



## Vive La France – Ville de Lille!

Near enough for a day trip – far enough to be totally different!

Whether you are visiting for a short break or for a longer stay, Lille has plenty to occupy you regardless of your interests, from opera to contemporary theatre, cabaret to the classics or just good old beer and mussels you will soon take on the lifestyle of a local in this magnificent little city!



Lille is the capital of Flanders with more than 300 000 inhabitants, defined as a big city but a city that feels like home. With the feel of a big village, you can go from side to side on a 40min walk, a 20 min cycle ride or a **2CV Tour!** Forget your car when you visit Lille, take a pair of comfortable shoes to discover this

beautiful city of multiple facets and infinite charms on one of our guided walking tours. Should you prefer someone else to do the work then take the open top bus tour or a private tour of the city by 2CV with our friendly drivers...

Lille is divided into 4 neighbourhoods: The old town (**Vieux-Lille**), the Grand Centre, Wazemmes and Vauban. Lille is often assimilated to a bourgeois city but it has the peculiarity of having popular neighbourhoods right in the heart of the town and as a student city is lively and vibrant. People from Lille and from the North of France have the reputation of being warm and welcoming, they will be more than happy to show you their way of life and the best places to eat, drink or party! In 2004, Lille was the **European Capital of Culture** and still is a very dynamic centre for cultural



activities (museums, exhibitions, festival, concerts, events...). Every first weekend of September, Lille organizes the biggest flea market in Europe with more than 2 million of visitors coming from all around the world. A must eat at “La Braderie” is French Fries & Mussels: the specialty of Lille during those 2 crazy days! Besides **French fries and mussels**,



the city has many traditional specialties to offer you: the **welsh**, the **carbonade flamande**, the **pot'je**... always served with home-made French fries! The food is well-known to be fast and hearty, perfect for the gourmands!



About 15 minutes walk from the Grand Place you will find yourself at the **Parc de La Citadelle et Zoo**. Encircled by the Deûle canal, the park includes the Bois de Boulogne Woods (which surround the ramparts of Vauban's Citadel) and the zoo. The Bois de Boulogne Woods are always open to visitors. There are some remarkable trees there, such as a Montpellier Maple, a Corsican pine and even a Giant Sequoia.

The **Lille Zoo** is free and houses about 350 animals representing 70 different species: monkeys, zebras, panthers, rare birds etc.. The zoo is free to enter and is open



spring/summer daily except Tuesdays with limited autumn/winter opening – check with the tourist office for details.

By night, you will be able to enjoy many bars and clubs to party until 6am! THE drink in Lille is Beer: you will find a wide range of beers, often craft beers and also many Belgium beers from blond to dark, from hoppy to fruity. Everyone has its beer! Lille is proud to welcome you for a stay that you will appreciate, enjoy and not forget!

The **Lille Opera** in has amassed a reputation great national and international performances! Since its reopening in December 2003, the Lille Opera has been offering audiences of the north of France a varied lyric programme, ranging from the baroque period to the creations of contemporary composers, as well as the masterpieces of the repertoire. Modern dance also plays a leading role: the programming



for

major



explores today's major aesthetic directions, put into perspective with the presentation of founding works.

This eclectic and ambitious artistic project has conferred upon the Lille Opera a growing international reputation among the public as well as among professionals.

For those with a little more time you can visit the **Fromelles Battlefields** & stand in the footsteps of the soldiers who fought in the battle of Fromelles visiting the museums and memorials on a number of tours remembering the Great War and the Christmas truce. In Lille you may also visit the birthplace of **Charles de Gaulle**, now a museum it recreates the atmosphere of a typical late 19th century home of the Northern French industrial middle class. The family keepsakes and personal objects on display (cradle, christening robe, Saint-Cyr sword, etc.) are a reminder of De Gaulle's younger days. A recently developed multimedia centre also looks back over the great statesman's historic work.



For a festive break with some seasonal shopping the **Marche de Noel** is a must with Christmas approaching, Lille is decked out in lights and colour. Around the Christmas market, the whole town is covered in a huge crown of garlands.

On Place Rihour, 80 wooden chalets teem with gift ideas, nativity figurines, Christmas decorations and festive food. You can find regional specialities here, and you can also find arts and crafts from Russia, Canada and Poland! And that's not to forget the gingerbread and other delicacies, which you can take away or eat on the spot with a glass of mulled wine...

Whenever you go – whatever you go for you will undoubtedly fall in love with Lille!

Call us on **01213 573 866** to put together your short break or holiday to **Ville de Lille!**