



# TERRE DE FLANDRE

Tourisme



Naturally  
welcoming

 Tourist Office

**CCHE**  
Communauté de Communes  
des Hauts de Flandre



**Welcome to Terre de  
Flandre, a land where hospitality is  
second nature!**

Here, every moment is an invitation to experience genuine emotions, discover living traditions and marvel at unspoilt landscapes. Between generous nature and rich heritage, the art of living is expressed in the warmth of encounters and the friendliness of our inhabitants.

Terre de Flandre is above all a place where you take your time: time to explore lush green paths, to stroll through villages steeped in history, to celebrate life at our local festivities, and to savor authentic cuisine. Each experience is a gateway to the soul of these welcoming lands.


Our team, driven by a passion for this unique territory, will accompany you with enthusiasm. Discover our emblematic mills, be amazed by the creativity of our craftsmen, vibrate to the rhythm of our traditional festivals and taste local products made with know-how passed on with love.

Our promise to you? A land where nature, culture and the art of living come together to make your stay a warm and unforgettable experience.

Thank you for sharing this adventure with us.  
We're sure you'll leave with precious memories  
and the desire to return.

***Enjoy your discovery and  
see you soon in Terre  
de Flandre.***

# Terre de Flandre Tourisme :

	Land of character.....	p.04
	Land of authenticity.....	p.07
	Land of nature.....	p.10
	Land of memory.....	p.14
	Map of the region.....	p.16
	Land of adventures.....	p.18
	Land of delicacies.....	p.20
	Land of surprises.....	p.22
	Land of Museums.....	p.24





# Land of character

*Here, history is etched in stone and landscape. Between typical gabled houses, majestic churches, discreet chapels and windmills, each element of heritage tells the story of the Flemish soul. Fortifications recall a military past, while breweries and flax mills bear witness to ancestral know-how. Through picturesque villages and paths, Flanders invites you on a journey where tradition and modernity meet in harmony.*



## **Bergues, the fortified city: A walk through time**

Entering Bergues means passing through one of its **five historic gates**, veritable sentinels that still bear the names of neighboring villages. Once inside, the streets, alleyways and houses whisper tales of heroic battles and brilliantly executed strategies.

**The impressive ramparts**, designed by Vauban, Louis XIV's famous military engineer, offer breathtaking views over the surrounding countryside. A stroll along these fortifications, still largely intact, will plunge you into the sumptuous times of the **Counts of Flanders** or **Spanish rule**.

But Bergues isn't just a journey into the past. It's also a lively, welcoming town, where you can savor the moment, between the gentle landscapes and the warmth of its inhabitants.



## ***Between Flanders and History: A stroll through Hondschoote and Watten***

On the edge of French Flanders, cradled by the north winds and the murmur of centuries, lies **Hondschoote**, a town of discreet but irresistible charm. Here, the bricks whisper and the heritage offers itself without diversions to those who know how to look.

Let yourself be seduced by the elegance of **the Town Hall**, a proud and refined Flemish Renaissance jewel standing on the Grand-Place like a guardian of bygone days. Each stone, each carved gable, seems to tell the story of the past prosperity of this town, once the queen of linen. And this very linen, still alive in people's memories and actions, weaves a subtle link between history and the present. It is still celebrated today, like a golden thread linking generations.

Just a stone's throw away, the imposing **church of Saint-Vaast** welcomes you with its majestic yellow bricks, guardian of souls and silences. Its steeple watches over the Flemish roofs and fields, like a motionless lighthouse over the ocean of countryside.

And then, further south, **Watten** beckons. Less urban, more wild, it invites you to daydream on the banks of its **canal**, where the water glides gently between the banks. On the heights, **the Moulin de la Montagne** offers a breathtaking view of the meandering Aa valley and the plains of Flandre Maritime and Audomarais.

Not far away, **the remains of Watten Abbey** rise up from the weeds, charged with an almost sacred mystery.

Between Flemish heritage and enchanting nature, **Hondschoote** and **Watten** form a gentle symphony for lovers of authenticity. A timeless journey, between fields of flax and mill towers, where every moment becomes a postcard.



## **Château d'Esquelbecq and its gardens: A showcase of Flemish elegance**

Immerse yourself in history with a visit to **Château d'Esquelbecq**, listed as a Historic Monument since 1987. This jewel of Flemish architecture, surrounded by a romantic moat, is currently being restored, but has lost none of its timeless charm.

During the tourist season, the château opens onto **enchanting gardens** that embody the elegance of the Flemish Renaissance. Their perfect geometry, with symmetrical flowerbeds and meticulously laid-out paths, invites you to take a contemplative stroll. Finely trimmed hedges, elegant sculptures and harmoniously arranged spaces create a unique dialogue between art and nature.

A true testament to an era when order and beauty were celebrated, these gardens offer an exceptional setting for a peaceful, rejuvenating getaway. You'll be charmed by the majestic yet intimate atmosphere of this place where time seems to stand still.



### **A PROUD AND WELCOMING CHARACTER**

*Through its built heritage, landscapes and traditions, Flanders proudly expresses its character. This territory, marked by history, has preserved its identity while evolving with modernity. It's a region where the warmth of its people, the richness of its buildings and the generosity of its culture combine to offer an unforgettable experience.*

*Take the time to discover Flanders, let yourself be surprised by its treasures, and leave, like so many others, under the spell of this land of character.*





# Land of authenticity

*Nestled in the heart of Flanders, these authentic villages invite you on a timeless journey. Every alleyway, every stone seems to whisper tales of yesteryear, carried along by the enthusiasm of local guides. Here, majestic churches, discreet chapels, mills and abbeys reveal a rich, living heritage. Between history, spirituality and tradition, your exploration becomes a sensory immersion where past and present intertwine. Let yourself be carried away by this intimate adventure to discover the Flemish soul.*



## **The Villages of Flanders**

Imagine yourself, on a quiet morning, starting your adventure in the **Villages of Flanders**, these little pearls of the region, where each alleyway seems to invite you to discover a little more of the Flemish soul. In Herzele, Pitgam, Zegerscappel..., you're greeted by a **village guide**, passionate about his local history and proud to share his village's hidden treasures. He'll guide you through the streets and alleys, enthusiastically telling you the secrets and anecdotes of these places, true witnesses to a living past.

## ***Immerse yourself in the past of churches and chapels***

Your walk begins in the church, an imposing edifice whose walls bear witness to centuries of history. Inside, you'll be struck by the subdued light filtering through the colorful stained glass windows. Your guide tells you about the origins of the church, the evolution of its architecture over the centuries, and explains the symbols decorating the walls, each detail with a story to tell.

But that's not all. A few steps further, in a quiet corner of the village, lies a discreet but charming chapel. Here, the serenity is palpable, and you feel an immediate connection with the past, amazed by the simplicity and beauty that emanate from this place.

## ***Flemish Altarpieces: When Faith Becomes Art***

The altarpieces in Flanders' churches are sculpted masterpieces, often featuring richly detailed biblical scenes. Made of wood or stone, they are exceptionally meticulous, with lively figures and vibrant colours that captivate the eye. Each altarpiece tells a sacred story, linked to Flemish spirituality. The varied decorations, including arches, columns and gilding, create a solemn atmosphere. True masterpieces, these altarpieces transform the church into a place where art and faith meet.







## **Windmills: Witnesses to the rural past**

The adventure continues with the discovery of windmills, true symbols of rural life in Flanders. Whether it's a **windmill with its wings** gently swaying in the breeze, or a **horse mill**, the last remaining example in Flanders, you'll immediately be captivated by the history it carries. Discover the cogs and gears that once powered these wooden giants... a tactile, visual, almost magical experience of seeing ancient mechanics brought back to life.

## **The Abbeys of Bergues and Watten: A journey through spirituality and history**

The wind blows gently over the remains of **the ancient Abbey of Saint-Winoc in Bergues**. As you approach, a special atmosphere envelops you, as if history itself were whispering through the stones.

The imposing Tour Carrée and Tour Pointue stand proudly in front of you, silent witnesses to a rich and eventful past. Close your eyes for a moment, and the chanting of the monks still seems to echo beneath the imaginary vaults. Every stone tells a story, every nook and cranny seems to hide a secret. The abbey has known greatness, then destruction, but its soul persists, floating between the walls erased by time.

Further on, you take the road to **Watten Abbey**, a place steeped in spirituality and history, and a powerful symbol of Flemish monasticism. The stones of the cloister whisper of centuries past, and the abbey reveals its secrets. Every stone, every architectural detail bears the story of this major edifice and its role in the spirituality and culture of the region.



## **A VIBRANT AND INTIMATE EXPERIENCE**

*As you explore the Villages of Flanders, you feel immersed in a living, almost tangible experience of the region's history. Each building offers an intimate glimpse of Flemish life and culture through the ages. And thanks to the village guides, these heritage enthusiasts, you'll discover an authentic Flanders, where history blends with nature and every stone has a story to tell.*

*It's a simple yet profound adventure, a journey through time and into the soul of the region.*



# Land of Nature

*In «Terre de Flandre», every hike or bike ride becomes an invitation to discovery. Let yourself be carried away by nature and immerse yourself in a world where every step connects you to the essential. Pure air fills your lungs, while the murmur of streams soothes your thoughts. Deep forests, luminous meadows and unexpected encounters with flora and fauna punctuate your adventure. Here, nature is a refuge, an invitation to slow down, breathe and marvel. Open your eyes wide and let yourself be guided.*

## **The trails: The call of adventure**

Put on your walking shoes and set off to discover the trails and footpaths that wind through the region. Each trail is a promise of escape, a path to the unknown. Thanks to **the Pedestrian Node networks**, you have the freedom to compose your own itinerary, according to your desires. With the help of topoguides, fact sheets and signposts, your route is full of discoveries and surprises. These paths are much more than mere footpaths: they are places for meeting and sharing, where every step creates a memory. Let yourself be inspired and set off to conquer new horizons.

## **Cafés Rando: The break that warms up**

After the effort, it's time for some conviviality! **Take a break in one of the Cafés Rando**, a warm and inviting place where hikers and nature lovers can meet. Enjoy a meal concocted with local produce, or savour a slice of homemade cake. It's the ideal place to swap anecdotes, share itineraries and glean valuable tips. The authentic atmosphere is perfect for relaxing and meeting new people. **A gourmet stop** that prolongs the pleasure of hiking and nourishes both body and mind.

CAFÉS  
RANDO  
NORD





## The Plaine et Littoral de Flandre Bicycle Node Network: A journey à la carte

Explore Flanders through an ingenious network of interconnected nodes. This network gives you **total freedom**: compose your own itinerary at your own pace and let yourself be surprised by the contrasting landscapes, between vast plains and serene shores. Clear signage means you can set off with confidence, even as a beginner. Along the way, stop off in picturesque villages where the warm welcome you'll receive from the locals will make your ride even more memorable.

### Bike receptions: Freedom without constraint

Bicycle touring enthusiasts will find everything they need in **establishments with the Accueil Vélo label**. Designed to facilitate your adventure, these places have everything you need: expert advice, repair tools and secure areas for your bike. Take a well-deserved break, chat with other cyclists and recharge your batteries in specially adapted accommodation. Here, every stage is a promise of serenity and discovery, for a cycling getaway in total freedom.





## **The RouteYou experience with Terre de Flandre Tourisme**

Let **Terre de Flandre Tourisme's RouteYou account** be your guide for your walks! Whether you're cycling, walking or driving, this application guides you through unique itineraries, carefully designed to reveal our hidden treasures. Thanks to intuitive navigation and detailed maps, every outing becomes a stress-free adventure, where only the desire to explore counts. Between windmills, cosy estaminets and verdant panoramas, your next discovery is just a click away. Download RouteYou and embark on a journey where every road tells a story!

## **L'étang des Trois Sources: A moment suspended in time**

A haven of tranquility, the **Etang des Trois Sources in Wormhout** reveals itself like a hidden gem. Its shimmering waters reflect the gentleness of the sky, while the centuries-old trees whisper their secrets in the breeze. Here, time stands still, inviting contemplation and rejuvenation. An exceptional place, where nature expresses itself in all its splendor.





## **Nature reserves: The metamorphosis of nature**

Nature lovers will be delighted to discover exceptional sites such as **the Argilière de l'Aa in Saint-Momelin** and **the Lac Bleu in Watten**. These former clay quarries have been converted into nature reserves, offering a fascinating spectacle where biodiversity has reclaimed its rights. Here, nature and history intertwine to offer walkers a unique setting. Further afield, **the Petite Becque valley reserve in Herzele** reveals an unspoilt setting where streams, meadows and forests coexist in perfect harmony, a veritable refuge for exceptional flora and fauna.



## **TERRE DE FLANDRE TOURISME**

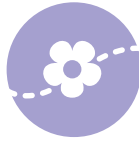
*Whether you're a walker, cyclist or simply a dreamer, Terre de Flandre offers you a promise : that of an unforgettable adventure, a return to your roots, where every moment brings you closer to the pure beauty and calm rediscovered. So, what are you waiting for to let yourself be seduced by this little corner of paradise? The journey begins here, at the crossroads.*



## **Canals: A timeless interlude**

Once a vast aquatic area, Flanders has been shaped over the centuries by patient drainage work, giving rise to a network of **wateringues** and **canals**. Today, these waterways are an invitation to escape. Let yourself be carried away by the lapping of the waves, admire the boats dancing to the rhythm of the current and enjoy a break on a bridge, lulled by birdsong. Why not take a break on a terrace and savor this timeless moment ? Between nature and heritage, the canals are an ode to the good life.





# Land of Memory

*In Flanders, every landscape whispers a story, every path bears the imprint of the past. Here, memory is not frozen in books, but lives on in places of remembrance, silent steles and names carved in stone. As you walk along these paths steeped in history, you follow in the footsteps of those who fought, hoped and sometimes sacrificed their lives. More than a visit, it's an encounter with history, a dialogue between yesterday and today. Let yourself be guided by emotion, and discover a land where memory shapes the future.*

## **Memory Trails in Flanders: A Journey to the Heart of the Past**

Take your time for a moment... Breathe in the history-laden air, feel the wind caressing your skin. Every step you take in Terre de Flandre Tourisme brings you closer to a past that still seems to throb beneath your feet. Here, the paths are more than just footpaths. They are passages in time, invisible traces that link you to the struggles, hopes and sacrifices of men and women from another century. **4 brochures will take you on a journey into the past.**

## **La Plaine au Bois: Silence and Memories**

You walk slowly through **La Plaine au Bois**, in Esquelbecq. At first sight, it's a peaceful, almost timeless place. The trees sway gently in the breeze, the grass dances in the subdued light. But a heavy silence pervades. You feel the weight, the invisible but very real presence of a past that refuses to fade.

**On May 28, 1940**, in this land so serene today, chaos and horror were unleashed. A hundred British soldiers, captured after heroic resistance to German troops, were coldly executed here. You walk on this soil steeped in history, and you seem to hear the echo of their voices, the last cry of their struggle.

You stop in front of the stele erected in 2010. It invites you to reflect on fraternity and the sacrifices made to preserve peace. This place of remembrance prompts you to rediscover the value of courage and friendship, while offering a setting where **memory lives on**, carried by the breath of the wind. Perhaps, at this very moment, this place becomes yours: the place where past and future meet.





## A JOURNEY THAT TRANSFORMS

*As you continue your journey through Flanders, you realize that these places of memory are more than just relics of the past. They're alive, thanks to you. You're no longer just a visitor: you've become a witness, a conduit for memory.*

*When you leave these places, something in you has changed. You take with you a little of this history, a heightened awareness of the importance of peace and the duty of remembrance. These paths are not just a journey into the past: they invite you to reflect on the future, on what we choose to learn and pass on.*

*And perhaps, in an instant, these places will become yours, engraved forever in your mind and heart.*

### **Military Cemeteries: A Dialogue with the Past**

Continue your journey along the paths of memory and discover the military cemeteries scattered across the Flemish plain. Here, time seems to stand still. As you walk between the endless rows of white crosses, a strange sense of calm comes over you. The names inscribed on the headstones are silent reminders of the sacrifice of thousands of young soldiers from France, Great Britain, Germany...

These places are **poignant reminders** of the fragility of peace and the importance of memory. They are not only places of remembrance, but also bridges between generations, testifying to the fragility of humanity.





Angleterre

MER DU NORD



GRAVELINES



France

A25  
E42

CALAIS  
BOULOGNE SUR MER

A26  
E15

BOURBOURG

BROUCKERQUE

PITGAM

LOOBERGHE

DRINCHAM

CAPPELLE-BROUCK

SAINT-PIERRE-BROUCK

ERINGHEM

Haute Colme

HOLQUE

MILLAM

MERCKEGHEM

BOLLEZEELE



WATTEN

VOLCKERINCKHOVE

WULVERDINGHE

BROXEELE

SAINT-MOMELIN

LEDERZEELE

NIEURLET

ST-OMER



**Office de Tourisme**

Tourist Office



**Belfroi**

Belfry



**Moulin ou Abbaye**

Mill or Abbey



**Château**

castle



**Halte Fluviale**

Riverside station



**Étang, lac, marais**

Pond, Lake, Marshlands



**Point culminant**

Peak point



**Table d'orientation**

Viewpoint indicator



**Orgues**

Organs



**Visites numériques**

Trail App tour



**Brasserie artisanale**

Craft Breweries



**Manneken Pis**

Manneken Pis



**Gare**

Train station



**Hub de Mobilité**

Transport hub



**Location Vélo**

Bike rental



**Aire de Camping-car**

Camper van area



**Centre aquatique Linéo**

Swimming Pool



**Réserves Naturelles de France®**

National Nature Reserve



**Estaminet**

Flemish Estaminets



**Musée**

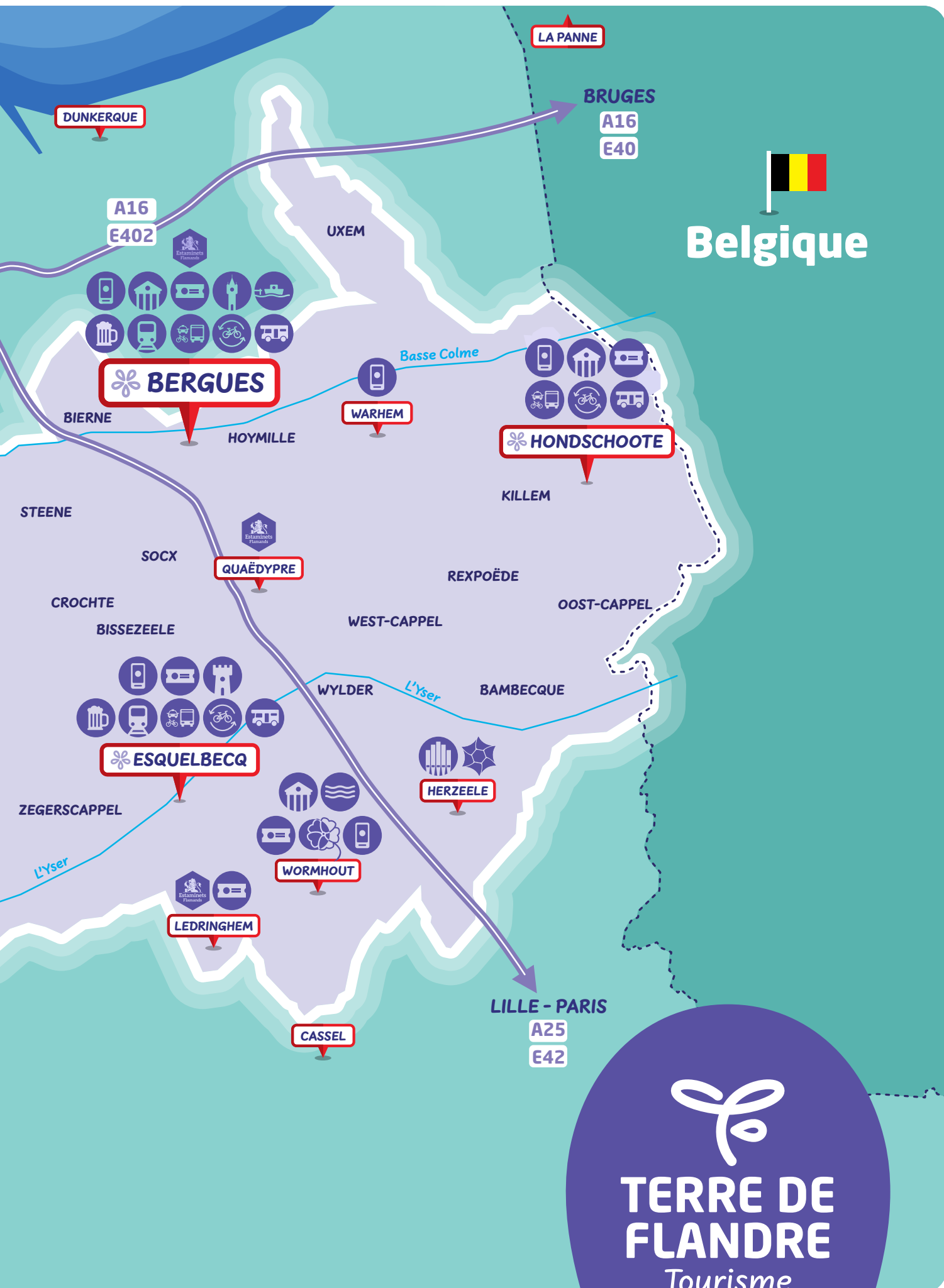
Museum



**Podcast**

Audio broadcast





DUNKERQUE

LA PANNE

BRUGES  
A16  
E40



Belgique

A16  
E402

UXEM



BERGUES

Basse Colme

WARHEM

HONDSCHOOTE

BIERNE

HOYMILLE

KILLEM

STEENE

SOCX

QUAËDYPRE

REXPOËDE

CROCHTE

BISSEZEELE

WEST-CAPPEL

OOST-CAPPEL



ESQUELBEcq

WYLDER

L'Yser

BAMBEcQUE



HERZEELE

ZEGERSCAPPEL



WORMHOUT



LEDRINGHEM

LILLE - PARIS  
A25  
E42

CASSEL



**TERRE DE  
FLANDRE**  
Tourisme



# Land of adventures

*Between heritage, technology and new sensations, Terre de Flandre Tourisme invites you to enjoy unforgettable experiences. More of a dreamer? Immerse yourself in virtual tours. Looking for freedom? Explore Flanders on an electric bike. Playful? Embark on a treasure hunt. Ready to embark on an extraordinary adventure?*

## Go back in time with **LEGENDR**

Just imagine... You're in Bergues, at the foot of the remains of **Saint-Winoc Abbey**. Close your eyes... and let the magic happen. Thanks to the **LEGENDR** application, the abbey comes to life before your very eyes, as it was before the

French Revolution. The walls rise again, the bells ring and the monks seem to have just left.

Have you enjoyed the experience? Continue your journey to Warhem, Holque and many other places.

## Climb to the top of the **Belfry... effortlessly!**

Who hasn't dreamed of dominating the Flemish plain without climbing a single step? Thanks to an **immersive virtual tour**, explore the exhibition rooms of the Bergues Belfry at your own pace and reach its summit without losing your breath. And to make this ascent even more unique, let yourself be guided by surprising characters who will reveal the monument's secrets to you!



## Become an adventurer with **PISTE & TRÉSOR**

Recognize this alley? That coffee? This carillon? You're on the trail of the famous film *Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis*!

Armed with your smartphone and the **PISTE & TRÉSOR** app, set off in search of the iconic locations from Dany Boon's film. Solve riddles, follow clues and rediscover cult scenes as you explore Bergues and the surrounding area.

But the adventure doesn't stop there: other interactive **treasure hunts** await you in Hondschoote, Volckerinckhove, Wormhout, Esquelbecq... Ready to play?



## Explore Flanders in a different way: Get on an electric bike

Paved roads, golden fields stretching to infinity, small villages where time seems to stand still... What if you rode through these landscapes in total freedom, with your hair blowing in the wind, effortlessly?

Thanks to the Office's **Electrically Assisted Bikes**, discover Flanders in a whole new way. Get on your bike and let yourself be carried through forests, plains and hidden hamlets. An experience that combines relaxation and exploration, where every detour reveals an unsuspected treasure.



## Unravel the mysteries of Flanders with "In search of..."

Adventurers and budding investigators, this challenge is for you! Across 40 communes, mysterious treasure hunts await you.

The concept? **A booklet of riddles, hidden clues** and a mission: unravel the secrets of the destination's towns and villages. Each answer brings you closer to a new place, each discovery enriches your journey.

Will you dare to take up the challenge and become Flanders' best explorer?

*Available only in French for the moment*



## ADVENTURE AWAITS!

One thing's for sure: here, every discovery is an adventure!





# Land of delicacies

*A land of gourmet delights, combining tradition and conviviality. Here, every dish tells a story, every flavor evokes a savoir-faire handed down from generation to generation. From cozy estaminets to artisanal brasseries and local specialties, culinary discovery becomes a true immersion in the Flemish soul. Whether you're a lover of mature cheeses, dishes simmered with beer or sweet treats, let yourself be guided by the aromas and flavors of this region where the pleasure of the table is an art of living.*

## A Dive into the Soul of Estaminets

Take a seat. In front of you, a menu where **Flemish specialties** reign supreme. The Bergues cheese tart, golden brown to perfection, tempts you with a glance. Next to it, the Potjevleesch, a meat terrine in jelly, rests in its earthenware case, ready to reveal its subtle flavours. And what about the carbonnade flamande, simmered in a home-made beer, whose spicy-sweet aroma tickles your nostrils?

A waiter, smiling, recommends a local beer. The first sip is an explosion of flavours: delicate bitterness, spicy notes, a taste of the land that imposes itself without artifice. Each ingredient, each recipe tells the story of a tradition, a know-how handed down from generation to generation.

## Emblematic Estaminets

Some places go beyond the simple culinary experience. **Le Bruegel** in Bergues, **Le Trou Flamand** in Ledringhem and **La Taverne du Westhoek** in Quaëdypre are much more than restaurants: they are guardians of Flemish culture.

Here, people still play frogs, toast under hop garlands, and are surprised by an accordion player who comes to liven up the evening. Time slows down, conversations drag on, and you understand why, in Flanders, indulgence is an art of living.





## A land to enjoy throughout the seasons

Each season brings its own culinary treasures. In winter, you can warm up with a Welsh, a comforting dish with melted cheddar, while in summer, you can enjoy a platter of local cheeses accompanied by a cold beer on the terrace.

**Bergues cheese**, the undisputed star of the region, is best enjoyed with a piece of farmhouse bread and an amber beer to bring out its aromas. But the discoveries don't stop there: **Palet de Killeem, Petit Bissezele, organic goat's cheese...** Each bite is an immersion in ancestral know-how, where each product bears the imprint of the Flemish soil.

And then there's **the Bergues sausage**, inherited from the Spanish era, whose spices awaken your taste buds. You're already thinking of extending the experience by visiting a local farm to discover the secrets behind the production of these exceptional products.

Sweet teeth are not left out : **Strynen**, waffles flavoured with vanilla and sugar, bring back childhood memories. Savour them slowly, with your eyes closed, and let their sweet taste warm your soul.

## Discover the craft breweries

Flemish beer is not just a drink : it's a living heritage, a passion that can be shared. In Esquelbecq, **the Thiriez brewery** opens its doors to you for a journey to the heart of brewing. We'll tell you the story behind each batch, from the precise steps involved in brewing to the perfect effervescence of a well tapped beer.

In Bergues, **the Westhoek Brewery** welcomes you to an unusual place: a former abattoir transformed into a brewery. The atmosphere is unique, the aroma of hops fills the air, and each sip immerses you a little more in the richness of this brewing region. Enjoy a platter of cheeses and charcuterie, gazing into the warm atmosphere, savouring the moment to the full.



## AN UNFORGETTABLE SENSORY JOURNEY

*When you leave Flanders, one thing is certain: here, indulgence is much more than a pleasure, it's a celebration of sharing, an ode to authenticity. You'll take away with you a wealth of tasty memories, unforgettable encounters and an irresistible desire to return, if only to rediscover this very special atmosphere, where time stands still around a generous table.*

*Because in Flanders, every meal is a story. And every story is an experience to be savoured!*



# Land of surprises

*Every time you turn round the corner, you'll be amazed. Here, Flemish ingenuity and humour transform the everyday into an unusual discovery. A horse mill, Nordic vineyards, a café with giant organs or a French Manneken Pis... The region is a treasure trove of anecdotes. Between a revisited heritage and unexpected finds, let yourself be surprised by a Flanders full of character and originality!*

## **A windmill without wings: The magic of the 'Rosmeulen'**

Ah, windmills and wind... An inseparable duo? Not so sure! Here, when the wind plays tricks on you, the Flemish find a solution. And not just any solution: **the Rosmeulen**, a windmill... on horseback in Volckerinckhove!

Yes, you read that right. Instead of waiting for an uncertain breeze, a horse circled the building and powered the millstones to grind the grain. A perfect blend of ingenuity and pragmatism, proving once again that the Flemish have no shortage of resources! So who else can boast such an invention?



## **Vines in the North? That's right!**

Wine and Flanders, two words that are rarely associated... and yet ! In Hondschoote, at the **foot of the Moulin de la Victoire**, vines have taken root. Their fruit gives rise to Fleur de Lin, a white wine that defies all climatic clichés.

Beer is king here, but wine also has its place! To discover the secrets of this daring wine-growing adventure, head to **the Musée Jean-Pierre Pincelel, Musée des Vendanges**. The Flemish fear nothing... not even the climate!

## **The lyre tree: Plant art in Esquelbecq**

When nature and music meet, the result is... **a tree in the shape of a lyre!**

In Esquelbecq, in front of the music school, stands a tree like no other. Its sculpted foliage seems to vibrate in the wind, like an ode to the harmony between man and his environment. Simple coincidence or deliberate nod? You be the judge!



## **A café... with giant organs!**

Just imagine: you push open the door of a café, order a drink and suddenly... a **mechanical organ** starts playing. A magical, almost timeless atmosphere.

Welcome to **the Café des Orgues** in Herzele, where music accompanies every moment. An unexpected spectacle that adds a whole new flavour to your coffee break. Here, the Flemish know how to combine tradition and wonder to make every moment an unforgettable surprise.

## **A Manneken Pis in France? Of course there is!**

Everyone knows Brussels' famous Manneken Pis. But did you know that there's a replica of the little man on the throne... in France?

Let's head for **Broxeele**, whose name is strangely reminiscent of Brussels. The little town received a copy of the famous boy, a **symbol of Flemish humour and conviviality**, as a gift. It's a surprise that's as funny as it is touching, and guaranteed to put a smile on your face!



## **A DESTINATION FULL OF UNUSUALS**

*Here, every street and every village hides a surprise. From wacky inventions to revisited heritage and artistic touches, Flanders is proving that it knows how to combine tradition and originality brilliantly.*

*So, are you ready to be amazed? Come and see for yourself: in Flanders, every discovery is a story to be told!*





# Land of museums

*Here, the past is not something to be contemplated, it's something to be experienced. At every street corner, in every museum, at the sound of a melody, history comes alive and takes us on a timeless journey. From Watten to Herzelee, between centuries-old traditions and unusual glimpses, each place you visit reveals a unique facet of this vibrant heritage. Arches reaching for the sky, canvases bathed in light, machines of yesteryear and intoxicating music... Each discovery is an invitation to listen to the stories of the past and let yourself be carried away by the soul of Flanders. Get ready for a journey where emotion and curiosity will be your best guides.*

## **La Maison des Archers: A Meeting with Tradition**

Your journey begins in **Watten**. At the entrance to a small museum, a **giant** awaits you. His name? **Dédé l'Archer**. He looks at you, as if to gauge your curiosity before letting you into the fascinating world of archery.

Here, you can't contemplate the past behind dusty shop windows. It challenges you. From medieval bows to tricoloured 'birds' suspended in the air, each object tells the story of the exploits of Flemish archers. Standing in front of, a 30-metre-high pole, the thought crosses your mind: what if you were in their shoes, bow in hand, staring at the target?

## **Le Mont de Piété: Art that Crosses the Centuries**

A few kilometres further on, the streets of **Bergues** lead you to a jewel of Flemish architecture: Le Mont de Piété. The building seems to breathe history. Its stones have seen merchants, artists and dreamers come and go. As you cross the threshold, a respectful silence settles in.

In front of you, ancient canvases capture glimpses, scenes of life, emotions frozen in time. Then, suddenly, you come across **The Old Man with a Dog** by **Georges de La Tour**. The lighting in the work is striking. You have the impression of being there, in that dark room, next to the old man, his instrument and his faithful dog. Each painting takes you on a visual journey, where light and shadow play a hypnotic dance.







## **The Jeanne Devos Museum: Snapshots from the past**

In **Wormhout**, another door opens onto a more intimate past. **The Jeanne Devos Museum** doesn't just show you history: it makes you feel it. In this former residence, old objects and black-and-white photographs capture faces, gestures and fragments of life from another time.

You stop in front of a photograph. A family on a festive day. A woman's gaze seems to cross the years to reach you. Who was she? What was she thinking? You immerse yourself in these images as if in a novel, each page a frozen memory. The smell of old wood, the creak of the wooden floor beneath your feet... You are somewhere else, in a world where time stands still.



## ***The Ecomuseum: The Beat of the Rural Past***

Then it's on to **Ledringhem**. Here, the past can't be told, it can be touched and heard. As you enter the **Les Racines de la Vie Rurale** ecomuseum, a familiar smell greets you: that of grain, aged metal and weathered wood.

You pass old farm machinery. They've been carefully restored, yet still bear the marks of the hands that used them. You can imagine the sound of hooves on beaten earth, the song of harvesters in golden fields, the crackle of the fire in a Flemish farmhouse on a winter's evening. Here, every object has a soul, every tool tells of a labour, a life.



## ***Immerse yourself in the quirky world of the Musée des Gigottos!***

Welcome to **Esquelbecq**, to a place like no other, where imagination comes to life and humour reigns supreme. As soon as you walk through the doors of **the Musée des Gigottos**, you enter a zany and surprising world. Here, everyday objects are misappropriated with malice, sculptures tell absurd stories and every nook and cranny is full of unexpected winks.

Let yourself be guided by eccentric characters and, above all, be prepared to laugh! This museum isn't just a visit, it's a truly immersive experience, where art and burlesque come together to create a unique experience. Keep your eyes peeled, let your imagination run riot and enjoy an adventure that's as funny as it is unusual!



## **Le Café des Orgues: A Balance between Music and Nostalgia**

You end your journey in a timeless place. In **Herzele**, the Café des Orgues opens its doors to an era when mechanical music reigned supreme. **Three MORTIER organs** decorate the room. They're not just instruments, they're characters, a living memory.

Suddenly, the music bursts forth. A joyful melody fills the air, causing some of the regulars to stand up, dance and laugh. You close your eyes and let the music wash over you. The floor creaks beneath your feet, time no longer exists. You're simply there, caught up in the magic of a moment you'll never forget.



## **Muzéa, the network of museums in Flanders**

Muzéa is a treasure trove of culture and heritage. It brings together a multitude of museums throughout Flanders, each offering a unique insight into Flemish history, art and traditions. Whether you're passionate about history, painting, science or local traditions, Muzéa invites you to discover rich and varied collections that bear witness to a living and fascinating past.



### **A LAND WHERE HISTORY ROARS**

Your trip to Flanders is drawing to a close, but one impression remains. Here, history never sleeps. It pulsates in every stone, it whispers in every painting, it sings in every organ. You leave with an invisible treasure: the emotion of having travelled through time, of having touched centuries of life, of having, for a moment, shared the breath of past generations.

And perhaps, when you close your eyes, you'll still hear the echo of those stories, whispered by the Flemish wind...

## **TRAVELLING IN A GROUP?**

Would you like a tailor-made excursion for your team, your family or your friends? Our 'Groups' department is here to organise a unique experience tailored to your needs!

*Our guided tours are available in English*

Contact Aline Lagatie at  
[aline.lagatie@terredeflandretourisme.com](mailto:aline.lagatie@terredeflandretourisme.com)  
or call +33(0)6 37 45 10 50



**Head office: Terre de Flandre Tourisme**  
468 rue de la Couronne de Bierne à Bergues  
[contact@terredeflandretourisme.com](mailto:contact@terredeflandretourisme.com)  
[terredeflandretourisme.com](http://terredeflandretourisme.com)



*The different offices of the tourist office:*

### **✿ BERGUES**

**Beffroi Place Henri Billiaert**  
59380 BERGUES  
**+33 (0)3.68.68.71.06**  
*Open 7/7 days in season and  
6/7 days out of season*

### **✿ ESQUELBEQ**

**Place Bergerot**  
59470 ESQUELBEQ  
**+33 (0)3.28.62.88.57**  
*Open 5 or 6/7 days in season  
and 1/7 days out of season*

### **✿ HONDSCHOOTE**

**2 Rue Coppens**  
59122 HONDSCHOOTE  
**+33 (0)3.28.62.53.00**  
*Open only in season*