



Lille, Flanders & the Somme

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

- » L'HermitageGantois (p171)
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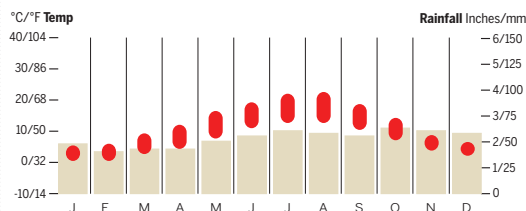
Why Go?

True, a tan is easier to come by along the Mediterranean, but when it comes to culture, cuisine, beer, shopping and dramatic views of land and sea – not to mention good old-fashioned friendliness – the Ch'tis (residents of France's northern tip) and their region compete with the best France has to offer. In Lille and French Flanders, the down-to-earth Flemish vibe mixes easily with French sophistication and savoir-faire. And in the Somme, although WWI has been over for almost a century, the British, Canadians and Australians who perished in the trenches of the Western Front have not been forgotten. The moving memorials and cemeteries marking the front lines of 1916 remain places of pilgrimage and reflection.

If you snag a promotional fare on the Eurostar, Lille, Flanders and the Somme make for a superb short trip from London – with a much smaller carbon footprint than flying.

WhentoGo

Lille



Feb & Mar Pre-Lenten carnivals bring out marching bands and costumed revellers.

1 Jul Remembrance ceremonies at Thiépval on the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

Sep (1st week-end) The world's largest flea market, the Braderie, takes over Lille.



Lille, Flanders & the Somme Highlights

- 1 Stroll around the chic and photogenic centre of **Lille** (p168) and explore the city's trio of superb art museums
- 2 Marvel at Amiens' breathtaking Gothic **cathedral** (p188) both inside and out
- 3 Ramble along the spectacular, windswept **Côte d'Opale**

- d'Opale (p180), facing the white cliffs of Dover
- 4 Be among the first to visit the brand-new **Louvre-Lens museum** (p192) in Lens
- 5 Enjoy a hefty dose of Flemish culture and tour a working windmill in the pretty hilltop town of **Cassel** (p186)

- 6 Join the bustle of the **Saturday market** (p194) in Arras' gorgeous Flemish-style Place des Héros
- 7 Watch clacking machinery turn thread into lace at **Cité Internationale de la Dentelle et de la Mode** (p 177) in Calais
- 8 Ponder the sacrifices and horror of WWI at **Vimy** (p200)

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