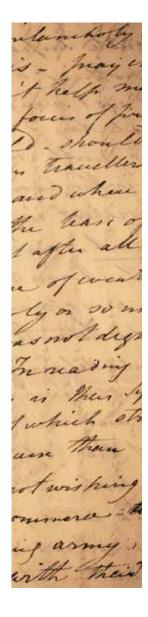
REMEMBRANCE TOURISM SITES 14-18 IN SOMME



SOMME WESTERN FRONT 14-18 WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF Our History









WESTERN FRONT 14-18 when their story becomes our History





JEAN-MARC TODESCHINI SECRETARY OF STATE FOR VETERANS AND REMEMBRANCE

Since 2014, France has been fully engaged in the centenary of the Great War, which offers us all the opportunity to come together and share our common history. A hundred years ago, in a spirit of brotherhood, thousands of young soldiers from Great Britain and the countries of the Commonwealth came here to fight alongside us on our home soil.

A century later, the scars left on the Somme still bear testimony to the battles of 1916, as do the commemorative sites which attest France's gratitude to the 420,000 British soldiers who fell in battle, thousands of whom sacrificed their lives for this country.

In the name of this shared history, whose echo still resonates across the landscape of the Somme, of the brotherhood of arms created in the horror of the trenches, and of the memory shared by our two countries, France has a duty to develop and protect the British monuments and cemeteries located in the Somme as well as to extend the warmest possible welcome to tourists visiting the region to reminisce the tragic events of the past century.

From Thiepval to Beaumont-Hamel, from Villers-Bretonneux and Péronne to Pozières, the Somme have become places of exchange and learning and which bear witness to the region's unique memory of the Great War and 2016 will put the Somme battlefields at the forefront of the commemorations. It will also be the stage of a series of cultural events: shows, ceremonies, exhibitions and concerts will showcase its rich cultural heritage, thereby allowing foreign and French visitors alike to walk in the footsteps of their elders, and in so doing to learn more about their own history.

The challenge is great. So is our determination to offer the British and the French a commemorative event which lives up to their common past. I know that I can count on the full commitment of all those involved in the tourism industry to ensure that in the heart of the Somme, once a land of suffering, today a region of shared memories, visitors will be able to experience the attractions of our region while looking back in remembrance.





CHRISTIAN MANTEI MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ATOUT FRANCE

2014 was punctuated by the centenary of the First World War, a major event for France. Many nations were involved in this conflict, responding valiantly to the call and standing out for its soldiers' heroic behavior. Today the French are paying tribute, celebrating with emotion each of these ingenuous combatants of bloody WWI.

From the Vosges Front to Nord-Pas de Calais, making way through Lorraine and Picardy, the memory of the Great War has forged the territories' landscape and identity. Memorial sites are chock-full of history, former battlefields that today have become places for peace and commemoration. These emotionally charged sites offer captivating insight into the First World War, through innovative design and scenography, animations, workshops, testimonials, discovery tours, etc.

2016 will be a strong commemorative year for the department of the Somme, paying tribute to all the soldiers who fell during the

tragic battles of the Somme in 1916.

With this brochure, Atout France, the France Tourism Development Agency, has highlighted a selection of key remembrance British sites in Somme to commemorate France and UK's common history.

The Somme was witness to the most tragic international conflict, and has as a result become a commemorative site of remembrance recalling the unique memory of the Great War. In addition to its outstanding sites, the Somme will organise activities such as festivals, walks, museums visits and exhibitions next year and throughout the centennial period.

The sites will allow visitors from all over the world to retrace former generations steps whilst expressing their gratitude and sharing experiences with fellow visitors. The sites will invite to forge new international friendships and thereby aid to ensure long lasting peace.



LAURENT SOMON CHAIRMAN, SOMME COUNTY COUNCIL

In 1916, the Somme was the theatre of one of the most brutal and bloody battles of the Great War. Lasting over four months, the Somme became a vast global meeting place, where some twenty different nationalities were brought together.

Until this day the Somme bears the scars of this horrifying conflict. The international memorials, the 410 Commonwealth cemeteries and the vestiges of trenches and mine craters are a continual reminder of the scale of the slaughter and the ultimate sacrifices made.

The Remembrance Trail, linking Péronne and Albert, the two towns most synonymous with the battlefields, traces the footsteps of those men who gave their lives in the name of freedom. A hundred years on, in 2016, the world will once again head to the Somme to commemorate, remember, pay homage and celebrate peace. www.somme-battlefields.com will list the events included in the commemoration programme and provide all the practical information needed to help plan your visit.

1st of July 2016 marks the first day of the Battle of the Somme, will be a significant yet solemn date and a day filled with emotion and as such we are expecting our British friends to visit the Somme in great numbers. This year, the ceremony at Thiepval will also be an opportunity to celebrate our shared history as well as Franco-British friendship and cooperation.

In order to extend the warmest possible welcome to visitors from around the world, the Somme Departmental Council is committed to bringing together those who will make this centenary an unforgettable event, one which will be full of shared experiences, contemplation and emotion, as well as one marked by a spirit of mutual respect and friendship.

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Somme remembrance sites

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THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE GREAT WAR

4

8

Britain went to war on 4 August 1914, after the Germans invaded neutral Belgium. Units from the British Expeditionary Force were immediately sent to join their Allies in France.

At the time, the British Army was a small professional force, but realising that more men would be needed Secretary of State for War Lord Kitchener launched a huge recruitment campaign encouraging the men of Britain to do their duty. The response was overwhelming; by the beginning of 1915 over one million men had joined up. It was not until 1916 that enthusiasm started to wane and military service was introduced.

One aspect of this call for volunteers was the creation of "Pals Battalions" – men from the same workplaces, villages and sports teams who were encouraged to join up together. These newly formed battalions were given a few months training in Britain before heading off to France and the Somme. The Battle of the Somme was the first major Allied offensive. After a week-long artillery bombardment, the intention of which was to annihilate German positions, the infantry attack was set for 1 July 1916.

At 7.30am, waves of British troops went over the top but were met by a blizzard of machine gun bullets and shells; the Germans had not, as hoped, been crushed as they were protected by deep shelters dug into the hills of the Somme. Small gains were made but across most of the line the British were trapped against the uncut barbed wire.

By the end of the day the British Army had suffered almost 60,000 casualties, nearly 20,000 of whom had been killed, resulting in the worst day in British military history. But the fighting did not end here, continuing for another five months and ending in the muddy fields around Bapaume. In total, the British Army suffered a total of 420,000 casualties during this intense battle.



more information on www.somme-battlefields.com

OMME CIRCUIT OF

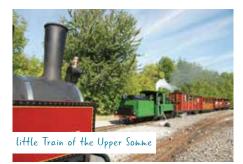
MAJOR EVENTS IN THE SOMME IN 2016

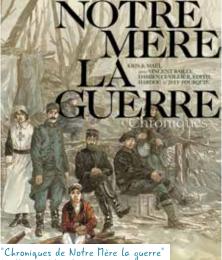
EVENTS





Historial, Museum of the Great War, Péronne





Chroniques de Notre Mere la guerre by Kris and Maël

25 April 2016 – VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

Commemorations: 101st Anniversary of ANZAC DAY

A poignant ANZAC Day dawn service is held at 5.30am on 25 April every year at the Australian National Memorial in Villers-Bretonneux. This ceremony pays particular homage to Australians who served during the First World War and especially remembers those who fought on the French battlefields and in the Somme.

April to November – PERONNE

Exhibition: Ecrivains dans la Grande Guerre (Writers in the Great War) at the Historial, Museum of the Great War

Even before the beginning of the war and the very first day of battle, writers had taken up their pens to describe their surroundings, their feelings and experiences; to relate, understand, bear witness, exorcise or justify what they were seeing. These writers, enlisted in war and dedicated to writing, shared their experiences with thousands of other soldiers and were better able to describe what they experienced to the world. Through this exhibition, which includes theatrical and artistic performances, the public will be invited to discover the history of these writers, and also put pen to paper themselves to bring themselves a little closer to the authors of the Great War.

www.historial.org

5 to 8 May 2016 - LA NEUVILLE-LES-BRAY

Centenary of the railway line and 45th anniversary of the Little Train of the Upper Somme

An exciting four-day event featuring special locomotives, steam trains, model trains, rides on vintage freight and military trains and much, much more! Little train volunteers will be celebrating the centenary of the railway line, built in 1916 for the Battle of the Somme, as well as the 45th anniversary of the train's inauguration. www.appeva.org

4-5 June 2016 - AMIENS

The "Amiens Rendez-Vous", a comic festival in the Somme

The annual comics event in Amiens has become the most important one in the north of France, and one of the four major ones in France. In 2016, the official comics partner of the Mission du Centenaire will propose several Anglo-French comics projects. For example, a work around the famous series "Charlie's War" by Joe Colquhoun & Patrick Mills, or an exhibition about JRR Tolkien, who fought at the Somme, are the sort of projects that could be presented during the festival.

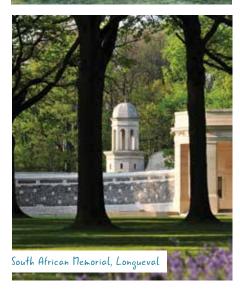
http://bd.amiens.com/







Newfoundland Memorial Park, Beaumont-Hamel



26 to 30 June – YPRES / ALBERT

5th Annual Remembrance Walk from Ypres (Belgium) to Albert

Spend an incredible four days walking across the battlefields of the Great War. # www.centenaire-somme.com

30 June, 1 and 2 July 2016 – ALBERT

Three days of commemorative events (free admission)

- 100 pipers, lighting of the "Lumières du Souvenir" (Lights of Remembrance), theatre performances, multi-faith celebration Place Emile Leturcq (Albert)
- Drama performance featuring stories recounted by nine personalities from the "Heroes Gallery" at the Somme 1916 Museum Jardin Public (Albert)
- Multi-faith celebration and concert (free admission)
- www.centenaire-somme.com

1 July 2016 – LA BOISSELLE – RANCOURT – THIEPVAL – BEAUMONT-HAMEL – FRICOURT

Commemorations: 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme

1 July marks the beginning of the Battle of the Somme, one of the biggest battles of the First World War. On the first day alone, the British Army suffered 57,000 casualties, including 19,000 who lost their lives; the French also lost 20,000 men. Never before had Great Britain suffered such a military catastrophe. In remembrance of the men who fought and died during the battle, commemorations will be held on 1 July 2016 at the Lochnagar Crater, the French Souvenir Chapel in Rancourt, the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, the Ulster Tower in Thiepval, the Newfoundland Memorial Park in Beaumont-Hamel and the German Cemetery in Fricourt.

- www.somme-battlefields.com
- www.somme2016.org

9pm: Concert performance by Barbara Hendricks in Albert

www.centenaire-somme.com

2 and 3 July 2016: United Pipers for Peace

Hundreds of pipers and drummers will gather in Amiens to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Public concert and parade. (#) http://unitedpipersforpeace-fr.blogspot.fr/

10 July 2016 - LONGUEVAL

Commemorations: 100th anniversary of the Battle of Delville Wood

The South Africans fought their first major battles on the Western Front during the Battle of the Somme. On 15 July, its battalion of 121 officers and 3,032 men came up against intense fighting in Delville Wood, Longueval. By the time relief arrived on 20 July, the South African troops had lost more than 2,500 men.

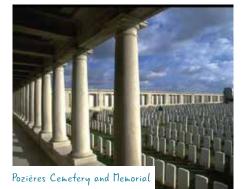
www.deiviliewood.com

23 July 2016 – POZIERES

Commemorations: 100th anniversary of the Battle of Pozières

The Australians experienced their first major battle of the Western Front at Pozières. They arrived in the area on 23 July 1916, and after capturing the village and being confronted with incessant artillery counter-attacks, they were relieved on 5 September by the Canadians at Mouquet Farm. Three of their divisions had participated in the battle for Pozières and losses amounted to over a third of their troops involved. The village itself has completely disappeared.

www.somme-battlefields.com







15 to 17 July and 22 to 24 July – POZIERES

"In the Shadow and Light" (Dans l'Ombre et la Lumière) Sound & Light Show

Via a series of around twenty impressive and realistic scenes, the Pozières sound and light show describes some of the key moments of the Battle of the Somme, particularly the fighting that took place in the vicinity of the village, with a decor that includes the trenches, the Pozières windmill and the village school. The show illustrates the life of the village in the torment of the First World War: work in the fields just before the outbreak of war, enlistment in France, Germany and Australia, and true events from the Battle of Pozières that reveal the absurdity of war. Pozières was the theatre of some of the worst fighting during the Great War, where Australian, British and Canadian troops confronted German soldiers on the battlefield. The Battle of Pozières proved to be one of the most deadly battles of the whole war for the Australians, who lost 23,000 men in six weeks of fighting during the summer of 1916.

15 September 2016 – LONGUEVAL

Commemorations: 100th Anniversary of New Zealand involvement in the Somme

The New Zealanders fought their first major campaign on the Western Front in the Somme, alongside British divisions. The New Zealand Division was particularly involved in the fighting which began on 15 September near Longueval, taking their objective of the village of Flers with the support of tanks. After three weeks of violent fighting, the division was relieved on 4 October. The New Zealand Division lost 7,500 men on the Somme.

www.somme-battlefields.com

2016-2019 – AMIENS Last city before the Front

Throughout 2016, Amiens Metropole, the closest city to the Somme Front in 1916, will offer a rich cultural programme, involving all the cultural, scientific and artistic institutions in the area. Exhibitions, performances, educational programmes and conferences will take place throughout the period of the commemoration of the Battle of the Somme, and people and tourists will be able to meet in order to commemorate the Centenary together.

MUSEUM NEWS





Franco-Australian Museum, Villers-Bretonneux

JUNE 2016 - OPENING OF A NEW INTERPRETATION CENTRE IN THIEPVAL

Thiepval Interpretation Centre, part of the Museum of the Great War in Péronne, is being expanded with two new exhibition spaces. Designed to complement the collection housed at Péronne, the museum aims to provide additional information highlighting various key moments of the Somme's fighting.

www.historial.org

END OF APRIL 2016 – RENOVATION OF THE FRANCO-AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM IN VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

The renovation of the Franco-Australian Museum in Villers-Bretonneux forms part of the Australian Remembrance Trail project. Renovation work will involve the modernisation of the museum and the expansion of its exhibition space through the raising of its roof structure and a new museum layout for its collection of 600 permanent and temporary exhibits.

http://www.museeaustralien.com/

SOMME REMEMBRANCE SITES

POZIÈRES BRITISH CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL



The memorial commemorates over 14,000 British and 300 South African casualties who have no known grave and who died in France during the Fifth Army area retreat in the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918. The corps and regiments most widely represented are the Rifle Brigade, with over 600 names; the Durham Light Infantry (approx. 600); the Machine Gun Corps (over 500); the Manchester Regiment (approx. 500); and the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery (over 400).

THIEPVAL FRANCO-BRITISH MEMORIAL



The memorial, built between 1929 and 1932, was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, the greatest and most prolific British architect of his time. The memorial commemorates more than 72,205 men from the British and South African armies who were declared missing in the Somme between July 1915 and March 1918. Either the bodies of these men were never found or they were found but couldn't be identified. Nearly 90% of these men were killed during the Battle of the Somme, 12,000 of them on the first day of the offensive alone. Standing at a height of 45m, this is the largest British war memorial in the world. 300 French soldiers and 300 soldiers from the Commonwealth lie at rest in the cemetery in front of the memorial. The memorial and cemetery are maintained by the CWGC.

- 👖 👖 👖 Visits for groups, schools, individuals
- Open all year round
- € No admission fee
- Guided visits

INFORMATION

English documentation

DISCOVER NEARBY THIEPVAL

Newfoundland Memorial in Beaumont-Hamel (5km) Somme 1916 Museum in Albert (7km) Lochnagar Crater in La Boisselle (6km) Australian memorials and sites in Pozières (3km) Ulster Tower in Thiepval (0.4km)

> CONTACT contact.wea@cwgc.org / www.cwgc.org thiepval@historial.org / www.historial.org

CONTACT contact.wea@cwgc.org www.cwgc.org

INFORMATION

- visits for groups, schools, individuals
 - Open all year round
 - € No admission fee
 - Free guided visits

DISCOVER NEARBY POZIERES BRITISH CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL

Somme 1916 Museum in Albert (7km) Australian Memorials and sites in Pozières (0.5km) Newfoundland Memorial in Beaumont-Hamel (8.5km) Thiepval Memorial (3.3km) Historial, Museum of the Great War, in Péronne (25km)

ULSTER TOWER OF THIEPVAL



BEAUMONT-HAMEL NEWFOUNDLAND MEMORIAL



At 7.30am on 1 July, men from the 36th Ulster Division went into battle in their sector of operations, which stretched from the edge of Thiepval Wood to the village of Hamel. The division captured a German strongpoint known as the "Schwaben Redoubt", in so doing making the furthest advance of any division north of the Bapaume road, but was forced to withdraw in the face of German counter-attacks. The 36th Division suffered over 5,000 casualties on that day, with approximately one in four men killed, injured, listed as missing or taken prisoner. A memorial, a replica of Helen's Tower from the Clandeboye Estate in Ireland where the Ulster Division trained, now stands at the place where men from Ulster fought and died.

INFORMATION

- Visits for groups, schools, individuals
 - Open Tuesday to Sunday, 1/03 to 30/11, 10am to 5pm (10am to 6pm from 1/05 to 30/09)
 - € No admission fee
 - Guided visits
- English documentation

DISCOVER NEARBY ULSTER TOWER OF THIEPVAL



Thiepval Memorial (0.4km)

Historial, Museum of the Great War, in Péronne (31.7km) Lochnagar Crater in La Boisselle (6km)

Little Train of the Upper Somme in La Neuville-les-Bray (17.7km) Newfoundland Memorial in Beaumont-Hamel (5km)

> CONTACT sommeassociation@btconnect.com www.irishsoldier.org

At the time of the Great War, Newfoundland was a British dominion and like other Commonwealth territories, it raised an army of volunteers for the war effort. At 9am on 1 July, men from the Newfoundland Regiment left their trenches and were immediately trapped by German machine gun fire. Half an hour later, just 68 men from the regiment remained uninjured, with all of its officers killed or wounded. The memorial provides a very moving and visual image of the battle through a remarkably well-preserved network of trenches. The site also includes three cemeteries maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and two divisional memorials, the 51st Highland Division and the 29th British Division, of which the Newfoundland Regiment formed part.

INFORMATION

- Open all year round
- € No admission fee
- Free guided visits
- English documentation

DISCOVER NEARBY BEAUMONT-HAMEL

Thiepval memorial (5 km)

Australian memorials and sites in Pozières (8.5km)

Somme 1916 Museum in Albert (10.5km)

Lochnagar Crater in La Boisselle (10.5km)

South African memorial and museum in Longueval (16km)

CONTACT Beaumonthamel.memorial@vac-acc.gc-ca www.vac-acc.gc.ca

LOCHNAGAR CRATER OF LA BOISSELLE

WELSH DRAGON OF MAMETZ





On 1 July 1916, the men who leapt out of their positions at 7.30am had no idea that they were heading towards certain death. Several minutes before the infantry assault, several mines, meant to destroy parts of the German front line and create huge craters similar to the Lochnagar Crater in La Boisselle, were detonated. This crater, 91m in diameter and with a depth of 21m, is now the only crater accessible to the public. The crater is the property of Richard Dunning, an Englishman who bought it in 1978.

INFORMATION

<u>visits</u> for groups, schools, individuals

- Open all year round
- € No admission fee
- Free guided visits
- English documentation

DISCOVER NEARBY LOCHNAGAR CRATER OF LA BOISSELLE



Somme 1916 Museum in Albert (4km) Australian memorials and sites in Pozières (3km) German cemetery in Fricourt (8.5km) Welsh Dragon memorial in Mametz (9km) Historial, Museum of the Great War, in Péronne (26km)

> CONTACT www.lochnagarcrater.org

Skirting the Fricourt salient from the south, the British 7th Division took the village in the afternoon of 1 July 1916, although stiff German resistance at Mametz Wood to the north-east of the village blocked all Allied progress in a north-easterly direction. It was only after eight days of fierce combat, which saw it suffer heavy losses, that the 38th Welsh Division captured the wood on 12 July. Inaugurated on 11 July 1987, the monument to the 38th Welsh Division is a red dragon, the emblem of Wales. With its wings held aloft, it carries in its claws pieces of barbed wire, attesting to the fierce nature of the fighting here.

INFORMATION

000	Visits for	groups,	schools,	individuals
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- Open all year round
- € No admission fee
- Free guided visits
- English documentation

DISCOVER NEARBY WELSH DRAGON OF MAMETZ

Somme 1916 Museum in Albert (7km) Little Train of the Upper Somme in La Neuville-les-Bray (10.4km) German cemetery in Fricourt (1.3km) Frise belvedere (16km) Historial, Museum of the Great War, in Péronne (19.6km)

> CONTACT www.tourisme-paysducoquelicot.com

SOMME BATTLEFIELDS' PARTNERS



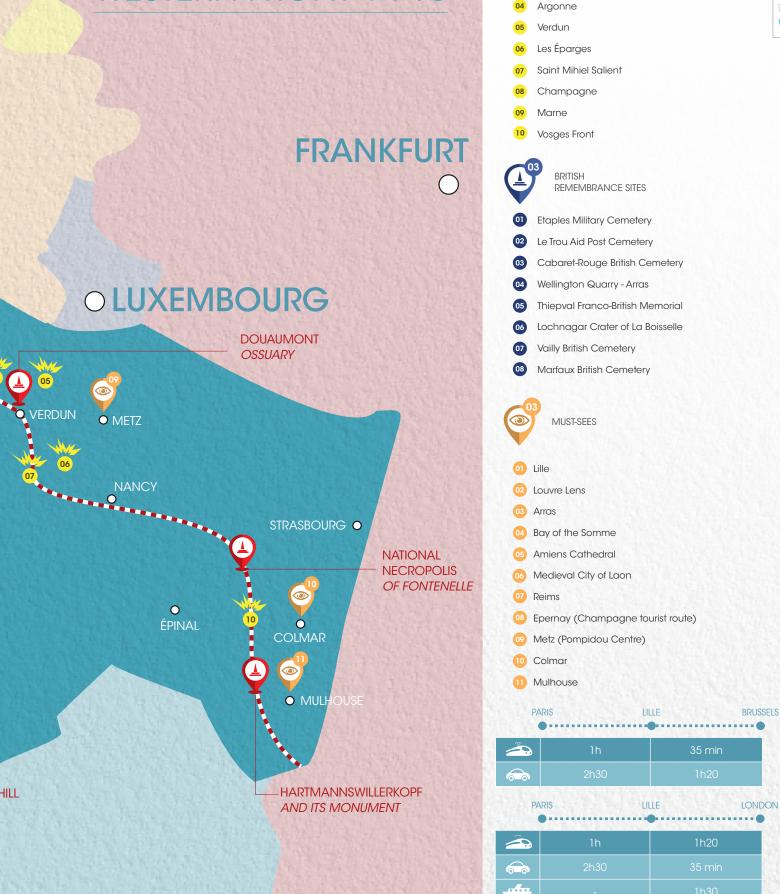
Officially launched in 2007, the Somme Battlefields' Partner Network was created by the Historial, Museum of the Great War, in Péronne; the Somme Tourist Board; the Amiens-Picardy Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and the Somme 1916 Museum in Albert. The aim of this network is to bring together everyone working in this specific tourism field to help them improve their professional skills and create the best possible service for visitors to the Somme. Activities include educational visits of the battlefields and training courses, themed on the many subjects related to local history. The Somme Battlefields' Partner Network boasts around 200 members from a variety of sectors including museums, sites of remembrance, leisure activities, tourist information centres, accommodation providers, tour guides, taxis and shopkeepers. All of its members work in the Somme or in the surrounding area, offering the highest standards in terms of visitor services and facilities and a knowledge of local history. They will be delighted to help you plan your trip, suggest the best places to visit, as well as share insights into unique and lesser-known places of interest.



Somme Battlefields' Partner www.somme-battlefields.com



MAP OF THE WESTERN FRONT 14-18



MAIN REMEMBRANCE SITES

MAIN BATTLES

Chemin des Dames

01

02

03

04

Artois

Somme





The Somme is undiscovered France on your doorstep and a region with something for everyone: breathtaking Gothic architecture, a vast and glittering bay, and endless fields of white stones stretching to the east marking the graves of those who fell here. Barely two hours from the great urban centres of northern France, the Somme remains a well-kept secret – a magnificent region that is both open to the elements yet a haven of peace and tranquility. Somme Bay is a member of the "Most Beautiful Bays in the

World", thanks to its expanses of open water, marshes, dunes and saltwater meadows in a landscape where the sea, land and sky seem to merge together. Drive inland to Amiens for a short break that is guaranteed to offer a mix of cultural and festive activities, making sure you visit its immense stone cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Great War left its terrible mark on the east of the Somme department, in particular as a result of the bloody Battle of the Somme.

VISITING THE SOMME FROM THE UK

 Eurostar from London (St Pancras International), Ashford (Kent) and Ebbsfleet (Kent) to Lille, Calais and Paris. Journey time: from 1hr to 2½hrs. <u>www.eurostar.com</u>
Paris-Lille or Paris-Calais services
Haute-Picardie high-speed train (TGV) station
Calais-Amiens. Journey time: 2hr; price: around €22

🟋 🛛 Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport // Beauvais-Tillé airport // Albert-Picardie airport//Amiens-Glisy airport

Ports of Dieppe, Boulogne and Calais (ferries and Channel Tunnel). The Dover-Calais crossing takes around 90min.



ATOUT FRANCE

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SOMME

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