryear setting, this small shop brings together all the flavours of the region, through farm products, delicatessens and arts and crafts: beer, cheese, waffles, sweets, lemonades, etc. And that's not to forget gifts and souvenirs, such as books, DVD's or old toys.

A Les Choppes



LOVING LILLE

Gourmet Lille

335 rue Gambetta - +33 (0)3 20 74 14 65

Marie and Roland Dubrulle sell over 300 different beers, many of which are regional. You'll find the great classics, along with a few less common varieties!

Les Vins Gourmands

33 rue Esquermoise - +33 (0)3 20 30 12 20

Here you'll find mainly wine (for all budgets), but also 200 whiskies and a hundred beers, mainly Belgian.

Cheese

Philippe Olivier

3 rue du Curé Saint-Etienne - +33 (0)3 20 74 96 99 / www.philippeolivier.fr

Philippe Olivier's family has been making cheese since 1907. In his shop, you'll find traditionally-made cheeses from all over France, including a large number of regional specialities. Here, they mature and create cheeses, and even bring a few forgotten varieties back to life!

Crémerie Delassic

11 place des Patiniers - +33 (0)3 28 52 32 88 / www.fromage-delassic.fr

Come and meet the Sicard brothers: Morgan and Tristan are passionate about cheese and wine, and it shows! You won't be able to leave without tasting a wee bit of cheese and washing it down with a sip of the perfect wine to go with it. And the best about it is that you'll know all about the cheese you like best, and will also discover new ones you didn't think even existed!

For your sweet tooth

Méert

27 rue Esquermoise and shop in Le Printemps department store (39/45 rue Nationale)

+33 (0)3 20 57 07 44 / www.meert.fr

This is the city's oldest confectioners' and finest tea room. A restaurant was also opened in November 2008.

The shop, founded in 1761, has retained its sumptuous décor from 1839. In 1849, Meert created the recipe for waffles filled with vanilla, which has since made the shop's reputation. Charles de Gaulle, born in Lille, loved them, and, for a time, the Lille shop was the official supplier to King Leopold I of Belgium.

Nowadays, the waffles are still made in the traditional way, according to the original recipe. The batter is cooked between two hot waffle irons bearing the seal of the house. The edges are clipped manually with a pastry cutter, giving the waffle its characteristic shape. It is then filled by hand with a mixture of sugar, butter and vanilla from Madagas-

LOVING LILLE

Gourmet Lille

car. These waffles are an extremely popular treat in Lille: around 600,000 are made every year!

Aux Merveilleux

67 rue de la Monnaie, 336 rue Gambetta and shop in the Méo store (5 place du Général de Gaulle) - +33 (0)3 20 51 99 59 / +33 (0)3 20 57 25 58 / www.auxmerveilleux.com

The “Merveilleux”, a meringue wrapped in chocolate whipped cream and covered with chocolate shavings, is a traditional pastry of Northern France. Fred Vaucamps is considered to be the best “Merveilleux” confectioner. His irresistible cakes attract crowds to his shops!

Benoît Chocolatier

77 rue de la Monnaie and 11 place du Théâtre

+33 (0)3 20 31 69 03 / +33 (0)3 20 39 85 24 / www.chocolats-benoit.com

A gourmet chocolate-maker, Benoît sells chocolates, chocolate cakes and sweets. Among his specialities are chocolates made of local flavours: chicory, juniper and gingerbread.



LOVING LILLE

Lille shopping

From its rich merchant past, Lille has kept a strong commercial tradition. Here, shopping is a reflection of the northern towns -- lively and friendly.

Each district has its own special features, and the variety of the **3,900 shops** is enough to satisfy every budget and every desire.

With its narrow, cobblestone streets lined with lovely Flemish houses, **Vieux Lille** (old town) is the ideal place to find the great names in luxury goods, fashion and design. There are plenty of antique shops, art galleries and delicatessens. A pleasant market takes place on the Place du Concert every Sunday morning.

In **the centre and pedestrian streets**, you'll find the department stores* and international chain stores. On the Grand Place, the Furet du Nord is one of the biggest bookshops in Europe!

In the train station district, the **Euralille** shopping centre, designed by Jean Nouvel, houses a hundred shops, restaurants and a hypermarket beneath its futuristic lines.

The multi-ethnic **Wazemmes** area is a place to go bargain hunting in the bazaars and discount shops in the Rue Gambetta district. On the Place de la Nouvelle Aventure, you'll find flavours from all over the world at the great bustling Sunday morning market.

In the Lille-Sud area, Rue du Faubourg des Postes has become the **Maisons de Mode** (fashion district). It was inaugurated in January 2007 in the presence of its promoter, Agnès b. At the heart of an area in the midst of a revival, young designers create and sell their own collections from 10 workshop-shops.

Most of Lille's shops are open Monday to Saturday, from 10 am to 7 pm, and are closed on Sundays (except for the first Sunday of the winter sales, the Sunday of the September Braderie (flea market) and the 3 Sundays before Christmas). Some shops are also closed on Mondays, particularly in Vieux Lille.

Just a few minutes from Lille, Roubaix, known as the "bargain capital", has two factory shop centres (McArthur Glen and A l'Usine) and a fashion district (near the La Piscine museum) dedicated to young designers.

* Galeries Lafayette: 31 rue de Béthune ; and Le Printemps: 39/45 rue Nationale.

VISITING LILLE

Getting there

Ideally situated at the heart of Europe, Lille has a well-developed and comprehensive transport system.

ARRIVING IN LILLE BY TRAIN

Lille has two train stations 400 metres apart and situated in the city centre:

- Lille Flandres: regional trains and direct TGV from Paris
- Lille Europe: Eurostar from London and Brussels, direct TGV from Roissy, Marne la Vallée, Lyon, Rennes, Marseille, Bordeaux, Montpellier, and more.

From

- London : 1 h 20
- Paris : 1 h
- Brussels : 35 minutes
- Amsterdam : 2hr40

For more information about trains, Eurostar, TGV, Thalys and TGV Lyria: www.eurostar.com - www.sncf.com - www.thalys.com - www.tgv-lyria.fr

ARRIVING IN LILLE BY COACH

Eurolines coaches travel to and from Lille daily.

More information on www.eurolines.com.

iDBUS, a subsidiary of the SNCF French national railway company, offers a new model of high-quality coach travel. It operates from London, Brussels and Amsterdam to Lille. For more information about iDBUS : www.idbus.com.

FLYING TO LILLE

Lille-Lesquin international airport is 10 km from the centre of Lille.

Regular direct flights by Air France, Chailair, easyJet, Ryanair and Vueling from Bordeaux, Brest, Lyon, Marseille, Nantes, Nice, Strasbourg and Toulouse.

International direct flights from Barcelona, Porto, Alger, Oran, Tunis, Venice, Geneva.

A shuttle service connects the airport (at door A) and the city centre (bus stop sign "Liaison aéroport" outside the Euralille shopping centre). Journey time: 20 min.

One way: €8 / return: €10.

DRIVING TO LILLE

Six motorways lead to Lille:

VISITING LILLE

Getting there

- A1: Paris (220 km)
- A22 / E17: Ghent (75 km) then Antwerp (125 km) and Amsterdam (290 km)
- A23: Valenciennes (53 km)
- A25: Dunkirk (80 km) then A26: Calais (110 km)
- A27 / E42: Brussels (110 km)

From the UK:

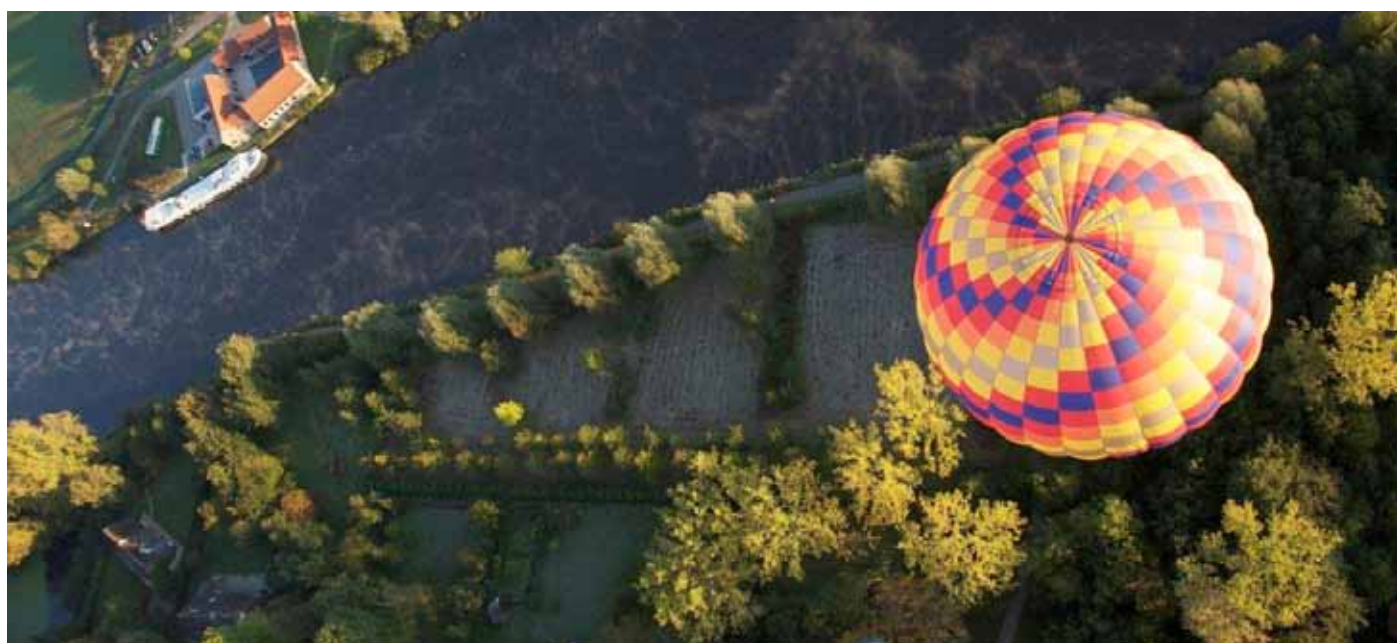
- Eurotunnel from Folkestone to Calais, then to Lille by the motorway A26.
- Ferries from Dover to Calais (P&O and LD Lines), Dunkirk (Norfolkline and DFDS Seaways) or Boulogne (SpeedFerries), then to Lille by the motorway A26 and/or A25.

We recommend that you park outside the city and take the metro or the Citadine shuttle bus.

- 7 metro station car parks are available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, guarded Monday to Saturday from 6 am to midnight. They are in Lille (Porte d'Arras, Porte des Postes and CHR B Calmette metro stations), in Lomme (Saint-Philibert metro station) and in Ville-neuve d'Ascq (Les Prés, Triolo* and 4 Cantons* metro stations).

** Triolo* and 4 Cantons car parks are guarded Monday to Saturday from 5 am to 1 am and Sunday from 6 am to 1 am.*

- 1 bus station car park on the Champs de Mars (next to the Citadel) and at the Porte de Valenciennes metro station. They are guarded Monday to Saturday from 7 am to 8 pm. For €2 for 3 hours or €4 all day, you can also ride free on the bus line n°12 to the city centre (up to 4 people per car).



VISITING LILLE

Getting around Lille

TRAVELLING BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Thanks to Transpole, Lille has a comprehensive public transportation system:

2 automatic **metro** lines (the VAL: automatic light vehicle)

The world's 1st automatic metro system (1983), 60 stations covering 45km.

Line 1: Villeneuve d'Ascq 4 Cantons <> Lille CHR B Calmette

Line 2: Lomme Saint-Philibert <> Tourcoing CH Dron

2 **tramway** lines serving 36 stations, connecting Lille to Roubaix and Tourcoing.

Tramway R: Roubaix Eurotéléport <> Gare Lille Flandres

Tramway T: Tourcoing centre <> Gare Lille Flandres

Sixty bus lines, and a shuttle in Vieux Lille (old town).

Buses, trams and metro trains run daily (except May 1st), from 5:30 am to around midnight.

Standard fare for the entire network: €1.50 for a full-price ticket / Book of 10 tickets: €12.50.

ZAP ticket (3 metro or tramway stations): €0.80.

Day pass (24 hrs): €4 / Evening pass (after 7 pm): €2.

From the Autumn 2013, a new transport pass has been introduced: PassPass. For more information, check the Transpole website: www.transpole.fr

For more information about public transport: www.transpole.fr.

OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

Apart from public transport, there are other ways of getting around Lille that are different, fun and eco-friendly.

V'lille: self-service bike system

Perfect for short trips, the 2,100 V'lille self-service bikes are available in 264 stations spread over Lille, La Madeleine, Lambersart, Mons-en-Baroeul, Villeneuve d'Ascq, Croix, Roubaix and Tourcoing.

The bikes were designed and manufactured in the B'Twin factory of Lille by Oxyane (Decathlon group).

Subscription for 24hrs (€1.40), 7 days (€7) or 1 year (€36). The use is free the first 30 minutes and then charged €1 per half hour. www.vlille.fr.

Segway hire

Mobilboard: www.mobilboard.com. Booking only. +33 (0)6 60 97 74 52.

Lean forward and it moves forward; lean back and it moves backwards. Using revolutionary technology, it obeys your every move and gives you the feeling that you're gliding

VISITING LILLE

Getting around Lille

along the ground.

Bike and e-bike hire (electric pedal bikes)

Altermove: rue des Arts (Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm and 3 pm to 7 pm). www.altermove.com.

Atelier Vélo: avenue Willy Brandt (Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 7 pm).

Transpole: Oxygene station at Champ de Mars (Monday to Saturday, 7 am to 8 pm). www.transpole.fr.

Le Grand Huit: avenue Léon-Jouhaux (outside Le Corfou café). Lille guided tours on Dutch bikes. www.legrandhuit.eu

Taxi Bike Happymoov

A covered cycle taxi service in the city centre. €4 to €9). Phone: +33 (0)6 24 16 08 18 / www.cycloville.com.





VISITING LILLE

The Lille Tourism & Convention Bureau

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

The central hotel-booking service

This free service allows you to book rooms in 60 hotels in Lille and the area.

You can book 7 days a week:

- on the Internet: www.lilletourism.com
- by phone 7 days a week: 0891 56 2004 (0,225€ / mn) from France or +33 (0)3 59 57 94 00 from abroad
- on-site at the Lille Tourism & Convention Bureau.

The Lille's City Pass

Ideal for visiting more and paying less, in complete freedom!

Valid for 24, 48 or 72 hours: :

- **free access to 27 museums and tourist attractions in Lille Metropole** (the Lille Museum of Fine Arts, the Hospice Comtesse Museum, Charles de Gaulle's birthplace and museum, La Piscine museum in Roubaix, the LaM museum in Villeneuve d'Ascq, the Lille City Tour, etc.) In 2015: opening of the Villa Cavrois, which will be included in the City Pass.
- **free, unlimited access to public transport (metro, tramway, bus) in Lille Metropole** (Transpole network)
- discount coupon book in the factory shop centres in Roubaix (McArthur Glen and À l'Usine)
- lots of special offers on shopping, restaurants and leisure activities.

The 72-hour City Pass also includes:

- **free access to 7 museums and attractions in the region** (Arras, Cassel, Douai, Dunkirk, Le Cateau-Cambrésis, Lens and Valenciennes).
- **free, unlimited access to the SNCF TER network** (regional express trains) throughout the Nord-Pas de Calais Region.

The City Pass is on sale at the Lille Tourism & Convention Bureau (on the spot and on www.lilletourism.com) and in certain hotels.

24-hour City Pass: €25 / 48-hour City Pass: €35 / 72-hour City Pass: €45

The City Tour (coach)

Every day, every hour, all year long!

What could be nicer than to tour the city comfortably seated in a coach?! The City Tour has an audiovisual system in 9 languages* and offers views of the city's main sites and monu-

VISITING LILLE

The Lille Tourism & Convention Bureau

ments, from its origins to the most modern districts.

Departure: from the Tourist Office, Place Rihour. Lasts 50 mn. Bookings at the ticket office and online.

Full price: €12 / €10 for groups greater than 4 persons, students, people under 18 and job-seekers.

Free for children under 6 and City Pass holders.

Departure every hour from 10 am to 5 pm, from Tuesday to Saturday. No departure at 1 pm on Mondays and Sundays.

Convertible and wheelchair accessible vehicle.

No tour on 1st January, 1st May, the first weekend of September (Flea market) and 25 December.

* English, French, Dutch, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Chinese and Japanese.

The Town Hall Belfry (100 steps to climb to reach the lift)

Reaching 104 metres, the town hall belfry has been classed as a World Heritage Site since 2005. Playfully discover a monument offering a 360° view of the city and its surroundings at a height of more than 72 metres above ground level!

Audio-guides* (€2) and binoculars (€1) are available from the ticket office.

Full price: €6 / €4 for groups greater than 4 persons, students, people under 18, job-seekers and City Pass holders.

Free for children under 6 and the 1st Wednesday of every month.

Bookings at the ticket office (Palais Rihour), at the Belfry or online.

Closed a few days before the Lille Braderie. .

From Wednesday to Sunday, from 9.30 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5.30 pm (opening hours subject to change. Please check with the Lille Tourism & Convention Bureau before your visit).

* available in English, French, Dutch and German.

The guided tours

Please book all guided tours in advance at the Tourist Office, on-site or by telephone.

Le Vieux Lille - old town (on foot) - in English

Departure from the Tourist Office, Place Rihour. Lasts 2 hours.

Full price: €11,50 / €9.50 for groups greater than 4 persons, students, people under 18, jobseekers and City Pass holders.

Free for children under 6.

Every Saturday at 10:15 am.

VISITING LILLE

The Lille Tourism & Convention Bureau

Flanders battlefield tour Lille > Ypres > Lille (coach tour) / in English

Some of the most important battles of the First World War took place around Ypres. This Tour is designed to save you the hassle of getting to Ypres by train or taxi while also providing an overview of the Ypres Salient 1914-18. You'll discover the main sites around Ypres: battlefields in the Messines area, monuments, memorials, cemeteries, including Essex Farm cemetery (site of the creation of the poem "In Flanders Field" by John McCrae), Bozinghe (trenches), Langemark (German Cemetery), and Tyne Cot Cemetery (the largest and most impressive Commonwealth military cemetery). A visit to the centre of Ypres is also included. Through his commentaries, your guide will bring the memory of these historic places to life. Come discover these sites, so close to Lille!

Departure from the Tourist Office, Place Rihour. Lasts 4 hours.

Price: €43.

Contact us for operating days and times.

ZeVisit® in English (with your mp3 player)

Visit Lille in complete freedom! This audio-guide system uses your mp3 player to guide you around Lille and offers 7 sections of around 3 minutes each to help you explore Lille at your own pace.

Download it free on www.lilletourism.com.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Contact details:

Office de Tourisme et des Congrès de Lille
Palais Rihour, Place Rihour
BP 205
59 002 Lille Cedex (France)

The Tourist Office is right in the city centre, close to the Grand Place.

Metro access: line 1, Rihour stop.

The Tourist Office is accessible to those with disabilities.

Phone from France: 0891 56 2004 (0,225€ / mn)

Phone from abroad: +33 (0)3 59 57 94 00

www.lilletourism.com

contact@lilletourism.com

VISITING LILLE

The Lille Tourism & Convention Bureau

Open 7 days a week, throughout the year:

- Monday to Saturday from 9.30 am to 6 pm
- on Sundays and bank holidays from 10 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm.
- closed on 1st January, 1st May and 25 December.



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