



**D** Starting point

**P** Car park

- 1 From the Fort-Mahon-Plage car park, take the path that leads into the dunes
- 2 At the junction take the path to the right which leads towards Quend-Plage. The path to the left takes you to Belle-Dune
- 3 Turn to the right and follow the path alongside the car park until you reach the beach
- 4 Follow the foreshore to return to Fort-Mahon-Plage
- 5 Take the Avenue de la Plage back to the starting point

**View Point**

**Be Careful:**  
This trail is not suitable for cycling or horse-riding (dunes)

This trail is maintained by the Syndicat Mixte Baie de Somme – Grand Littoral Picard (SMBS-GLP)

**For more information:**

- Tourist Offices:  
Fort-Mahon-Plage : 03 22 23 36 00  
Quend-Plage : 03 22 23 32 04  
[www.office-tourisme-quend-plage.com](http://www.office-tourisme-quend-plage.com)
- Syndicat mixte Baie de Somme - Grand Littoral Picard : 03 22 20 60 30  
[www.baiedesomme.org](http://www.baiedesomme.org)
- Somme Tourist Board:  
[www.somme-tourisme.com](http://www.somme-tourisme.com)  
[www.somme-nature.com](http://www.somme-nature.com)



**This leaflet was created by the Somme County Council**

43, rue de la République - 80026 Amiens cedex 1  
03 22 71 80 80  
[www.somme.fr](http://www.somme.fr)



# La Somme

## The Dune of Royon

**Fort-Mahon, Quend-Plage**, 12km from Rue, 40km from Abbeville

Situated between Fort-Mahon-Plage and Quend-Plage. The Dune of Royon is a fragile and protected natural habitat. To explore the area please use the marked trail.



**D** Starting point: Car park at the centre of Fort-Mahon-Plage or the car park at the entrance to Quend-Plage.

**Duration:** 1 hours 30 mins

**Distance:** 4km

**Route:** easy

- Spring
- Summer
- Autumn
- Winter

## Exploring the natural sites

Written by: Nathalie Saillard - Design: L'Agence par A' Propos  
Updates and printing: imp. Cg60 - Translation: C. Carnel -  
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# The Dune of Royon

The trail through the Dune of Royon allows you to explore an extremely fragile natural habitat. Although Marram Grass reigns upon this coastal fringe, many other types of vegetation have also colonised the area and it is the home to many different species of birds.



**Thierry Huet, Quend-Plage**  
"I've been exploring this path since I was small; it's like my playground. It's as if we are in the

middle of nowhere, surrounded by sand dunes. It's a fragile area that must not be disturbed! In the early morning or in the evening you may be lucky enough to see animals, such as deer. And everyone is very friendly, always greeting those we meet along the way."

## About the site

- > **Proprietor:** Conservatoire du Littoral
- > **Size:** 102ha
- > **Managed by:** Syndicat mixte Baie de Somme - Grand Littoral Picard
- > **Maintenance partners:** Conservatoire botanique de Bailleul, Fort-Mahon-Plage Hunting Association
- > **Financial partners:** Somme County Council

### A Fragile Area

The walk starts in the area of dunes in the centre of Fort-Mahon-Plage. These natural ramparts against attacks from the sea represent a fragile natural habitat. Trampling is, for example, a menace. This is why the site is protected and walkers are asked to follow the marked trail.

The first thing you will notice is that Marram Grass is abundant here. This plant is essential to an area of sand dunes. Its role is to stabilise the dunes by weaving its roots into a web. The grass drives its roots two metres deep into the sand, which creates a stabilising effect. Marram Grass is characteristic of the zone of dunes known as "white dunes".

### A Variety of Habitats and Species of Wildlife

After the first turn you will start to notice carpets of moss spreading out across the ground. These carpets are made up of mainly Screw-moss. This plant is characteristic of grey dunes, a habitat favoured by rabbits. This is where seedlings develop, like Wallpepper and the Common Storksbill.

Afterwards, you will cross the scrub dune covered with spiny thickets of Common Sea-buckthorn and Privet. Evening Primrose, a plant with yellow flowers and used in cosmetics, is also very common in this environment



Evening Primrose

Turning now to the right, you will find an area sprinkled with Marram Grass.

On the edge of the sea, Marram Grass is accompanied by Sea Spurge, European Searocket and Sea Holly.

These plants are often found in the white dunes.

The vegetation and wildlife varies as we leave the coast and enter into the grey dunes. Depressions in the ground known as dune slacks dry up in the summer months and host a remarkable flora as well as many types of amphibians (toads, frogs and newts).

### A New Landscape

You will see a change in the landscape as we enter the forest of pine trees.

These pine trees were planted during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, both to hold the dune and for the timber industry. Vegetation struggles to grow here because the undergrowth is covered with a thick blanket of pine-needles.



Sea Holly

Passerines, squirrels and deer are very happy in this environment though.

You may be lucky enough to see some of them.

Leaving the pine forest, you will come to the town of Quend-Plage. Take the turning to the right and follow along the side of the car park until you reach the beach. Here, you will be able to see the mussel farm and different species of seabirds, such as gulls and waders. On arrival at Fort-Mahon-Plage take the Avenue de la Plage to return to the starting point.

### An Informative Route

Because the dunes are a fragile habitat a discovery trail has been created to avoid unnecessary disturbance. Coast-line guards maintain and preserve this remarkable site and ensure that visitors respect the regulations.



**Common Sea-buckthorn is progressively colonising the grey dunes, which are gradually becoming covered with scrub.** In autumn, passerines, nightingales, larks, warblers, etc. feast on the orange berries (which are rich in vitamin C) in order to build up their strength for winter!



Common Sea-buckthorn