

Meandering through the Somme Valley

Cycling between Amiens and Bourdon



 Starting point:
**Montière Lock
Grand Marais
Park**

 Arrival point:
**Hangest sur
Somme Station**

 Distance:
17 km (can
return by train
from Hangest
sur Somme
Station)

 Time:
2.5 hours

The Conseil départemental de la Somme invites you to discover the Somme Valley from Amiens to Bourdon along the Somme Valley Cycle Route (National Cycle Route V30).

From the Prehistoric houses at Samara to the Carmichaël model village at Ailly sur Somme, follow in the footsteps of the generations of hard-working men and women who lived in the valley.

The rushing water at Picquigny is also great for recreational activities and water sports.

A little later on, when the water has calmed, the panoramic heights of the Bourdon German Military Cemetery and the reed-beds of the Cavins Marshes are perfect for those who enjoy peace and tranquillity. By closing your eyes, you can almost imagine Perrine, the heroine of the novel by Hector Malot "En Famille", emerging from the water lilies still awestruck by the flight of the dragonflies and the dance of a mother duck looking after her hatchlings.

Come and enjoy another journey in the beautiful Somme Valley.

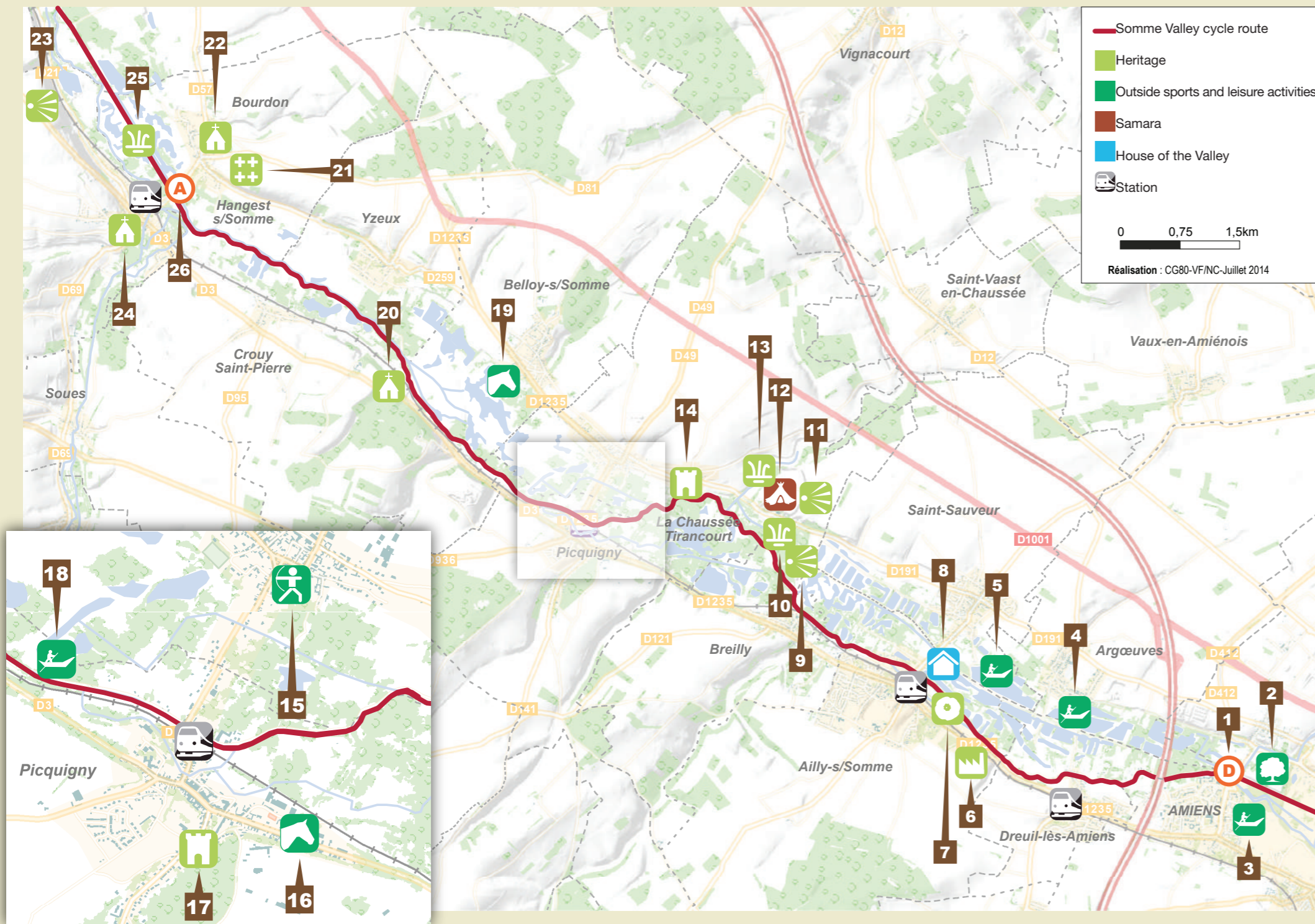
For more information, please visit vallee-somme.com or download the Somme Balade application.



la Somme

espace naturel de rencontres





To find out more
www.somme.fr
www.vallee-somme.com

From Amiens to Bourdon... not to be missed

- 1** Starting point at the Grand Marais Car Park
- 2** Grand Marais Park: 26 hectares for walking, sport and relaxation. Play areas for children and picnic tables.
- 3** "Ché Barboteux" Watersports Centre (03 22 44 40 57)
- 4** Argœuves Watersports Centre: Amiens Sailing Club (06 08 78 84 41)
- 5** Saint-Sauveur Watersports Centre: canoeing, kayaking, optimist, windsurfing... (03 22 48 33 91)
- 6** These houses were used by workers of the Carmichaël Cotton Mill, characteristic of the large model villages created by large paternalist companies of the 19th century.
- 7** The bunker is one of the last from the 1st World War on the banks of the River Somme.
- 8** Ailly-sur-Somme Lock Keeper's House: tourist information; local produce; bicycle, canoe and electric boat hire (also available at the Pont Remy Tourist Office). (03 22 51 76 85)
- 9** The path on your right lets you to leave the tow path for a few hundred metres and walk around the Samara marshlands. Explore the belvedere on the banks of the ponds of the Grande Aiguilles, enjoy the natural heritage and see where peat was harvested.
- 10** The Tirancourt Marshlands: this remarkable piece of countryside, redeveloped by the Conseil General, is home to an exceptional type of fauna and flora.
- 11** Caesar's Camp Belevedere: wonderful views over the valley looking towards Amiens from the heights of this Gallo-Roman oppidum.
- 12** Samara, a park combining archaeology, prehistoric history and nature, takes you back through 600 000 years of history. Exhibitions, reconstructions, workshops and activities are used to tell its story. (03 22 51 82 83). Bistrot de César: restaurant serving local foods cooked to ancient recipes.
- 13** The Acon Valley: a natural environment full of history that can be explored along the discovery trail.
- 14** The 18th century stone chateau of Tirancourt has a landscaped park that looks over the canal.
- 15** Authenti'K Evasion Activities Centre: hiking, endurance, relays, foot-rallies, adventure racing, archery, zipwires (03 22 51 37 65)
- 16** The Picquigny Riding Centre enables you to discover the valley on horseback (06 19 81 08 27)
- 17** Picquigny Castle and Collegiate are charged with history and offer superb views over the valley (please book to visit: 06 27 77 39 95)
- 18** Try out white water rafting in the rushing water of the Picquigny Watersports Centre! (06 29 38 67 73)
- 19** The Belloy sur Somme Riding Centre organises outings to explore the wetlands on horseback and in horse and carriage (03 22 51 48 44)
- 20** On the far bank, the 10th century Gard Abbey was restored by monks in the 1960s having been left to ruin. It has been transformed into rental accommodation and has conserved its ruined chapel.
- 21** Pay your respects at the German Military Cemetery at Bourdon and admire panoramic views over the valley. In the mausoleum, a statue of the Mother grieves for the loss of her children..
- 22** Unusual: the 16th century jagged stoned church spire at Bourdon
- 23** Enjoy great views over the chalk banks that overlook the ponds from the Hangest sur Somme Belvedere. The contrast of colours from the water and winter vegetation is striking.
- 24** Saint Maguerite Church at Hangest sur Somme, a rare example of Roman architecture in the Somme Valley
- 25** The Cavins Marshes were redeveloped by the Conseil Général and enable you to walk on water at the heart of the wetlands and follow the trail of Perrine, the heroine of Hector Malot's novel "En Famille". The educational hut invites you to observe the nocturnal behaviour of the wildlife in the marshlands (more information at the Ailly sur Somme Tourist Office)
- 26** You have arrived at your destination!

Calendar

Markets:

- Saturday mornings at Ailly-sur-Somme
- and Sunday mornings at Picquigny
- Nature Festival at Samara: End of May
- Samarienne : First weekend of July at Samara
- Fête des Cavins : 29 septembre, marais des Cavins
- Many events throughout the year at Samara (www.samara.fr)

A little bit of history...

James Carmichaël and the birth of paternalism : 6

In 1843, the Scottish industrialist James Carmichaël opened a cotton mill at Ailly-sur-Somme and created a model village for his factory workers: housing, crèche, factory schools, cooperatives, etc... everything was provided by the Carmichaël family. The mill closed in 1983 when the textile sector was in crisis.



The agriculture conversion of the Acon Valley:

These lands are now used for organic agriculture, in total respect of the wildlife and the land itself. Pasturelands have been created in the low, flooded areas and barley is grown on the higher points. All produce is sold locally, notably at Samara where barley beer is made following an ancient recipe.

The Treaty of Picquigny on Truce Island:

On 29 August 1475, Edward V of England and Louis XI of France signed the Treaty of Picquigny, putting an end to the Hundred Years' War. As the Somme formed the border of the Kingdom of France, the treaty was signed in neutral territory on a small island in the middle of the river. It marked the first step of Picardy joining France.

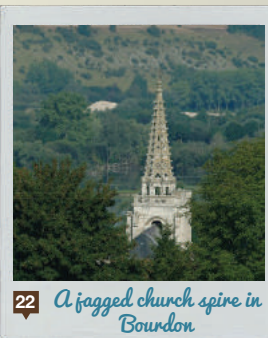
The Somme, a river to share

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...



13 Nantaise cattle in the Acon Valley



22 A jagged church spire in Bourdon



18 River canoeing and rafting at Picquigny



9 Grande Aiguilles Belvedere in the Tivancourt Marshlands



12 Samara, a park combining archaeology, prehistoric history and nature



25 Walks through the Cavins Marshlands



The valley between Picquigny and Amiens



17 The remains of Picquigny Castle and Collegiate

For more information

- Somme Tourisme
03 22 71 22 71 - somme-tourisme.com
- Maison de la Somme
place Notre-Dame à Amiens
03 22 97 20 20 - open every day
- Ouest Amienois Tourist Office
Maison éclusière d'Ailly-sur-Somme
03 22 51 46 85 - open every day during the high season - www.amiens-ouest-tourisme.fr
- Send your comments and suggestions about Meanders:
contact@somme.fr

