



Le Nord-Pas de Calais, we set the pace!



PRESS

Beneath the legendary cobblestones...

A land of passion and innovation...

Our region is proud of its traditions: Unesco world heritage-listed giants and bell towers, towns of art and history, festivals and carnivals...

For the Nord-Pas de Calais Region, supporting Paris-Roubaix means above all preserving popular heritage.

Our region provides the stage for many cycling races and was also home to champion cyclists like Cédric Vasseur, Arnaud Tournant, Laurent Thirionet, Jean-Marie Leblanc and Jean Stablinski. For the Nord-Pas de Calais Region, supporting Paris-Roubaix means declaring our passion for sport in general and cycling in particular.



And the Nord-Pas de Calais today, sands for so much more...

The youngest population in France, three regional natural parks, six economic competitiveness clusters including one world cluster, major international industrial and retail groups, innovative urban regeneration, solidarity, sustainable development and a cultural melting pot soon to be given an extra stir by the arrival of the Lens branch of the Louvre museum.

For the Nord-Pas de Calais Region, supporting Paris-Roubaix means showing a new face, new talents, new colours: the chance to say, on behalf of our four million inhabitants:

Le Nord-Pas de Calais, we set the pace!



De Busigny à Roubaix, découvrez, en 7 secteurs, les points d'intérêt économiques, culturels ou touristiques, qui jalonnent le parcours de Paris-Roubaix en Nord-Pas de Calais.

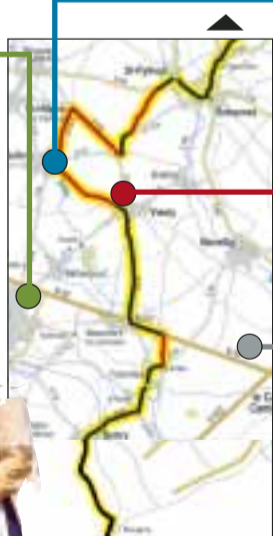
A > Busigny-Solesmes

Caudry Up-Tex Competitiveness Cluster

Caudry is a town famous for its tulle, embroidery and machine lace making, and so is a natural part of the Up-Tex competitiveness cluster, which is dedicated to innovative textiles.
To see: the Caudry Lace and Embroidery museum

Laïté, the Caudry giant

Like all the giants in the Nord-Pas de Calais, "la petite dentellière" is a World Heritage Site.



Quiévy

The birthplace of the abstract painter Auguste Herbin, who has a permanent collection at the Henri Matisse Museum.



Viesly

Nearby is the commune of Fontaine-aux-Bois, the birthplace of cyclist Jean-Marie Leblanc.



Le Cateau-Cambrésis

Departmental Henri Matisse Museum, in the town, where the fauvist painter was born. Tasting notes: "Le p'tit Quinquin", a lemonade made in the Brasserie (brewery) de l'Abbaye du Cateau.



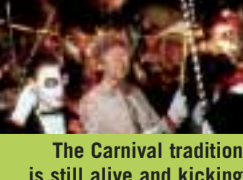
Busigny

Welcome to the Nord-Pas de Calais.
Highest point of the race, at 168m.

Solesmes

The giant syringes

Every year, on the Sunday before Mardi Gras, the people of Solesmes keep up a Mediaeval tradition: chasing each other in the streets armed with giant water-filled syringes.



The Carnival tradition is still alive and kicking in the Nord-Pas de Calais.

In the case of the most famous local event, at Dunkirk, carnival time, which lasts from Epiphany until Mardi Gras, marks the beginning of the fishing season in Iceland.



B > Solesmes-Maing

Vendegies-sur-Ecaillon

The Grès Montfort or "gros caillou" (a large menhir) is one of the rare Cambrésis megaliths still standing.



The Paris-Roubaix cobbles

On the rocks... Bywords for tears, the Paris-Roubaix cobbles are the last remnants of the Roman roads which once criss-crossed the region. Now under threat from modernisation, the cobbled sections of the race have been methodically preserved for 25 years. The cobbles also contribute to biodiversity by allowing tiny plants and insects to move around the cracks between them.



Cambrai

The Nord-Pas de Calais and its bell towers

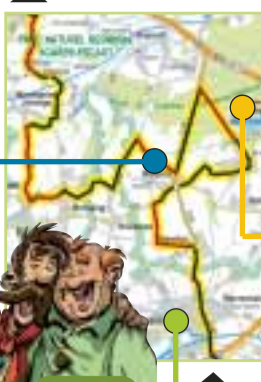
Internationally renowned for its "Bêtises" (mint sweets) and the quality of its lace, Cambrai can now also count on its bell tower, a World Heritage Site like 22 other bell towers in the region and in Picardy, to maintain its profile.

C > Maing-Hornaing

Walleres-Arenberg

[ouallerse]

La drève des boules d'Hérin
Famous worldwide for the legendary Arenberg Gap (or "drève des boules d'Hérin") where 2,400 metres of cobble stoned road make up one of the most difficult sections of the race, in 1993 the Walleres-Arenberg area was home to the set of *Germinal*, filmed in the old mine, which closed in 1989.



Denain

The birthplace of Jules Mousseron, coal miner, poet and creator of Zéph Cafougnette, a popular mining character. Denain provides the race's first panoramic view, over the slag heaps of the mining basin, such as the one at Renard.

Mastlanka / Malescoone / Ed. Imbroglio

The future of the slag heaps

The slag heaps ("terills") are proof of the area's mining past, but some people also see them as a great hope for the future: the heap at Rieulay has been developed as an area for walking and water sports, while Nœux-les-Mines now boasts an artificial ski slope!

Biodiversity

Because of their internal heat, the slag heaps have developed their own ecosystems where flora and fauna not usually found in the region can flourish, such as wall lizards.



The Goriaux pond

The result of mining subsidence, since 1982 the pond has been home to a nature reserve at the heart of the Raismes, Saint-Arnaud and Walleres forests boasting more than 300 bird species.

Valenciennes

A high-speed region

The Nord-Pas de Calais, France's leading railway region, has been recognised as a world competitiveness cluster because of the I-Trans programme, which is based in Valenciennes.

Building popular culture

Named Regional Capital of Culture in 2007, Valenciennes offers a year-round programme of festivities and shows open to everyone.

D > Hornaing-Orchies

Saint-Amand-les-Eaux

Water cures and mud therapy

Saint-Amand is the only thermal spa town in the north of France and specialises in rheumatology and respiratory treatment. The mud cures and the mineral water which gushes out at 26°C are renowned for their therapeutic qualities.

The Saint-Amand Abbey Tower,

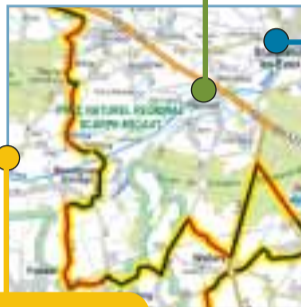
part of what was one of the largest abbeys in the north of France, rises to 82 metres.



Raismes

Gateway to the Scarpe Escaut Regional Natural Park

Created in 1968, this natural park is the oldest of France's 45 regional natural parks and is made up of three massive forested areas which were once separate. This 53,000-hectare site, which takes in 48 communes, offers a varied natural environment, particularly popular among walkers.



Marchiennes

Witchcraft and pumpkins

One of the last witchcraft trials took place in the Marchiennes area in 1679. Since 1991 the witches have returned for the Cucurbitades, the pumpkin and sorcery festival, which takes place on the first Sunday in October.

Marchiennes Abbey

This vast monastery complex which dates from the year 630 can now only be viewed in its original form at the commune museum. Destroyed in 1791, only the main entrance building, which houses the town hall and the museum, remains.



E > Orchies-Templeuve

Seclin

Find Harengus junior, the Seclin giant, alongside the route of the race at "Croix Blanche".



Templeuve

Tower pivot windmill

Restored in 1980, the Vertain windmill is open to visitors and is the only tower pivot windmill left in France.



The Nord-Pas de Calais, land of breweries

Already being drunk in Roman times by the peoples of Belgian Gaul, cerveoise (barley beer) is a regional tradition. Craft-produced beers, which are still brewed, and beers produced on an industrial scale from the 19th century onwards have grown in number hugely over the years. Many different varieties can be sampled - in moderation! - along the course.



Orchies

La fiancée du soleil

Chicory root is mainly grown around Orchies (100,000 tonnes/year), which is home to the headquarters of Leroux, a world leader in chicory production and processing. Recognised as aiding digestion and eliminating toxins, this root is nicknamed "fiancée du soleil" (fiancée of the sun) because of its flower, which is blue in the morning and white in the evening.

A new cobbled section has been introduced near Orchies, thanks to the renovation work undertaken by the Association of Friends of Paris-Roubaix, local groups and horticultural schools.

F > Templeuve Camphin-en-Pévèle

Cysoing

An obelisk-shaped pyramid

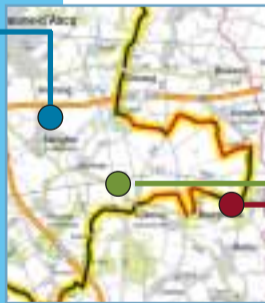
Erected at the heart of the Cysoing Abbey Park, the pyramid of Fontenoy was built in 1751 by Fontenoy's head abbot to celebrate the visit of King Louis XV and his victory at the battle of Fontenoy. The 17m-high blue-stone obelisk is still standing today.



Wannehain

[ouannehain]

This commune, on the Belgian border, was once a smuggling centre.



Bouvines

The most resounding French military victory

Despite being outnumbered, King Philippe Auguste's army stood up to their traditional enemies (Germany, England and Flanders) massed in an invading army. The stained-glass windows of the church trace the events of the famous battle of Bouvines in 1214.



G > Camphin-en-Pévèle - Roubaix

Roubaix

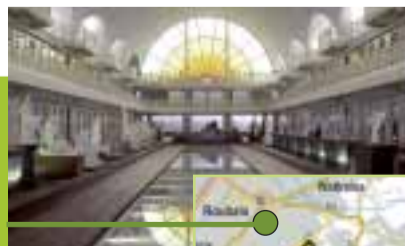
A new covered velodrome?

A new covered velodrome, near the current velodrome and the Van der Meersch high school, is at the design stage.

The Van der Meersch high school is the only institution in France to offer a road cycling sports department.

Dive into art deco

The famous Museum of Art and Industry in the old municipal swimming pool will introduce you to art from the 19th and 20th centuries. Until the 20th May, La Piscine is presenting an Emile-Othon Friesz exhibition entitled "Le fauve baroque" (The Baroque Fauvist).



Camphin-en-Pévèle

LOSC training centre

Luchin farm is home to the training and coaching centre of LOSC (Lille Olympique Sporting Club).

