

Amiens < Somme < Picardie < 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

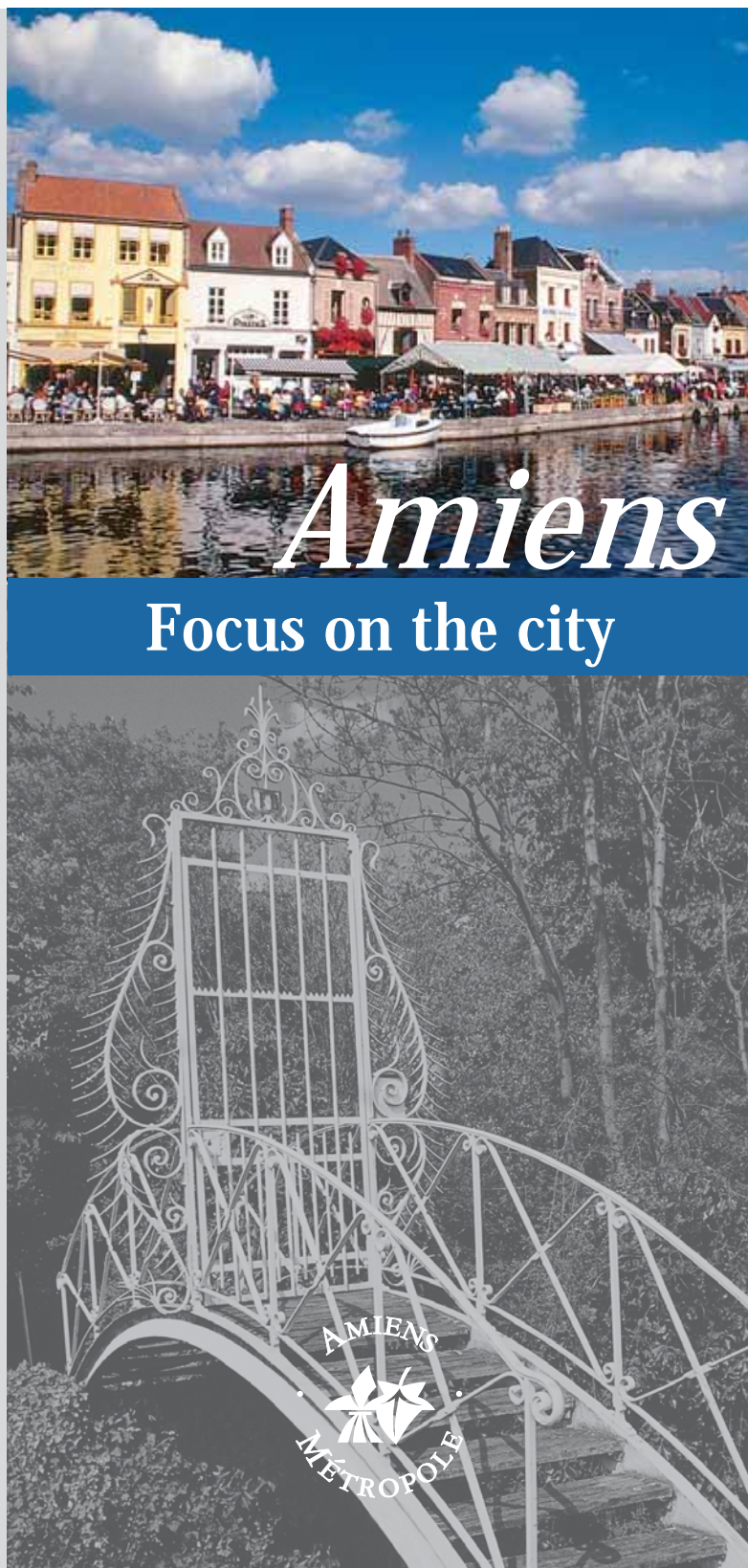
Information desk : 40, Notre-Dame square
BP 11018 - F - 80010 Amiens cedex 1
Tél. : +33 (0)3 22 71 60 50 • Fax : +33 (0)3 22 71 60 51
www.visit-amiens.com
ot@amiens-metropole.com



ACCUEIL ET INFORMATION
DES OFFICES DE TOURISME
ET SYNDICAT D'INITIATIVE

Cette marque prouve la conformité à la norme NF X 50-730 et aux règles de certification NF 237. Elle garantit que l'accueil et l'information des clients, la promotion et la communication, la production et la commercialisation, la boutique, l'évaluation et l'amélioration de la qualité de service sont contrôlés régulièrement par AFNOR CERTIFICATION
11, rue Francis de Préssensé - 93571 SAINT DENIS LA PLAINE
Cedex - France - www.marque-nf.com

www.grandnord.fr ■ 5284 ■ 2010 ■ 03 22 80 50 20 ■ Crédits photos : © SKERTZD, © www.itbo.org, B. Maisson, L. Rousselin, Parc zoologique - Amiens Métropole, A.S. Flament





Visits

- **The Cathedral** is open all year round ; guided visits, audio-guides and access to the towers 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.

Tours of Amiens and surrounding areas

For more information about the Somme department, contact the Somme Department Tourism Committee.
Tel. : +33 (0)3 22 71 22 71
www.somme-tourisme.com

- Starting in front of the Cathedral, from April to September, **the Samarobriwa barouches** will take you on a discovery ride of the Saint-Leu district or 19th Century Amiens.
- **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.
- **The underground city of Naours** is the most comprehensive example of sheltering tunnels currently known (30 galleries 33 metres below ground).



Tasty treats

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

the 1st century B.C., Samarobriwa 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.

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.



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.

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 **all year around** in the marionette theatre, 'Chés Cabotans d'Amiens' located in the centre of Saint-Leu.



Visits

- 'Les bateaux de Saint-Leu'
Boat tours along
the canals of Saint-Leu.
April to October.

Tel. : +33 (0)3 22 71 60 20

'Chés Cabotans
d'Amiens'
Marionette Theatre
31, rue Édouard-David
Tel. : +33 (0)3 22 22 30 90



www.ches-cabotans.damiens.com

Visits Jules Verne, An Amiens personality

- **Jules Verne's House**
2, rue Charles-Dubois
Tel. : +33 (0)3 22 45 45 75
www.amiens.com/julesverne

• 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 Museum Grand Salon

- **The Picardy Museum**
48, rue de la République
Open every day except
Monday and certain holidays.
Tel. : +33 (0)3 22 97 14 00

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 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.

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

The Amiens Metropolitan Tourist Office offers guided tours throughout the year and it is open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (6:00 p.m. from October 1 to March 31) and on Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
www.visit-amiens.com

A multitude of places to see

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



Special Events

- **march-april:** The World Music and Jazz Festival.
- **the last Sunday in April:** The Big Flea Market.
- **the 3rd Sunday 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.
- **october:** The Big Flea Market / The white night
- **november:** The International Film Festival.
- **december:** The 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.



Visits

• **Hortillonnages Protection Association**
54, bd de Beauvillé
Boat visits, afternoons from April 1 to October 31.
Tel. : +33 (0)3 22 92 12 18

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 zoological park

the 4th century
Samarobriva 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 cd 1050, took part in the first crusade.

Amiens, a green and blue city The Hortillonnages

• Also known as **the floating gardens**, the hortillonnages 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.

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,
- The Alexandre and Cadichon private gardens,
- Saint-Acheul archaeological garden.