



# Lille, Flanders & the Somme

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## Best Places to Eat

- » À l'Huîtrière (p161)
- » Chez la Vieille (p160)
- » Le Tigzirt (p177)

## Best Places to Stay

- » L'Hermitage Gantois (p159)
- » Grand Hôtel de l'Univers (p176)
- » Maison St-Vaast (p179)

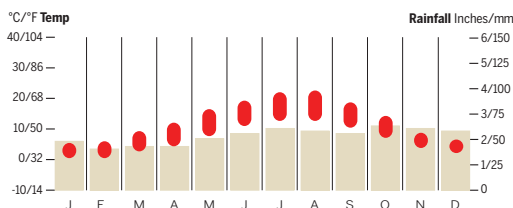
## Why Go?

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.

## When to Go

### Lille



**February and March** Pre-Lenten carnivals bring out marching bands and costumed revellers.

**1 July** Remembrance ceremonies at Thiepval on the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

**September (1st weekend)** The world's largest flea market, the Braderie, takes over Lille.



## Lille, Flanders & the Somme Highlights

- 1 Stroll around Lille's chic **old city** (p155) and sample the city's world-renowned **restaurants** (p157) and first-rate **restaurants** (p160)
- 2 Marvel at Amiens' breathtaking **Gothic cathedral** (p175) both inside and out
- 3 Ramble along the spectacular, windswept **Côte d'Opale** (p168), facing the white cliffs of Dover

- 4 Ponder the sacrifices and horror of WWI in **Vimy** (p187)
- 5 Reflect on a New York regiment's fallen at the **Somme American Cemetery** (p185)
- 6 Stroll around – and under – the **Flemish-style centre** (p178) of Arras

- 7 Watch clacking, Victorian-era machinery turn thread into lace at the new **Cité Internationale de la Dentelle et de la Mode** (p165) in Calais
- 8 Commune with sea creatures at **Nausicaä** (p169) in Boulogne-sur-Mer