



Amiens

Focus on the city



AMIENS
MÉTROPOLE



Visits

• **The Cathedral** is open from 8.15 am to 6.15 pm, from April to Sept. (5.15 pm from Oct. to March); guided visits, audioguides and access to the towers and the Treasury throughout the year
Tel. : +33 (0)3 22 71 60 50
www.visit-amiens.com

Details

• **The oldest existing spire** of wood covered with lead sheeting, rises to a height of 112 m and surpasses the cathedral roof ridge by 56 m.

• **The choir stalls** are the finest example of wooden sculptures in France. Their 4,000 sculpted figurines illustrate former trades or represent religious scenes.

• **The nave** is bathed in light thanks to the cathedral's large openings.



Amiens Notre-Dame cathedral

• Amiens Notre-Dame Cathedral has been described in the following terms: light, perfection... built to harmonious proportions. The progress in techniques, experience gained on other building sites, and the speed of its construction confer *an extraordinary architectural unity to Amiens cathedral*. It is France's largest Gothic edifice (145 m long and 70 m wide) and has the loftiest nave in France. It could hold two cathedrals the size of Notre Dame de Paris. The cathedral holds exceptional statuary that is a fine testimony to the beauty of Gothic art.

• **The restoration of the West facade** uncovered the polychrome decor of the porches. The statues regain their mediaeval colours thanks to the light projectors that focus on them during shows staged in the summer season.

Amiens cathedral was listed as UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in 1981 for its outstanding architecture and in 1998, as a stage on the way to Compostella.

the 1st century B.C.

Samarobriva or Bridge on the Somme is Amiens first recorded name.

at the close of the
1st century A.D.

The Gallo-Roman city was very important and probably had 25,000 inhabitants.



Visits

• Hortillonages Protection Association

54, bd de Beauvillé

Boat visits, every day

from 1.30 p.m.

April 1 to October 31.

(reservation for groups)

Tel. : +33 (0)3 22 92 12 18

Amiens, a green and blue city The Hortillonages

• Also known as *the floating gardens*, the hortillonages cover 300 hectares of small islands and are criss-crossed by 65 km of canals. The ancient marshes were originally exploited for their peat and later for market gardening purposes. It is a *natural reserve* now, just a stone's throw from the city centre, where flora and fauna enjoy a calm, protected environment. They can be explored either walking along the towpath, or in a traditional boat or by electric boat during the Art, cities & landscape festival.

Art, cities & landscape festival

electric boat tours from mid-June to mid-Oct on reservation.

The city's gardens

Garden and park lovers will find that Amiens has a multitude of outdoor sites to investigate:

- The zoological park and the Hotoie park,
- Saint-Pierre park,
- The Botanical Garden or the King's Garden (Jardin du Roy),
- The Bishop's Palace Garden and the Mediaeval Garden,
- The romantic Madeleine cemetery,
- Saint-Acheul archaeological garden.

Useful tips

The market gardeners, or 'hortillons' sell their vegetables every Saturday morning on

Parmentier square.

Once a year, in June, this market is held as in old days from boats and in historical garb.



the 4th century

Samarobriua changed its name and became Ambianorum, the city of the Ambiani, thus giving rise to the name of Amiens. Around 340, Saint Martin - a young Roman soldier stationed in the city - tore his cloak in two in order to share half of it with a beggar suffering from the cold.

the 5th - 11th centuries

Amiens was invaded by the Franks and by the Normans who ransacked the city. Peter the Hermit, born in Amiens c. 1050, took part in the first crusade.



Saint-Leu, The little Venice of the North



- *This is a picturesque quarter.* Its small houses with colourful façades encourage leisurely strolls. Intimately linked to water, ancient Amiens is criss-crossed by a lot of canals. The coffee houses, restaurants, and pubs provide welcoming outdoor terraces. Crafts shops, antique stores and second-hand dealers also draw many visitors. The former effervescence of its craft industries and mills have now been replaced by the university student activities.

Visits

*'Chés Cabotans
d'Amiens'*

Marionette Theatre

31, rue Édouard-David

Tél. +33 (0)3 22 22 30 90

www.ches-cabotans-damiens.com



Lafleur, The hero of the Picard tradition

- The famous marionette, Lafleur, is an ardent defender of the Picardy dialect. With his companions, he stages shows in the marionette theatre, 'Chés Cabotans d'Amiens' located in the centre of Saint-Leu.

the 12th and
13th centuries

The people of Amiens erected one of France's first belfries - the symbol of free cities. Around **1220**, work on building the cathedral began. The edifice's dimensions testify to the wealth of the city.

the 14th -
15th centuries

The military operations of the Hundred Years War took place nearby and Amiens suffered a period of famine and epidemics at that time. In **1471**, the city of Amiens surrendered to King Louis XI after Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, raised siege.



Visits *Jules Verne, An Amiens personality*

• **Jules Verne's House**
2, rue Charles-Dubois
Tel. : +33 (0)3 22 45 45 75
[www.amiens.fr/
maisonjulesverne](http://www.amiens.fr/maisonjulesverne)



The Museum Grand Salon

• **The Picardy Museum**
48, rue de la République
Open every day except
Sunday morning
and Monday
Tel.: +33(0)3 22 97 14 00
www.amiens.fr/musees

Construction works :
Partial full closure 31/10/16-30/06/17
and full closure 01/07/17-late 2018.

• Jules Verne married a woman from Amiens in 1857 and settled in Amiens definitively by 1871. He was then 43 years of age and he wrote most of the works that made him famous. The house where he lived, renovated in 2005, holds many mementos of his life and his work. He took an active part in Amiens public life and in 1889 he inaugurated the circus that now bears his name. He is buried in the Madeleine Cemetery.

The Picardy Museum

• Built between 1855 and 1867 under the reign of Napoleon III, this museum is among the finest in France, as much for the value of its collections as the architectural harmony of its gardens and façades. It houses various archaeological collections, a room devoted to 19th century sculpture, and also some monumental murals by Puvis de Chavannes.

the 16th century
The city enjoyed a new period of prosperity and took up its textile traditions again. At the close of the century, the city was occupied by the Spaniards. It was by that time, and more exactly **1597**, that the citadel was located north of the city.

the 17th century
Two plague epidemics ravaged the city.



Your stay *A multitude of places to see*

Amiens Métropole Tourist Office has a range of different holidays and weekend breaks to discover Amiens. See them at www.visit-amiens.com, Recommendations section.

The Belfry, a UNESCO World Heritage site, Perret's Tower and its luminous hourglass, Bertangles and Pissy Castles, Saint-Ladre nature reserve at Boves, La Queue Marsh at Blangy are open invitations to stroll and visit Amiens and its surroundings.

Special Events

- **In April :** The big spring Flea Market.
- **In June:** The Town Festival (street shows) and Water Market.
- **from Mid-June to Mid-September and in December:** The Cathedral Light Show.
- **September:** The waterfront mediaeval Festival. The Heritage week-end.
- **In October:** The big autumn Flea Market
- **In November:** The International Film Festival.
- **Late November to late December:** Amiens' Christmas Market

the 18th century

The textile industry expanded. Velvet manufacturers established themselves in the city and fostered the city's economic development until the Revolution.

1741: The birth in Amiens of Choderlos de Laclos, the author of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses".

1749 : Birth of Jean-Baptiste Delambre in Amiens. He instituted the metric system in France.



Tours around Amiens

For more information on
the department of Somme:
ADRT Somme Tourisme
Tel.: + 33 (0)3 22 71 22 71
www.somme-tourisme.com

- In the Somme Bay region, just 45 minutes from Amiens, the *Marquenterre Park* is a vast protected area where numerous species of birds make their nests.
- *The Historial de Péronne* recounts the great war with its tragic times at the heart of the Somme Battlefields.
- The *Samara Estate* presents the lifestyle of prehistoric peoples in their natural habitat (from march to november).
- The underground city of Naours is the most comprehensive example of sheltering tunnels currently known (30 galleries 33 m below ground).



Tasty treats

The Picard ficelle, the local famous leek pie and delicious 'beaten' cake but, above all, the Amiens macaroons and chocolate tiles that are appreciated *as much* by Amiens' citizens as by visitors.

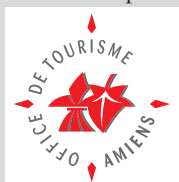
the 19th century
Joseph Bonaparte came to sign the Treaty of Amiens in the Town Hall in **1802**. This treaty put a temporary halt to the hostilities between Britain and France. Jules Verne settled in Amiens in **1871**. He lived there until his death in **1905**.

the 20th century
Closer to our times, both World Wars damaged the city considerably. It underwent a long reconstruction period followed by contemporary planning projects.



Amiens < Somme < Hauts-de-France < France

Amiens Metropolitan Tourist Office
greet you Monday to Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.
(6 p.m. October 1 to March 31) -
Sunday 10 a.m. to 12 noon
and 2 to 5 p.m.



Amiens Metropolitan Tourist Office

Information desk : 23, place Notre-Dame

BP 11018 - F - 80010 Amiens cedex 1

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