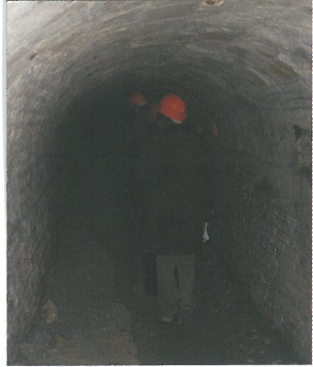


Unusual and natural heritage



The souterrains

A lot of galleries run under the town of Cambrai. They recall the quarries from which the chalk used for building was extracted mainly between the 10th and 16th centuries. Most of the quarries are located in the town center in a perimeter defined by the boulevards. Remnants from the fortifications are another aspect of the underground

heritage. The countermine galleries of the citadel form a network of several kilometers and are one of the last vestiges of the imperial citadels built by Charles the Fifth during the middle of the 16th century.

*Guided tours every weekend
for times of visits please contact the Tourist Office
visitors should wear appropriate shoes and clothes*



The public gardens

In the center of the town there are more than 20 hectares of public gardens to be found in 3 different places : the Grottes garden, the flower garden and the Monstrelet garden.

They are strewn with sculptures

of famous people from Cambrai or connected with the place. A playground where " billion " a traditional game involving heavy wooden skittles can be played is also to be found.

*Flower garden open from
8 am to 8 pm - 9 to 7 in winter*



The Cantimpré Harbour

This lovely harbour located at the junction between the Saint-Quentin canal and the Escaut canal is surrounded by banks suitable for walks and is only a 5 mn walk from the town center.

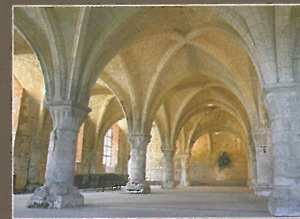
Nearby :



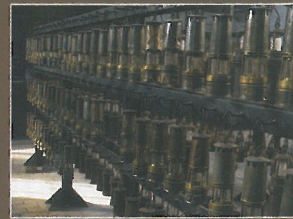
The matisse departmental museum in le Cateau-Cambrésis (25 kms)



The lace and embroidery museum in Caudry (14 kms)



The Vaucelles abbey in Les Rues des Vignes (14 kms)



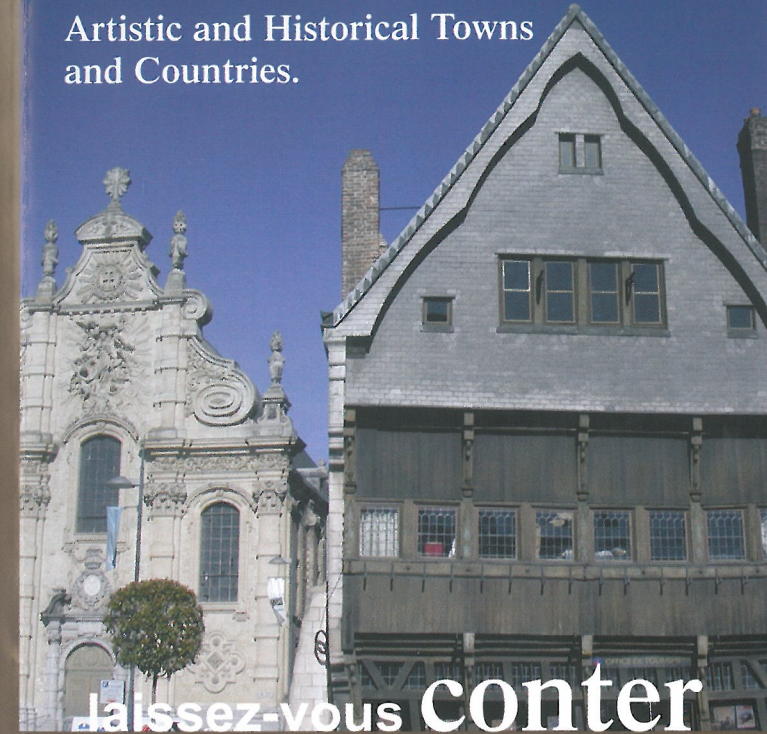
The historical mining center in Lewarde (24 kms)



The spanish house

Built in 1595 during the Spanish occupation - hence its name this wood-panelled and well-established house is the last example of the type of housing that was common during the Middle Ages and till the 17th century. It now houses the tourist office.

Artistic and Historical Towns and Countries.



Laissez-vous conter Cambrai

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For information, reservations, please contact :

Office de tourisme du Cambrésis

48, rue de Noyon 59 400 Cambrai

Tél. : +33 (0)3 27 78 36 15 - Fax : +33 (0)3 27 74 82 82

contact@tourisme-cambresis.fr - www.tourisme-cambresis.fr

For further information
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Visits of the souterrains under the Market
Place and the Citadel
at week-ends

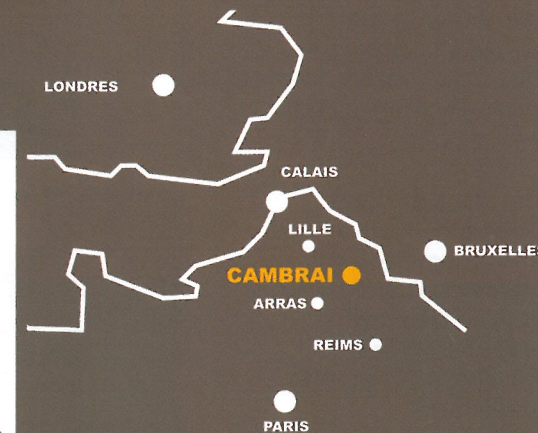
www.tourisme-cambrai.fr

Proud of its past, confident in its future

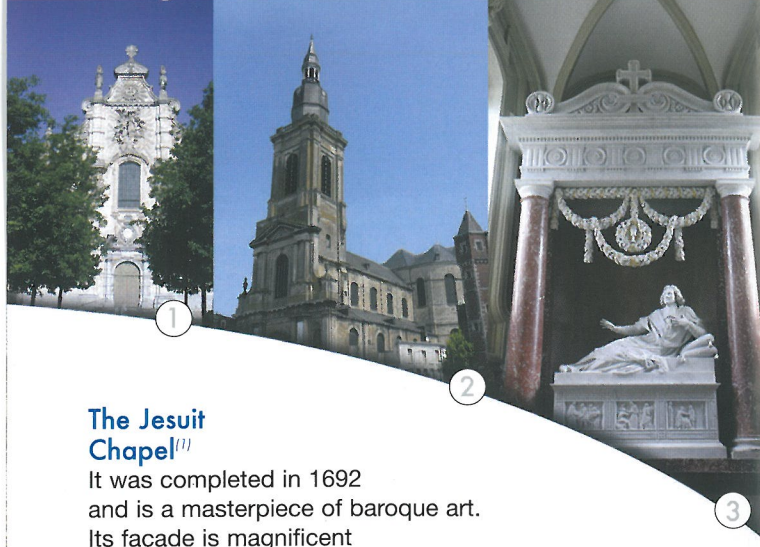
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ville de Cambrai



Religious monuments



The Jesuit Chapel⁽¹⁾

It was completed in 1692 and is a masterpiece of baroque art. Its façade is magnificent and the interior is richly adorned with paintings and sculptures.

Can only be visited on request for groups

Saint Géry Church⁽²⁾

Formerly Saint Aubert abbey church it was rebuilt between 1698 and 1745. The church is of classical style and houses many masterpieces such as The Entombment of Christ by Rubens (1616), a marble and alabaster jube by Marsy, the 18th century panelling of the chancel ...

Can be visited at opening hours of the building except during religious services - please use side entrance

Notre Dame Cathedral⁽³⁾

The former Saint Sépulcre abbey church was founded in the 11th century and rebuilt from the year 1696 on in the classical style much valued by Louis XIVth. It houses remarkable trompe-l'oeil paintings by Martin Gheeraerts which represent the Passion of Christ and scenes from the life of the Virgin, the Notre-Dame de Grâce icon, the 18th century panelling of the sacristy as well as Fénelon's tomb sculpted by David d'Angers.

Can be visited at opening hours of the building except during religious services

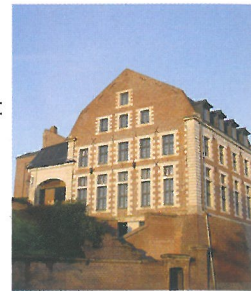
Fortifications

Described as " a dreadful obstacle " by Boileau when the town was taken by Louis XIVth in 1677, Cambrai retains visible signs of its former fortifications.

The Selles Castle

It was first the stronghold of the Count Bishop and was then used as a prison from the 14th century on. One of the most beautiful collections of graffiti in France can be admired in the souterrains. Today the Selles Castle houses the law courts of Cambrai.

Can only be visited on request within certain conditions



The Paris Gate

It was built in 1391 and was one of the 7 entrances to the town. It is a fine example of a two-towered fortified castle gate which testifies to the defensive system of vaulted passages.

Can only be visited on request within certain conditions



The Notre-Dame Gate

It is a vestige of the old fortifications and was built in the early 17th century. It is the Northern entrance to the town. At the time town gates, protected by outwork, were adorned as the diamond-shaped bond and the richly-sculpted decoration show. The sun sculpted on the pediment recalls the glory of Louis XIVth.

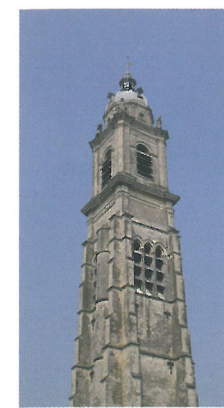


The Arquets Gate

This remnant of medieval fortifications has kept a surprising device which enabled the water of the Escaut to fill in the ditches of the town facing South.



Civil Heritage and Traditions



The belfry

Formerly called the Saint-Martin bell tower the belfry has symbolized the fight of the inhabitants of Cambrai for the preservation of communal rights since 1474. The 4 sculptures on the summit go back to 1924 and represent people known for the part they played in the history of Cambrai. The belfry is where the watch or " gallus " was to be found. There were several of them and among other things they were supposed to strike the hour. They also kept a close watch over the town and gave the alert when a fire started somewhere or in case of attacks from outside. Inherited from the Middle Ages the watch system lasted till 1934.

Classed as Unesco World Heritage it cannot be visited because of the bad state of the stairs

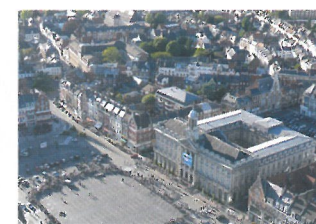
The Town Hall

It is of neo-classical style and is composed of 3 ceremonial rooms used for important events :

the ceremony room, the white room and the party room. It also includes the wedding

room where portraits made by Emile Flamant between 1927 and 1931 can be admired. They are one of the masterpieces of the Cambrai heritage and they tell the story of the town through its major figures. Last but not least Martin and Martine have been ringing the bells of the Town Hall since 1512.

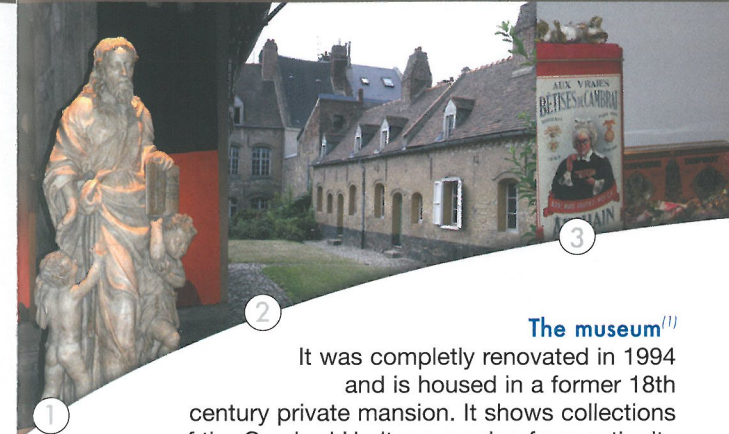
Visits depend on ongoing events



The Aristide Briand Square

It was designed by Pierre Leprince-Ringuet after 1918 and is the heart of the town. The façades of the houses which were rebuilt after the First World War show a variety of style and ornamentation

such as eclecticism, Flemish regionalism, Art Nouveau and Art Déco.



The museum⁽¹⁾

It was completely renovated in 1994 and is housed in a former 18th century private mansion. It shows collections of the Cambrai Heritage ranging from antiquity right up until today. The everyday life of Gallo-Roman and Merovingian civilisations which existed in the Cambrai region can be guessed at thanks to the result of excavations. Apart from great works of art belonging to the Cambrai Heritage the museum houses an important Beaux-Arts collection. The animated architectural model, a 20 mn audio-visual show, is probably what can help discover the town best.

Open Wednesday to Sunday from 10 to 12 and 2 to 6 - free at weekends

The Saint-Vaast et Saint-Nicolas Beguine convents⁽²⁾

They used to be the home of a community of pious women - either widows or spinsters - whose life was devoted to charity and prayer according to the vocation of such institutions which were common between the Artois and the Netherlands. Founded in the 14th century and transferred to that spot in 1545 the Saint-Vaast Beguine convent is the last example of Beguine courtyards in France. It is composed of small whitewashed brick houses covered with tile roofs surrounding a garden and a common room.

Rue des Anglaises and rue des Capucins can only be visited on request for groups

The Bêtises⁽³⁾

During the middle of the 19th century a Cambrai trainee confectioner made a mistake while making the sweets he had been ordered to produce. But those sweets which were easy to digest and refreshing were a success. They were given the name Bêtises (Mistake) since they were the result of a mistake in their making.

the Alchain and Despinoy companies organize visits throughout the year