

Meandering through the Somme Valley

Cycling between Amiens and Corbie



 Starting point: Port D'Amont Car Park  Route: easy

 Time: 2.5 hours  Arrival point: the Lock at Corbie

 Distance: 19 km

The Conseil departemental de la Somme invites you to discover the Somme Valley from Amiens to Corbie along the Somme Valley Cycle Route.

It is hard to imagine that this part of the valley was once a hive of activity!

The Hortillonages, now private, "floating" gardens filled with a bucolic charm, show how actively the market gardeners' worked in order to provide food for the population of Amiens.

The wetlands and ponds still show traces of when peat – know here as "black gold" - was harvested. Journeying along the Somme Valley Cycle Route, you will notice how nature has joined forces with the factories that stand vigil along the banks of the river.

This cycle itinerary, where you are more than likely to see water lilies just like those painted by Monet, come across a family of swans, or see a lock-keeper at work, is varied and perfectly suitable for families.

To find out more about this first itinerary in a series that is being published to help you explore the Somme Valley, please visit somme.fr

la **Somme**

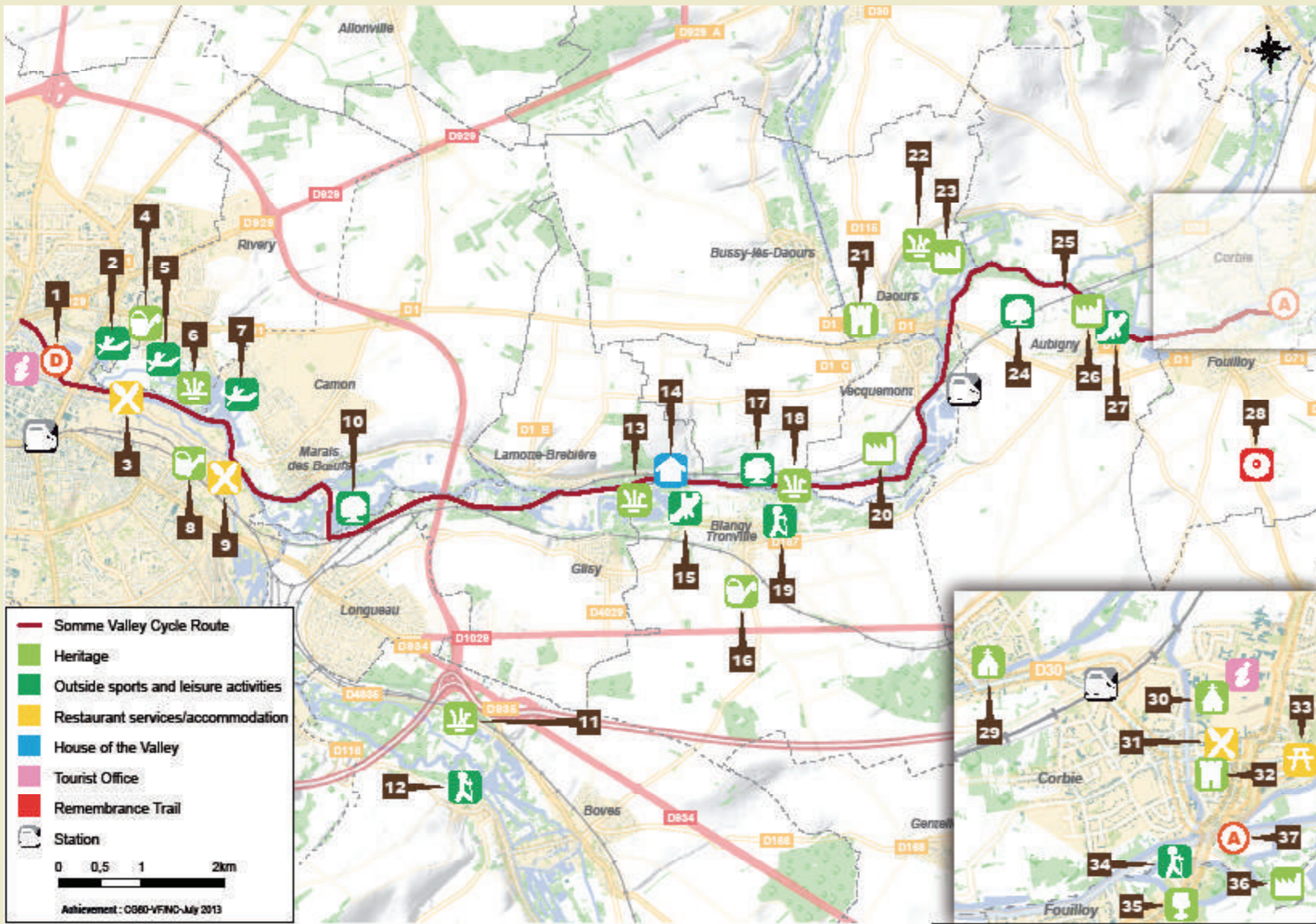
espace naturel de rencontres





From Amiens to Corbie... not to be missed

- 1** Starting point. Cross the Pont de Cange and take the Samarobriva footbridge. Follow the tow-path.
- 2** Canoes can be hired at the Rivery Nautical Club. (03 22 91 63 75)
- 3** The Vert Galant Restaurant, one of the oldest of Amiens, with a beautiful terrace over looking the Hortillonnages. Boats can be hired here. (03 22 92 04 27)
- 4** Hortillon de Lune: Jean-Louis Christen, organic market gardener. Organic market on Fridays from 4pm to 7pm.
- 5** The Association for the Protection and Safeguard of the Site and Environment of the Hortillonnages proposes guided tours in traditional canal boats. (03 22 92 12 18)
- 6** The Hortillonnages: 300 hectares of floating gardens and market gardens, 65 km of canals. Hortillonnage vegetables sold at the Marché sur l'Eau, Quai Belu, Amiens, on Saturday mornings.
- 7** The Towns and Scenery Art Festival organised by the Amiens Cultural Centre from June to October: poetic and artistic circuit in an electric boat. (03 22 97 79 77)
- 8** The Parmentier Teaching Farm sells Hortillonnages vegetable produce. Visits are available upon request. (03 22 41 59 13)
- 9** The Pré Porus Restaurant, a former "guinguette" called the "Ile aux Plaisirs", has a lovely terrace over looking the River Somme. (03 22 46 25 03)
- 10** The Boeuf Wetlands rest and picnic area at Camon.
- 11** The Saint-Ladre nature reserve at Boves: "Vallée de L'Avre" signposted path leading through 13 hectares of boggy fen. The path is suitable for people with reduced mobility.
- 12** Starting point of a 30 minute discovery trail "Reserve Naturelle Saint Ladre".
- 13** Glisy Wetlands, under development. Direct access from the cycle route.
- 14** Take a welcome break at the Lamotte Brebière House of the Valley, which offers snacks, bar, picnic area and overnight camping and sanitary facilities.
- 15** Starting point of a boating itinerary arriving at Amiens.
- 16** Sucrine and Féculine Teaching Farm, tours and visits available upon reservation. (03 22 38 18 97)
- 17** Rest and picnic area.
- 18** The Great Wetlands of La Queue: 88 different bird species, 22 dragonfly species and 234 plant species.
- 19** Starting point of a 45 minute discovery trail through the former peat bog, where Nantaise cattle graze.
- 20** Roquette Potato Starch Manufacturers.
- 21** 19th century Chateau of Daours, built in stone.
- 22** The wetlands and chalky slopes of Daours. Orchids and Mediterranean type plants grow here.
- 23** Galland enterprise, former cotton mill built in 1892.
- 24** Aubigny rest and picnic area.
- 25** Cross the village. Arrive at the Place de la Mairie. Turn left to return to the tow-path.
- 26** Friskies pet food factory.
- 27** Starting point of a boating itinerary and mooring area with services.
- 28** Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, linked to the Somme Valley Cycle Route by a new cycle path. Australian Corps Memorial Park at Le Hamel.
- 29** 15th century Neuville Church with its surprising Flamboyant portal.
- 30** The ruins of the abbey founded in 657, where Carolingian writing originated from (abbey-church, abbey grounds, swimming pool, library).
- 31** Langlet patisserie. The speciality of this "six generation old" establishment is the Pavé de Corbie. (03 22 48 40 28). Tours are available at certain times of the year.
- 32** Restored town hall, former 19th century chateau. "Terroirs de Picardie" market on Wednesday mornings. Starting point of the Three Valleys Cycle Route (34 and 42km)
- 33** Les Poissonniers Camp Site. Open from 1st April to 31st October. (03 22 48 23 35).
- 34** Starting point of a 9km (3h) hiking trail to the Barrette Ponds.
- 35** The Picardennes Microbrewery brews six different varieties of beer. Tours available at certain times of the year. (03 22 52 28 49)
- 36** The Capsom Agricultural Cooperative once used the canal for transporting its produce.
- 37** You have arrived at your destination!



Below is a selection of places where you can get off your bike and enjoy the view. You will find plenty more besides...



6 A market gardener working in the Hortillonages



10 The Boeufs Wetlands at Camon



14 A drinking-trough, used to refresh the tow-horses, at the Lamotte-Brebière lock.



23 The cotton mill at Daours

The Somme, a river to share

The Grand Projet Vallée de Somme (GPVS) is a sustainable project initiated in 2009 by the Conseil départemental, which has been developed both with and for the inhabitants of the Somme. It invites the population, three quarters of whom live in the valley, to participate with a beautiful human adventure and reflect upon the future of their territory. The GPVS thus supports the river, a heritage of which the inhabitants can be proud. The Conseil Général is making improvements along the river so that each and everyone can enjoy the waterway. A memorable experience that "Meandering through the Somme Valley" warmly invites you to begin, right away!

Photo album, *along the water's edge...*



Iris pseudacorus



Kayaking in the Hortillonages



Vegetables from the Hortillonages



Boating through the Hortillonages



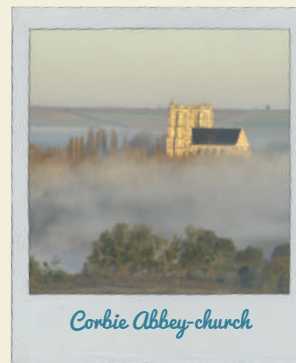
"Towns and Scenery" Art Festival



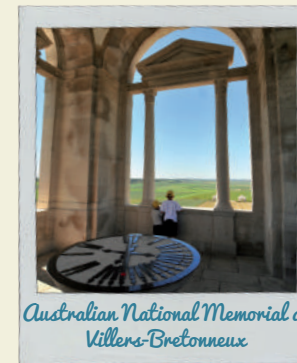
Yummy! Baking "Pavés de Corbie" with Alain Langlet



Taking a break at the Lamotte-Brebière lock



Corbie Abbey church



Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux

For more information

Somme Tourisme
03 22 71 22 71 - visit-somme.com
Maison de la Somme
Place Notre-Dame à Amiens
03 22 97 20 20 - open every day
Amiens Métropole
Tourist Office
03 22 71 60 50 - amiens-tourisme.com
Corbie Bocage 3 Vallées
Tourist Office
03 22 96 95 76
tourisme-corbie-bocage-3-vallées.com
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