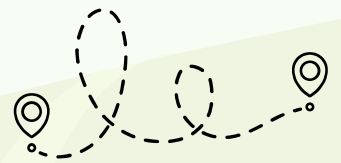




BICYCLE TOURS

France World War Heritage

Somme



AN INTERNATIONAL MEMORY



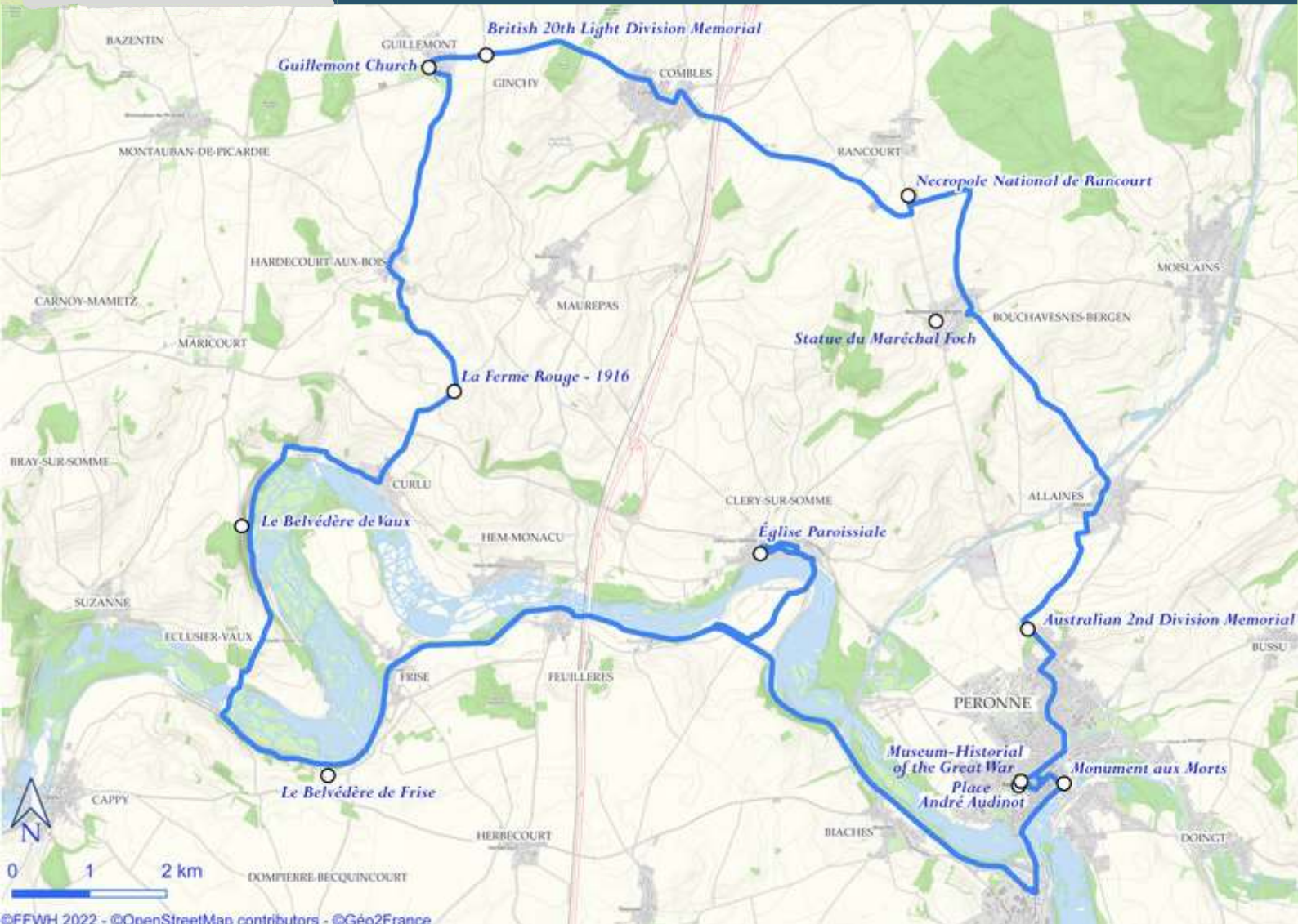
Routes and junctions available on Google Maps

From the Belvederes to the Historial de la Grande-Guerre



 52 km

Itinerary





Historial of the Great War

Situated on a hill and almost entirely surrounded by lakes and watercourses, the Cologne and the Somme, Péronne is a strategic position that is difficult to take. The shelling by the Prussian army in 1870 and by the planes of the Nazi German army in 1940 caused quite a lot of damage. But it was during the 1st World War that the city was completely shot to rubble.

Today Péronne is the heart of the memorial tourism. Built with its back to the medieval castle, the Historial de la Grande Guerre museum tells the story of both the soldiers and the population under the occupation.




 Riding from the square André Audinot (located next to the museum) to the square of ct. Louis Daudré can be done on the D 1017 but is safer to walk the pedestrian rue du Gladimont.

The town hall was rebuilt but looks like the pre-war town hall.





 Leave the square cdt. Louis Daudre via rue du Vert Muget.


 Right at the post office building, turn rue Georges Clémenceau.

 Rue de Jules Verne



 Ride the avenue du Général de Gaulle all the way to the roundabout and # with the D 938.

 on D 938 to the next roundabout, intersection with D 1017

 on D 1017 to the Memorial for the 2nd Australian Division.





The Australian War Memorial at Mont Saint-Quentin

Mont Saint-Quentin is the top of the hill that is situated in a bend (meander) of the Somme. The view across the river makes this position the keystone of the city's defence, and especially its northern and western flank.

In April 1918, during the German army's (last) major offensive, Mont Saint-Quentin was recaptured. The Allied counter-offensive ushered in the turning point of the war, driving the enemy from the Marne, before the gates of Paris, back onto the Somme.



©C.Ooghe

Mont Saint-Quentin, overlooking the city and the river, was then the last bolt or cornerstone of the German defensive position on the Somme. During the battle for this hill, the 2nd Australian division stormed the hill and finally liberated the town of Péronne.



©C.Ooghe



Leave the D 1017 and turn at right rue d'Allaines



Turn Rue du Pont for a nice donw hill ride to the church of Allaines.



There take the Grande Rue, across the canal and keep driving along the route d'Allaines to the church of Bouchavesnes-Bergen.



©C.Ooghe

When the wealthy owner of a Norwegian shipping company visits France after the war, he is impressed by the destruction. He asks Marshal Foch to designate a village that he can adopt and assist in rebuilding.

The French commander names the village Bouchavesnes. Numerous donations from the city of Bergen, Norway, then flow to this village in Picardy. In gratitude for this support, the village is henceforth called Bouchavesnes-Bergen.



The rue de Bergen climbs steadily to Rancourt and its three military cemeteries.



To make your way to the French military cemetery involves 700 m of dirt road.



©C.Ooghe

You can avoid this dirt track if, in the rue de Bergen you turn ↶ at house n° 26, then take the busy D 1017 all the way up to the Chapelle du Souvenir Français.



La Chapelle du Souvenir Français et son cimetière

It was erected by the parents of Lieutenant Du Bos in memory of him and his fellow soldiers killed on 25 September 1916.

For financial reasons, the project was not completed and today it is the Souvenir Français that manages it and at the end of 2022, a museum was inaugurated there.

The Rancourt cemetery is the largest French necropolis in the Somme (8,566 soldiers).



©C.Ooghe

The Rancourt British Military Cemetery is across the road from the French Cemetery. The poignant inscription on Private Buckingham's grave testifies to the solidarity among soldiers in the trenches :

"It is better to die for others, dear lad, than to live for oneself alone".

The commune of Rancourt is home to the graves of around 20,000 combatants from the three warring armies.



©C.Ooghe



On the D 1017, briefly return towards Péronne before finding the D 20 ↗ to Combles and the German Military Cemetery. Thus Rancourt has a British, a French and a German (collection) cemetery on its territory.



Continue to follow the D 20, straight through Combles to Guillemont.



©C.Ooghe



©C.Ooghe



Turn to D 64 where it connects with the "Le Pays du Coquelicot" lap from Albert
Past the church and then

In front of the church in Guillemont is a Celtic cross, decorated with an Irish shamrock.

This monument is dedicated to the 16th Irish Division who fought and recaptured the village on 3 September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, but also commemorates all the Irish who died in the Great War.



©C.Ooghe



into rue Ernst Jünger



rue de Combles towards Hardecourt aux Bois.



Ernst Jünger is a German writer and veteran of two world wars: at the front during World War 1 and as an officer in the administration of Nazi-occupied Paris.

During fighting from 3 to 6 September 1916, Guillemont was recaptured by Irish and British units. In his book, Storm of Steel, (In Stahlgewittern) he recounts the misery he experienced in the trenches, including in the Guillemont sector, but also the fascination he experienced from the violence of war.



Drive past Hardecourt church and



take rue de Péronne or the D 146 B.



Leave the D 146 on the outskirts of the village and turn to Curlu.





Then turn rue La Ferme Rouge



cross the D938



Turn rue du four and rue de Fargny.



Continue to rue de la Pierre St-Vaast and Eclusier Vaux.



©N.Bryant



The Belvedere of Eclusier-Vaux and its landscapes

Don't miss the Belvédère de Vaux and its superb panorama of ponds and marshes, it's worth the diversions.

As you cross the Somme and its ponds, you will notice the Eclusier-Vaux fishpond.

The marshes of Eclusier-Vaux are part of the vast natural heritage of the peat marshes of the Upper Somme Valley.



↑ The ponds and lakes of Eclusier-Vaux are part of an extensive network of pits left by a century of mining peat. Keep following the canal on rue de Frise and further on the towpath or the V 30, Véloroute Vallée de la Somme.

↑ At the Sormont lock, leave the cycle route for a detour to Cléry s/Somme where you will find its Art Deco church, its listed marshes and its bird sanctuaries.



↑ Follow rue d'Omiécourt and cross the Somme valley once more,

↩ Then turn rue Anne-Marie Vion.



Pour les plus curieux vous pouvez aller faire une halte au La Chapellette British and Indian Cemetery.



Retrace your steps along the same route until you find the Véloroute 30 where you left it.



Turn to Péronne.



At the end, at the marina, cross the D 1017 and then



and then continue, turn on the cycle path to the old city wall.



Cross the "Blackburn" bridge on the Boulevard des Anglais where the monument to the fallen sits in a park at the end of the street.



The Picardy woman cursing war

Inaugurated in 1926, this war memorial is pacifist in nature.

The central figure, the bent stone woman, almost lying over the body of her husband (or son), holds out a vengeful fist towards invisible enemies.

One can read determination, grief and anger on her fierce face.



The rue Béranger leads back to the D 1017 and



Turn towards the Place du Ct. Louis Daudré where the town hall is located and inside, the Alfred-Danicourt museum offers you the opportunity to admire one of the largest national numismatic collections (Gallo-Roman coins).





Practical information



Tourist Office "Haute Somme"

1 Rue Louis XI, 80200 Péronne
 +33 (0)3 22 84 42 38
www.hautessomme-tourisme.com



Tourist Office "Pays du Coquelicot"

9 Rue Gambetta, 80300 Albert
 +33 (0)3 22 75 16 42
www.tourisme-paysducoquelicot.com



To be seen on the way



Historial de la Grande Guerre

Place André Audinot, 80200 Péronne
 +33 (0)3 22 83 14 18
www.historial.fr

Musée Alfred-Danicourt

2 Pl. du Commandant Louis Daudre, Péronne
 +33 (0)3 22 73 31 00
www.musenor.com/alfred-danicourt-peronne



Lodgings



Auberge des Remparts

17 Rue Beaubois, 80200 Péronne
 +33 (0)3 22 88 41 10
www.aubergedesremparts.fr



Camping du Port de Plaisance

Rte de Paris, 80200 Péronne
 +33 (0)3 22 84 19 31
www.camping-plaisance.com



Le Noir Lion

16 rue du Noir Lionm, 80200 Péronne
 +33 (0)6 87 22 18 33
www.noirlionperonne80.fr

Hôtel le Saint-Claude

42 Place Louis Daudré, 80200 Péronne
 +33 (0)3 22 79 49 49
www.hotelsaintclaud.com



Restaurants

Le Bistrot d'Antoine

8 Place André Audinot, 80200 Péronne
 +33 (0)3 22 85 84 16
www.bistrot-antoine.fr

- Curly** - Bar des îles
- Frise** - La Sarcelle
- Péronne** - Le Métissage, Louis XI, Shana, Central Gars du Nord, Chouette Gourmande, ...
- Feuillères** - Restaurant du Port



Bike repairer

Cycles Nicolas Dubois


9 Rue du Faubourg de Bretagne, 80200 Péronne
 +33 (0)3 22 84 42 47
www.facebook.com/cyclesdubois




www.somme-tourisme.com/accueil-velo

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Find all the routes on
<https://bit.ly/3SAJFls>