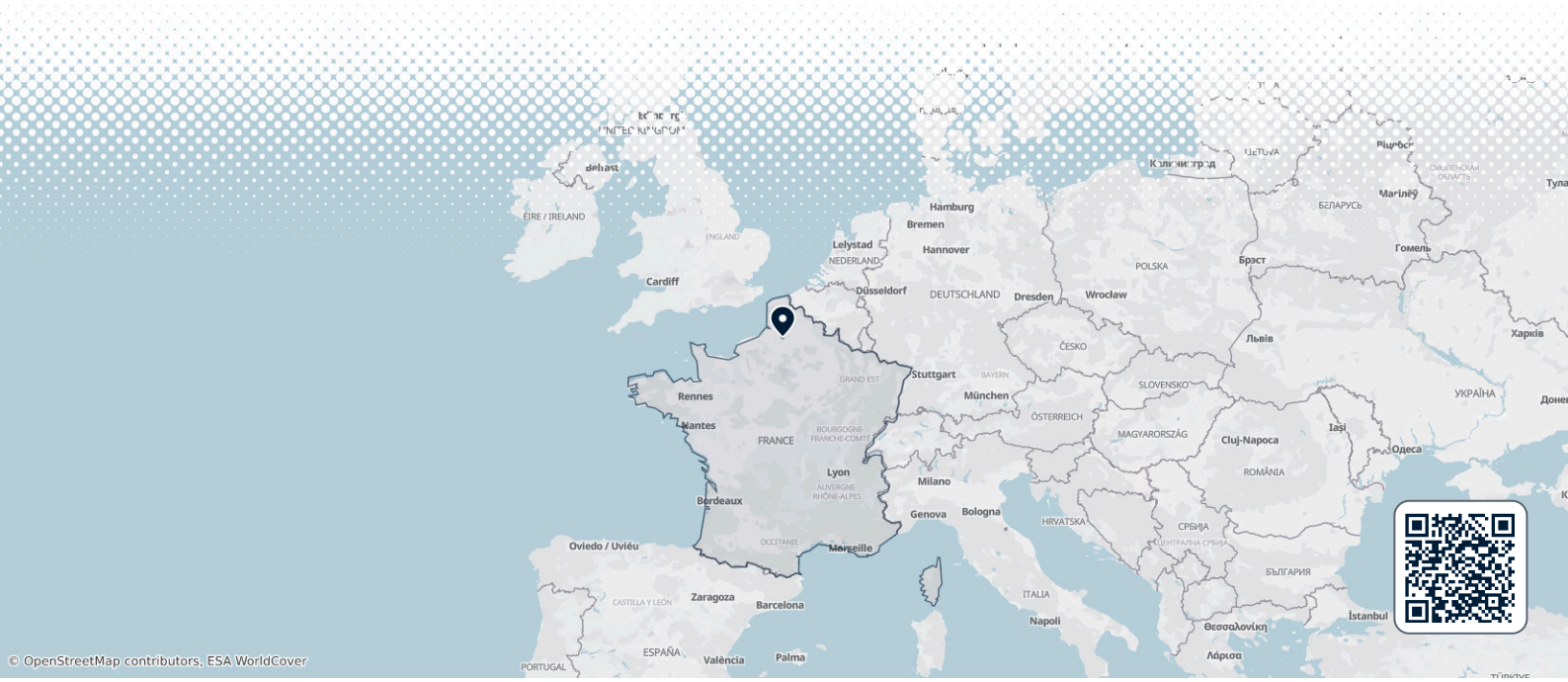


Amiens

Hauts-de-France · France

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Amiens is a calm university city on the Somme river in northern France. It is home to the largest Gothic cathedral in France, which is the reason most visitors come. The compact centre is easy to cover on foot in a day or two.

The city also has canals, floating gardens and the house of the writer *Jules Verne*. It is about 1 hour 10 minutes from Paris by train. Many people come from Paris for a day. An overnight stay gives you a quieter evening in the old canal quarter.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time. Summers are warm, not hot. Rain can fall in any month, so bring a light waterproof. Winters are cold and grey, with frost on many mornings.

The biggest event is the Christmas market, which runs from about 20 November to 30 December. It has more than 100 chalets in the centre. At the same time, a light show called Chroma projects colour onto the cathedral front. Book hotels early for December weekends.

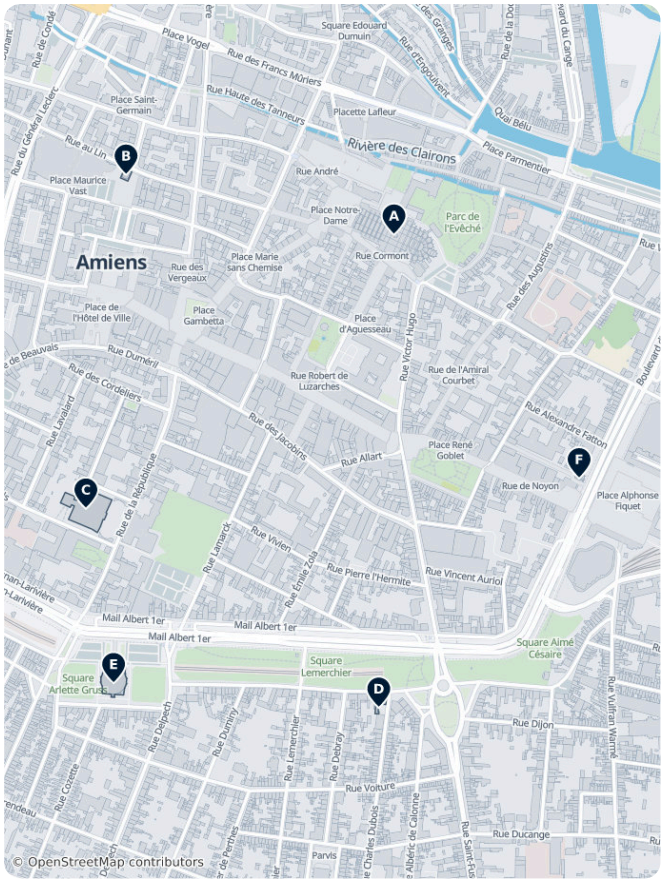
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 12° Feels like 1°	1° / -6°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 13° Feels like 3°	1° / -5°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	12° / 18° Feels like 7°	3° / -3°	Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 22° Feels like 11°	5° / -1°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25°	8° / 3°	12 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	11° / 7°	12 rainy days · Dry air
July	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 28°	13° / 9°	12 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 29°	13° / 10°	13 rainy days
September	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 26°	11° / 6°	Dry air
October	Good Good for cycling	16° / 21° Feels like 13°	8° / 2°	14 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for cycling	10° / 16° Feels like 6°	4° / -2°	15 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 13° Feels like 2°	2° / -4°	15 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, July, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Cathédrale Notre-Dame is the main reason to visit. Builders finished most of it between 1220 and about 1270. It is the largest cathedral in France by volume, and it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Look for the carved west front and the maze pattern on the nave floor.
- B Beffroi is a 15th-century town tower in the centre. It is part of the UNESCO listing of belfries in Belgium and France. It marks the old independence of the city.
- C Musée de Picardie is the city's main art and archaeology museum. It is in a large 19th-century building and has large wall paintings by *Puvis de Chavannes* and an Egyptian collection.
- D Maison Jules Verne is the house where *Jules Verne* lived and worked. It is the best place to learn about his life and his books.
- E Cirque Jules Verne is a historic circus hall named after the writer, who served on the city council for 15 years. It is still used for shows.
- F Tour Perret is a concrete tower by the architect *Auguste Perret*, next to the station. It shows the style of the city's rebuilding after the wars.



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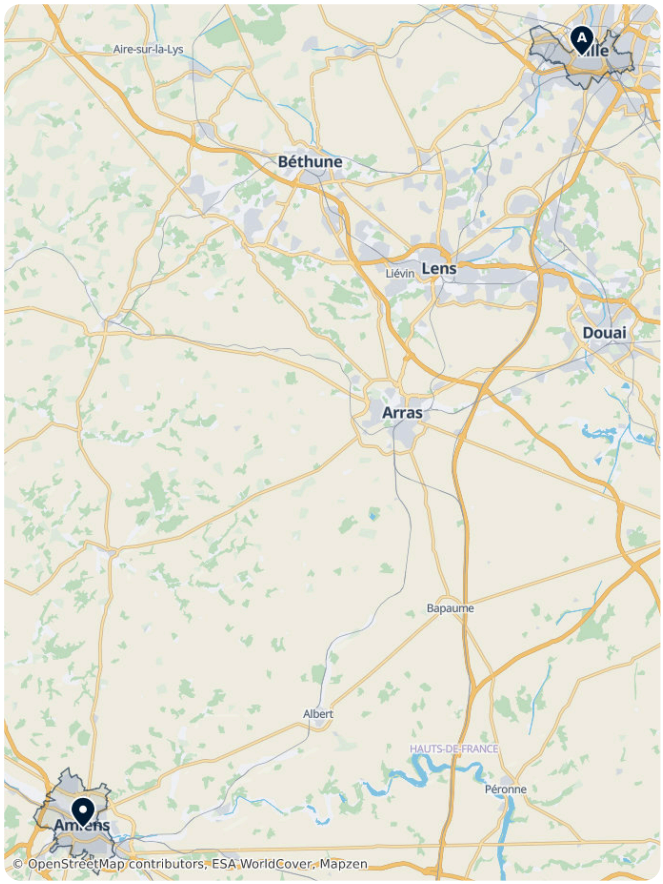
What to experience

- **Boat trip in the Hortillonnages**: These are about 300 hectares of market gardens on canals, just east of the centre. Guided boat trips last about 45 minutes and run from April to October.
- **Christmas market and Chroma light show**: From about 20 November to 30 December, walk the chalets in the centre. The colour show on the cathedral front runs from late November to late December.
- **Saturday market in Saint-Leu**: Local growers from the Hortillonnages sell fruit and vegetables on Place Parmentier on Saturdays.
- **Evening by the canals in Saint-Leu**: Cafés and restaurants line the canals in this old quarter. It is the best place to spend an evening.

Day trips

Amiens is a good base for the Somme region. Rail links to nearby towns are fast.

- **Albert**: about 20 minutes by train. The basilica has a famous leaning statue, and a museum covers the 1916 Somme battle.
- **Abbeville**: about 25 to 30 minutes by train. A small historic town on the Somme river with a Gothic church.
- **Arras**: about 40 to 55 minutes by train. Known for its two large arcaded squares and its UNESCO-listed belfry.
- **Lille**: about 1 hour 20 minutes by train. Ⓐ Lille is a large city with museums and a lively old town.
- **Saint-Valery-sur-Somme**: about 1 hour by car. A pretty harbour town on the Bay of the Somme, with a tourist steam railway along the bay.
- **First World War sites**: Villers-Bretonneux, Thiepval and Péronne are east of Amiens. A car or a guided tour is the easiest way to visit.



Where to explore

- For the capital: Paris is about 1 hour 10 minutes to 1 hour 40 minutes away by direct train.
- For a bigger city in the region: Lille is to the north.
- For the Channel coast: Calais is the main port to the north-west.

Getting there

- **By air**: Amiens has no commercial airport. The usual gateways are Paris Charles de Gaulle and Lille-Lesquin. From either, continue by train via Paris Nord or Lille.
- **By train**: Direct regional trains run from Paris Nord to Amiens in about 1 hour 10 minutes to 1 hour 40 minutes. Lille takes about 1 hour 20 minutes. Book on SNCF Connect. Amiens station is in the centre, about 15 minutes on foot from the cathedral.
- **By TGV**: High-speed trains stop at Haute-Picardie station, about 40 km away. A bus links it to Amiens in about 45 minutes.
- **Tourist information**: Amiens tourist office.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The cathedral, belfry, Saint-Leu and the station are all within about 20 minutes of each other. Most visitors need nothing else.
- **Public transport**: The Ametis bus network covers the city and nearby towns. Check the Ametis site for current ticket and payment options.
- **Cycling**: The city is flat. The Somme river path is good for easy rides.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The compact centre, with the cathedral, belfry and Saint-Leu, is easy to cover on foot.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The city is flat and the Somme river path is good for easy rides.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city. The centre is small and easy on foot. A car helps for the Somme battlefields and the coast.
- **Parking**: Use a car park near the centre and walk. Leave the car outside the pedestrian streets around the cathedral.

Food & drink

Look for *macarons d'Amiens*, which are soft almond biscuits. Other local dishes are *ficelle picarde*, a savoury crêpe with ham and mushrooms, and duck pâté. Many menus also use produce from the Hortillonnages.

The best areas for eating are the canal-side streets in Saint-Leu and the covered food market, Les Halles d'Amiens.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Croissant
Buttery, flaky laminated pastry and a classic French breakfast staple.

LUNCH

Ratatouille
A Provençal stewed vegetable dish of eggplant, zucchini, peppers, and tomatoes.

DINNER

Coq au Vin
Chicken braised slowly in red wine with mushrooms, onions, and lardons.

Beef Bourguignon · Bœuf Bourguignon
Beef stewed in red Burgundy wine with carrots, onions, and mushrooms.

Escargot · Escargots de Bourgogne
Snails cooked in garlic and parsley butter, a classic starter.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Baguette
Long, crusty white bread loaf bought fresh daily from the local boulangerie.

Cheese · Fromage
France produces hundreds of cheese varieties, often served as a course before dessert.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Crepes · Crêpes
Thin pancakes served sweet with sugar or jam, or savory as galettes.

Macarons
Delicate almond meringue sandwich cookies in a range of flavors and colors.

DRINKS

Wine · Vin
France's wine regions, including Bordeaux, Burgundy, and Champagne, are among the world's most renowned.

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Safety & health

Amiens is a safe city for visitors. Petty theft such as pickpocketing is the main risk. Keep an eye on your bag in crowds, for example at the Christmas market and around the station. Tap water is safe to drink.

History

Amiens was an important Roman town. In the 13th century, citizens built Cathédrale Notre-Dame. It holds a relic said to be the head of John the Baptist.

The city's merchants later built Beffroi as a sign of their independence. In 1802, France and Britain signed the Treaty of Amiens here. It brought a short peace in the Napoleonic wars.

Jules Verne lived in the city from 1871 until his death in 1905. His house is now Maison Jules Verne.

In August 1918, the Battle of Amiens opened the final Allied offensive of the First World War. In June 1944, British bombers hit the city hard, and British forces freed it on 31 August. The architect *Auguste Perret* then helped rebuild the centre, which is why you see Tour Perret beside the station.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for France at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Amiens Must-Sees

Amiens is centered around the UNESCO-listed Cathédrale Notre-Dame, the largest Gothic cathedral in France. The city showcases a blend of medieval and 19th-century architecture, from the historic belfry to the distinctive polygon-shaped Cirque Jules Verne. As the long-time home of author Jules Verne, his 19th-century residence and the municipal library offer insight into the city's intellectual history, while the surrounding streets feature unique industrial heritage like the former Yvert printing house.





A Amiens Cathedral

The Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Amiens, or simply Amiens Cathedral, is a Roman Catholic church.

30 Place Notre Dame, 80000 Amiens, France (49.89459, 2.30207)

cathedrale-amiens.fr/en/, +33 03 22 80 03 41



B Belfry

A UNESCO World Heritage site dating back to the 15th century. This 52-meter tower features a medieval stone base and an 18th-century dome, serving as a historic symbol of civic independence.

12 Place au Fil, Amiens 80000, France (49.89546, 2.29603)



C Cirque Jules Verne

Inaugurated in 1889 by Jules Verne, this 16-sided stone circus was designed by Émile Ricquier. It remains one of the few permanent circuses in France, showcasing a unique blend of metal and masonry architecture.

80000 Amiens, France (49.88807, 2.29575)

cirquejulesverne.fr, +33 3 22 35 40 41



D Maison de Jules Verne

The 19th-century house where author Jules Verne lived for 18 years. The museum displays original manuscripts and personal belongings across four floors and a distinctive tower.

Rue Charles Dubois 2, 80000 Amiens (49.88771, 2.30173)

Mo	10:00–12:30, 14:00–18:00
Tu	Closed
We–Su	10:00–12:30, 14:00–18:00

amiens.fr/Vivre-a-Amiens/Culture-Patri... , +33 3 22 45 45 75

E Cathédrale d'Amiens

A UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest Gothic cathedral in France. Built between 1220 and 1270, it is renowned for its soaring nave and intricate 13th-century sculptures on the western facade.

(49.89463, 2.30210)



F Bibliothèque municipale

Housed in a neoclassical building from the early 19th century, this library preserves significant regional archives and historic collections within the city's cultural quarter.

Rue Puvis de Chavannes, 80000 Amiens, France (49.89003, 2.29485)

G Église Saint-Remi

A 19th-century church designed by architect Paul Delefortrie. It stands on the site of a former 13th-century Franciscan convent and features an impressive neo-Gothic interior.

4 Rue des Cordeliers, Amiens 80000, France
(49.89193, 2.29652)

H Service de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement

A historic water tower and utility building reflecting the city's 19th-century industrial architecture and urban infrastructure development.

(49.89788, 2.29378)

I Imprimerie Yvert

The former site of the Yvert et Tellier printing works, famous globally for philatelic publishing and stamp catalogs since the late 19th century.

(49.89243, 2.29941)

Regional Heritage Treasures

Amiens showcases a significant collection of Picardy's architectural history, centered around the UNESCO-listed Cathedral of Our Lady, one of the largest 13th-century Gothic churches in the world. This selection features the 15th-century Belfry, the unique 19th-century Cirque Jules Verne, and the long-time residence of author Jules Verne. The city's heritage extends to historic manor houses like the Logis du Roi and industrial landmarks such as the former water tower and the Yvert printing house.





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14 Rue Cormont, Amiens 80000, France
(49.89459, 2.30206)



C Belfry

A 15th-century watchtower and symbol of municipal independence, rebuilt in the 18th century. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage listing for Belfries of Belgium and France.

12 Place au Fil, Amiens 80000, France (49.89546, 2.29603)

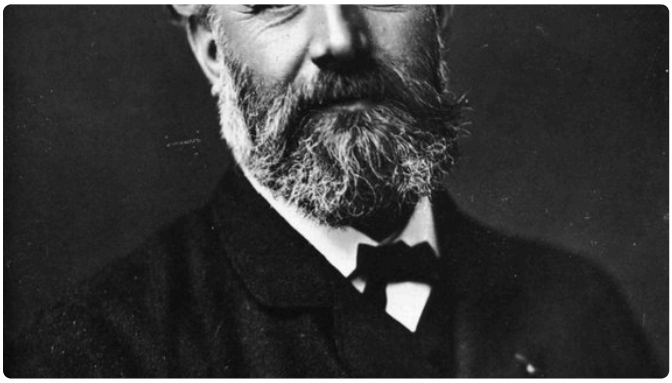


D Cirque Jules Verne

A permanent circus building inaugurated in 1889 by Jules Verne. Designed by architect Émile Ricquier, the 16-sided polygon structure features a striking metal frame and seating for 3,000.

80000 Amiens, France (49.88807, 2.29575)

cirquejulesverne.fr, +33 3 22 35 40 41



E Maison de Jules Verne

The 19th-century residence where author Jules Verne lived from 1882 to 1900. Now a museum, it preserves the writer's library, workroom, and original furnishings across four floors.

Rue Charles Dubois 2, 80000 Amiens (49.88771, 2.30173)

Mo	10:00–12:30, 14:00–18:00
Tu	Closed
We–Su	10:00–12:30, 14:00–18:00

amiens.fr/Vivre-a-Amiens/Culture-Patri... , +33 3 22 45 45 75

F Cathédrale d'Amiens

A UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest Gothic cathedral in France. Built between 1220 and 1270, it is renowned for its 13th-century sculptures and soaring nave.

(49.89463, 2.30210)



G Bibliothèque municipale

Housed in a historic building, this central library serves as the hub for the Amiens Métropole network, preserving regional literary archives and historical collections.

Rue Puvis de Chavannes, 80000 Amiens, France
(49.89003, 2.29485)

H Église Saint-Remi

A Roman Catholic church featuring elements of Gothic architecture, serving as a significant religious site in the city center.

4 Rue des Cordeliers, Amiens 80000, France
(49.89193, 2.29652)



I Logis du Roi

A 16th-century brick and stone building with late Gothic and Renaissance influences, originally constructed to house high-ranking visitors to the city.

Passage du Logis du Roi, 80000 Amiens, France
(49.89292, 2.29986)

J Service de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement

A historic water tower and utility building reflecting the 19th-century industrial architecture of Amiens.

(49.89788, 2.29378)

K Imprimerie Yvert

The historic headquarters of the Yvert & Tellier printing house, famous for producing postage stamps and philatelic catalogs since the 19th century.

(49.89243, 2.29941)

L Maison Cozette

A traditional heritage building in the historic district, representing the local architectural style of the Somme region.

28 Place Vogel, Amiens 80000, France (49.89803, 2.29619)

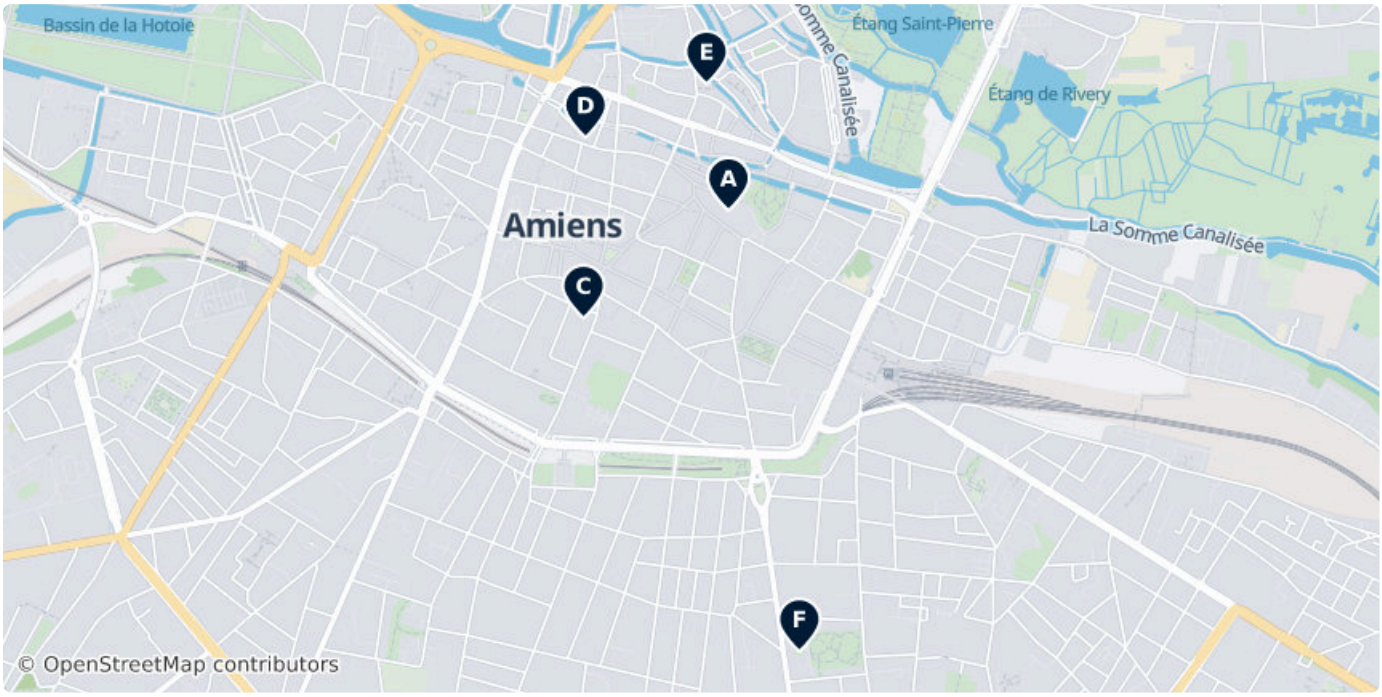
Ⓜ Ancien Hôtel des Trois-Cailloux

A former 18th-century private mansion and manor house, showcasing the refined urban architecture of pre-revolutionary Amiens.

(49.89339, 2.30025)

Religious Heritage of Amiens

Amiens' religious landscape is anchored by the UNESCO-listed Cathédrale Notre-Dame, a masterpiece of 13th-century Gothic architecture and the largest cathedral in France. Beyond this centerpiece, the city preserves significant Flamboyant Gothic churches like Saint-Germain-l'Écossais and Saint-Leu, which reflect the medieval development of the historic waterfront district. The 19th-century Couvent des Visitandines and the neo-Gothic Église Saint-Remi showcase later ecclesiastical expansions, offering a comprehensive view of the city's spiritual and architectural evolution through the centuries.





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14 Rue Cormont, Amiens 80000, France
(49.89459, 2.30206)

C Église Saint-Remi

A 19th-century neo-Gothic structure built on the site of a 13th-century predecessor. It is known for its detailed stained glass windows and serves as a prominent landmark in the city center.

4 Rue des Cordeliers, Amiens 80000, France (49.89193, 2.29652)



D Église Saint-Germain-l'Ecossais

A 15th-century Flamboyant Gothic building dedicated to an Irish missionary. It features a distinctive leaning tower and was carefully restored after sustaining significant damage during the 1940 bombings.

11 Rue Saint-Germain, Amiens 80000, France (49.89639, 2.29659)

E Église Saint-Leu

Located in the heart of the historic Saint-Leu district, this 15th-century church is a prime example of late Gothic architecture, featuring a notable timber-framed roof and a traditional bell tower.

1 Rue Grainville, Amiens 80000, France (49.89771, 2.30123)

F Couvent des Visitandines

A former 19th-century monastic complex built for the Order of the Visitation. The site features neoclassical architectural elements and reflects the religious expansion of Amiens during the mid-1800s.

61 Rue Saint-Fuscien, Amiens 80000, France (49.88370, 2.30478)

culturecommunication.gouv.fr/Regions/Drac-Hauts-de-Fr...

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