



Tour Information



Art Deco & Art Nouveau in Lille & Antwerp





Travel

Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 3 months or more left on it) and has at least 3 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

You do not need a visa for short trips to France and Belgium. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

French consulate: PO Box 57, 6A Cromwell Place, London SW7 2EW;

Tel (020) 7838 2000/1.

Information Service: Tel (0891) 887 733, Fax: (020) 7838 2046.

Opening hours: 09:00-11:30 (and 16:00-16:30 for visa collection only) Mon-Fri (except British and French national holidays).



Tickets

The tour manager will distribute Eurostar tickets at St Pancras. Please meet at the statue underneath the big clock on the first floor 1½ - 2 hours prior to departure time.

Please take care not to lose your tickets and please check that the details on your tickets are accurate. Your ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.

A light meal will be served to passengers travelling Standard Premier on Eurostar. Standard class Eurostar tickets do not include any food or drink on

board, although there is a buffet car serving drinks and snacks.

Train Seats

On all legs of the journey, you have reserved seat and carriage numbers which are shown clearly on your ticket.



Baggage

As with most trains, passengers are responsible for carrying baggage onto and off the train. Baggage can be stored on overhead shelves or at the entrance to the carriages. Trolleys are available at St Pancras and Lille, but bags do need to be carried on to the platform. Porters are sometimes but not always available at St Pancras.

Travel Editions recommends a luggage delivery service called **thebaggageman**, where your suitcase can be picked up from your home before departure and delivered straight to your hotel; therefore removing the worry about carrying your cases onto and off the trains.

For further information:

<http://www.thebaggageman.com>

Transfers

On arrival in Lille, transfer by coach to hotel Mercure Lille Centre Grand Place for check in for three-night stay.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.



Accommodation

Mercure Lille Centre Grand Place, Lille

This four-star hotel is located in the very heart of Lille next to the opera house and within two minutes' walk of the Bourse and Grand Place in the heart of the city. Facilities at this charming, traditional hotel with lovely stained-glass windows include bar and comfortable bedrooms with private bath/shower, hairdryer, TV, telephone, minibar, wi-fi, safe and coffee/tea making facilities.

For more information visit their website:

<http://www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-0802-mercure-lille-centre-grand-place-hotel/index.shtml>



Food

Herring, rabbit, potatoes, *chicons* (endives) and beer form the basis of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais cuisine. Seafood is very popular – coquilles Saint-Jacques, eel, sole, turbot, cod, and of course, *moules frites* will be on menus. You will also find many Flemish inspired dishes here, such as *waterzooï* (stew made with fish or chicken, vegetables, potatoes and herbs), *potjevleesch* (meat, onions and herbs prepared as a jelly or terrine), *Hochepot à la Flamande* (stew made with pig's feet and ears, beef brisket and tail, lamb shoulder, calf's liver, vegetables and potatoes), and *Carbonade Flamande* (sweet-sour beef and onion stew made with beer). Dishes cooked in beer are also popular, such as rabbit with plums and beer, *coq à la bière*, or *couquebaques* (beer crêpes).

Tarts are the most popular dessert – *tarte aux fruits* (apple, rhubarb, plums) or *tarte au sucre* (garnished with a cassonade sugar, cream and egg mixture). Other traditional sweets of the region include *Gauffres fourées* (two wafers filled with cassonade, reputedly General de Gaulle's favourite), *spéculoos* (cinnamon & spices biscuits) and *cramique* (brioche bread).

Coffee is served after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *café au lait* (or *crème*) is requested. *Chicorée* is often added to the strong coffee.

Almost all restaurants offer two types of meals: *a la carte* (extensive choice for each course, generally more expensive) and *le menu* (a set meal at a fixed price). The bill (*l'addition*) will not be presented until it is asked for, even if clients sit and talk for half an hour after finishing their meal. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.

Generally speaking, mealtimes in France are strictly observed. Lunch is as a rule served from noon to 1330, dinner usually from 2000-2130, but the larger the city, the later the dining hour.



Drink

In contrast to the rest of France, where wine is favoured, beer is by far the most popular alcoholic beverage in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais. Hops and barley are grown in the area, and the beer produced tends to be strong and flavoursome. There are plenty of small artisanal *brasseries*, as well as international and national firms producing over 100 different types of beer. Well known are the *Jenlain*, *3 Monts*, *La Goulade*, and the *Ch'ti*.

Juniper berries are used to produce two of the local eau-de-vie, *Genièvre*, or Jenever (made by distilling cereals and adding the berries) and *Chuchemourette* (cassis and juniper berries liqueur).

For a non-alcoholic drink try the excellent artisanal lemonades produced according to traditional recipes.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner is included on two nights at the atmospheric Art Nouveau Brasserie de la Paix, located 2-3 minutes' walk from the hotel in the heart of the city.

Taking food and drink into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries



Destination

Although its heritage does not lend itself to that of a cultural hub, in recent years Lille has had a renaissance, revealing itself as one of France's most underrated cities with a selection of world class museums and plenty of delightful early 20th century architecture to discover. Antwerp, on the other hand, is a timeless city, almost a living museum with streets lined with buildings that have been there for centuries.

Details of places of interest included in your tour:

Lille

The largest city in northern France, Lille belies its industrial past with a charming old town, full of cobbled streets, grand squares and plenty of bars, cafés and restaurants as well as its historic sites including the *Hospice Comtesse*, *Old Exchange* and *Citadel*. Your stay here includes a walking tour of the Art Nouveau houses of Lille, including the exterior of the beautiful *Maison Colliot* and a visit to the recently re-opened *Villa Cavrois*.

For more information about Lille, please visit:

<http://en.lilletourism.com/>

Villa Cavrois

The Villa Cavrois is the emblematic work of the architect Robert Mallet-Stevens, a figure of the modernist movement. It was designed and built for Paul Cavrois, a textile industrialist from the North, and his family. The program for this modern castle, commissioned in 1929, is clear: "air, light, work, sports, hygiene, comfort and economy". Classified as a historic monument in 1990 and acquired by the State in 2001, the gigantic restoration project implemented in 2003 by the DRAC Nord-Pas-de-Calais and then taken over in 2008 by the Center des monuments nationaux was completed in June 2015.

For more information about the Villa Cavrois, please visit:

<http://www.villa-cavrois.fr/en/>

Roubaix and La Piscine

Roubaix is now virtually a suburb of Lille but was once the centre of the textile industry. Its stunning Albert Baert's 1932 Art Deco swimming pool has been transformed into the hidden gem that is *La*

Piscine, whose contents include sample fabric books from the Art Nouveau period. 19th and 20th century art and sculpture are displayed around the original pool and in the beautifully tiled changing rooms.

For more information about La Piscine, please visit:

<http://www.roubaix-lapiscine.com/>

Antwerp

The historic Belgian city of Antwerp is famed as the birthplace of Rubens with a strong artistic heritage in its fine museums and churches. This heritage was also reflected in the city's enthusiastic embracing of the Art Nouveau movement with an entire district, known as the *Golden Triangle*, of some 170 Art Nouveau houses as well as the famed "*Five Continents*" house.

For more information about Antwerp, please visit:

<https://www.visitantwerpen.be/en/home>

Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp (KMSKA)

First opened in 1890 the Royal Museum of Fine Arts has most recently been closed for more than a decade and reopened in September 2022 after a big renovation. The building hosts a fantastic art collection within its historic rooms where you will find works by Rubens, Van Dyck and Van Eyck. It also boasts ten new contemporary rooms with the world's largest collections of works by James Ensor as well as works by Rik Wouters, Magritte and Modigliani.

For more information about the KMSKA, please visit: <https://kmska.be/en>

Palais des Beaux-Arts

You will also visit the superb collection at Lille's *Palais des Beaux Arts*, the 2nd largest fine arts museum in France after the Louvre. Fully renovated in 1997, it houses collections of European painting, drawings, a sculpture gallery and 17th and 18th century ceramics. This collection includes particular works of Raphaël, Donatello, Van Dyck, Tissot, Jordaens, Rembrandt, Goya, Greco, David, Corot, Courbet, Toulouse-Lautrec, Delacroix, Rubens, Rodin, Claudel, Jean-Baptiste Chardin, as well as

three-dimensional maps of several Lille-surrounding cities that were fortified by Vauban.

For more information about the Palais des Beaux-arts, please visit:

<https://en.lilletourism.com/museum-lille/palais-des-beaux-arts-de-lille.html>

Your lecturer / guides

Prof. Anne Anderson, author, broadcaster, Lecturer and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, was a senior lecturer at Southampton Solent University for 14 years, specialising in the Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau and Modernism. Anne's career as an international speaker has taken her all over the world and her TV credits include the BBC's Flog It!. Anne has received a rapturous response from our customers at the many Travel Editions UK lectures and tours as well as a host of tours overseas and her knowledge, wit and enthusiasm bring her beloved subjects to life in whatever location she finds them.

Dr Scott Anderson is a Senior Lecturer in the History of Art and Design, who was a professional archaeologist for ten years before his interests shifted to the world of art, antiques and auctioneering. In 1994 he joined the team at Southampton Institute (now Southampton Solent University) as a Lecturer in Fine Arts Valuation, the only BA (Hons) degree course of its kind to look at the commercial art world. He also has a particular interest in architecture and in recent years has taught courses on the history and theory of interior design, and art and design history. Now, as a Senior Lecturer, he concentrates on teaching, research and publication. Scott has written extensively, in learned journals and popular magazines, on both ancient and 19th-century ceramics, Roman archaeology, and Victorian and Edwardian art and design. He is an Honorary Fellow of the National Association of Valuers and television credits include BBC's Flog It!

There will be two talks during your tour from either Prof Anne Anderson OR Dr Scott Anderson:

“Art Nouveau in Belgium”

“Art Deco – an International Style in Context”

Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Recommended reading

Graham Robb, *The Discovery of France*.

A general introduction to French culture, landscape and history, it also features an excellent insight into the distinctive character of France's regions.

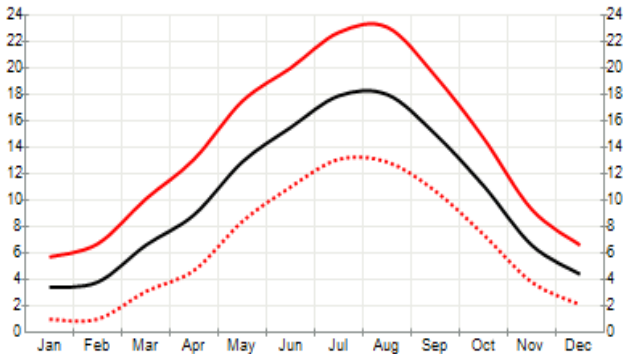
Grading

This tour has been graded as **Demanding**: On your feet all day, uneven terrain (e.g. cobbles).



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Lille at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.



Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – French.

Religion – Roman Catholic.

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Easter Monday; Labour day (01 May); Victory in Europe day (08 May); Ascension day; Whit Sunday; Whit Monday; National day (14 Jul); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Armistice day (11 Nov); Christmas day (25 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops and museums – Department stores are open 0900-1830 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are closed between 1200-1430. Some food shops (particularly bakers) are open Sunday mornings, in which case they will probably close Monday. Many shops close all day or half-day Monday. Please note that most museums are closed on Mondays.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges you might get from 1 January 2021. A new law means that you're protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you're abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you're travelling to an EU country.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For further information about the GHIC please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 09:00-17:00), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7441 343850

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

Consular services Paris

16 rue d'Anjou

75008 Paris

France

Tel: +33 (0)1 44 51 31 00

Fax: +33 (0)1 44 51 31 27

Open Mon-Fri 09:30-12:30. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +33 (0)1 44 51 31 00.

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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