

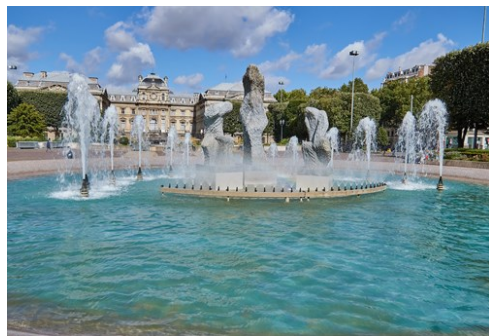


# Lille

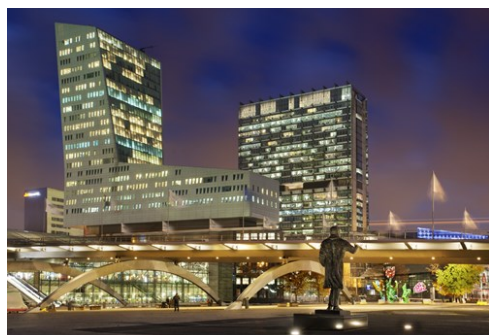
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Production Perig/Shutterstock.com



Evan Frank/Shutterstock.com



Production Perig/Shutterstock.com

Over a decade ago, Lille was awarded the European Capital of Culture title, marking not its pinnacle but rather the start of its journey. In the years since, it has established itself as a premier cultural destination, rivalling any other in northern France and, according to some, beyond. Once a thriving commercial hub in French Flanders, Lille still exudes a strong Flemish character, both in its cuisine and the ornate buildings of its charming Old Town.

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## Top 5



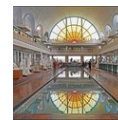
### Old Town

Start your stay in Lille by exploring the old part of town and wandering alo...



### Palais des Beaux Arts

Second only to Parisian Louvre in the calibre of its collection, Lille's Fin...



### La Piscine Museum

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The Lille suburb of Villeneuve-d'Ascq is worth the trip if only for its sing...



### Citadel of Lille

First built in the 17th century following the seizing of Lille by French for...

## THE CITY



Henryk Sadura/Shutterstock.com

Although Lille has a reputation for being a sprawling city – and it is indeed the largest one in northern France – its charming old town is entirely walkable, and contains all the attractions, restaurants, and nightlife establishments a weekend city-breaker could wish to explore in a couple of days. The vibrant, multicultural neighbourhood of Wazemmes, known for its popular market, lies just south of the old town, and is within equally easy reach. The significant student population accounts for Lille's youthful, jovial spirit, which co-exists with refinement and cultural heritage that spans many centuries.

Once an important trading post, Lille later grew into an industrial powerhouse and even became known for being a working class stronghold, a status that has now given way to one of a cultural hub. Beyond the old town, museums worth making the trip to the suburbs for are the curious La Piscine (museum set up inside a 20th century swimming pool building, the pool still technically functional) of Roubaix and Lille Métropole Museum of Modern, Contemporary and Outsider Art in Villeneuve-d'Ascq.

## DO & SEE



Littleaom/Shutterstock.com

Wandering the old town streets and admiring the Flemish renaissance architecture might be one of the greatest pleasures the city has to offer, but together with a handful of solid art museums, excellent shopping and hearty, scrumptious cuisine, Lille is northern France's biggest city in not only terms of size, but also cultural offerings.

### Old Town



Start your stay in Lille by exploring the old part of town and wandering along Vieux-Lille's cobble streets. Apart from fine examples of old

Flemish architecture, the area contains a plethora of small boutiques and cosy cafes. Do not miss the charming little Place aux Oignons.

Photo: Production Perig/Shutterstock.com

### Palais des Beaux Arts



Second only to Parisian Louvre in the calibre of its collection, Lille's Fine Arts Museum (Palais des Beaux Arts) contains works by assorted great

masters, the likes of Rubens and Manet. The basement level holds archaeological finds and



miniature representations of the region's 18th-century fortified settlements.

Photo: aniad/Shutterstock.com

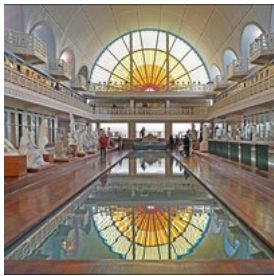
Address: 18bis Rue de Valmy, Lille

Opening hours: 14:00-16:00 (Monday) 10:00-18:00 (Wednesday to Sunday)

Phone: +33 3 20 06 78 00

Internet: [www.pba-lille.fr](http://www.pba-lille.fr)

### La Piscine Museum



The building of what once was an Art Deco swimming pool has now been turned into a fine/applied arts museum (La Piscine Musée d'Art et d'Industrie), classical sculptures and busts lining the filled-up pool in a bizarre yet curious presentation.

Photo: Jean-Pierre Dalbéra/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: 23 Rue de l'Espérance, Roubaix

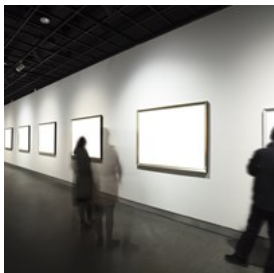
Public Transport: Gare Jean Lebas / Grand Place (underground)

Phone: +33 3 20 69 23 60

Internet: [www.roubaix-lapiscine.com](http://www.roubaix-lapiscine.com)

Email: [lapiscine.musee@ville-roubaix.fr](mailto:lapiscine.musee@ville-roubaix.fr)

### Lille Métropole Museum of Modern, Contemporary and Outsider Art



The Lille suburb of Villeneuve-d'Ascq is worth the trip if only for its singular Modern Art Museum (Musée d'Art Moderne, d'Art

Contemporain et d'Art Brut - LaM), which showcases works by celebrated modernists (such as Picasso and Modigliani, to name a couple), along with a noteworthy collection of outsider art.

Photo: zhu difeng/Shutterstock.com

Address: 1 Allée du Musée, Villeneuve-d'Ascq

Opening hours: 10:00-18:00 (Tuesday to Sunday)

Phone: +33 3 20 19 68 68

Internet: [www.musee-lam.fr](http://www.musee-lam.fr)

Email: [info@musee-lam.fr](mailto:info@musee-lam.fr)

### Citadel of Lille



First built in the 17th century following the seizing of Lille by French forces, the Citadel is an impressive star-shaped fortress which now

houses the French Rapid Reaction Corps. Guided tours of the Citadel are held monthly. The park area surrounding the fortress contains pleasant greenery and the Lille Zoo.

Photo: Sergey Dzyuba/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenue du 43e Régiment d'Infanterie, Lille

Phone: +33 4 43 05 12 90

### The Old Stock Exchange



The building of La Vieille Bourse, as it is known locally, consists of a couple dozen separate buildings and a beautiful courtyard containing a book flea market. It is a fine example of 17th century ornamental Flemish Renaissance.

Photo: ilolab/Shutterstock.com

Address: Place Charles de Gaulle, Lille

Opening hours: 13:00-17:00 (Tuesday to Sunday)

Phone: +33 891 56 20 04

### Lille Cathedral



Finally completed only at the turn of the current century, the Cathédrale Notre-Dame-de-la-Treille bears striking dissimilarity to Gothic and Romanesque cathedrals across Europe - perhaps, due to its pronouncedly modern facade. The inside contains a crypt and sacred art museum.

Photo: Velvet/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

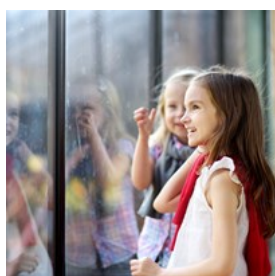
Address: Place Gilleson, Lille

Phone: +33 3 20 31 59 12

Internet: [www.cathedralelille.com](http://www.cathedralelille.com)

Email: [cathedraledelatreille@gmail.com](mailto:cathedraledelatreille@gmail.com)

### Lille Zoo



Located only a short walk outside the old town, the Lille Zoo is a pleasant afternoon pastime for the whole family. Ticket prices are times lower

than those at an average west European zoo, all animals are well looked after, and an impressive collection of species for a zoo of such compact size is represented.

Photo: MNStudio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenue Mathias Delobel, Lille

Phone: +33 3 28 52 07 00

Internet: [www.lille.fr/Zoo-de-Lille](http://www.lille.fr/Zoo-de-Lille)

Email: [zoolille@mairie-lille.fr](mailto:zoolille@mairie-lille.fr)

### Lille Belfry



The belfry of Lille's Hôtel de Ville shoots up a hundred metres into the sky, and is accessible via both stairs and an elevator (the latter means

of reaching the top is recommended). From up top, a splendid view unfolds over the entire city, including a few local landmarks (although admittedly little of the old town).

Photo: SergiyN/Shutterstock.com

Address: Place Roger Salengro, Lille

Phone: +33 891 56 20 04

### Hospice Comtesse Museum



The Hospice Comtesse Museum, or Musée de l'Hospice Comtesse, is a century-old once-hospital now open to visitors. The complex consists of a

former hospital hall and an adjacent chapel. The English audio guide is informative and essential for those who do not speak French.

Photo: neko92vl/Shutterstock.com

Address: 32 Rue de la Monnaie, Lille

Phone: +33 3 28 36 84 00

### DINING

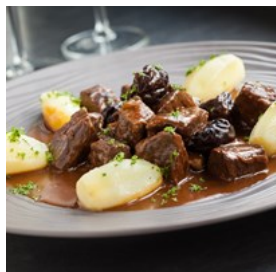


Bastiaanimage stock/Shutterstock.com

Those looking to savour Lillois specialities should cast their glance at carbonade flamande, waterzooi, and potjevleesch. The latter one might be the most exotic: four different types of meat held together with gelatin, served cold. Carbonade flamande is, perhaps, the safest bet, as little can go wrong with beef stewed to utmost

tenderness in beer. As for waterzooi, it is a Flemish creamy stew of fish or chicken with egg yolk and various vegetables.

### Le Bistrot Lillois



For honest, authentic Lillois fare, try this unpretentious eatery that serves a combination of French and Flemish dishes. Be warned: the

offerings of northern French cuisine are generally rather straightforward, built on the foundation of meat and potatoes, with the occasional curiosity in the form of – in this case – bone marrow.

Photo: Bastiaanimage stock/Shutterstock.com

Address: 40 Rue de Gand, Lille

Phone: +33 3 20 14 04 15

### Estaminet Au Vieux de la Vieille



During the summer months, this atmospheric little eatery spills out onto the charming Place aux Oignons, where patrons tuck into hearty

Flemish specialities. Cheese-lovers won't find themselves at a loss, and meals are welcome to be followed by a sweet crêpe or another local dessert.

Photo: JM Travel Photography/Shutterstock.com

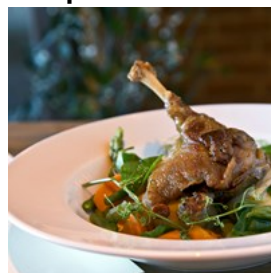
Address: 2-4 Rue des Vieux Murs, Lille

Phone: +33 3 20 13 81 64

Internet: [www.estaminetlille.fr/auvieuxdelavieille](http://www.estaminetlille.fr/auvieuxdelavieille)

Email: [auvieux@estaminetlille.fr](mailto:auvieux@estaminetlille.fr)

### Comptoir 44



The Parisian-style brasserie serves a regularly updated menu of French dishes, with a special emphasis laid on showcasing fresh,

seasonal ingredients. Le Comptoir 44 serves simple, hearty dishes, along with sophisticated specials like foie gras and crêpe suzette.

Photo: E\_Sh/Shutterstock.com

Address: 44 Rue de Gand, Lille

Opening hours: 12:00-14:00 19:00-22:30 (Monday to Friday)

12:00-14:30 19:00-22:30 (Saturday, Sunday)

Phone: +33 3 20 21 03 63

Internet: [www.comptoir44-lille.fr](http://www.comptoir44-lille.fr)

### La Petite Table



The cosy old town restaurant offers a fusion menu of Flemish and international dishes, one of the most popular orders being the humble

"Welsh" - essentially, toast smothered in cheese, with a few filling extras. Frequented by both locals and guests looking to experience northern French dining.

Photo: DronG/Shutterstock.com

Address: 59 Rue de la Monnaie, Lille

Phone: +33 3 20 55 60 47

Internet: [www.lapetitetable-vieuxlille.com](http://www.lapetitetable-vieuxlille.com)

### La Petite Cour



The pleasant, centrally located restaurant entices with good value menus featuring Belgian and Flemish specialities.

When weather permits, make use of the restaurant's intimate outdoor



courtyard seating.

Photo: JJFarq/Shutterstock.com

Address: 17 Rue du Cure Saint-Etienne, Lille

Phone: +33 3 20 51 52 81

Internet: [www.lapetitecour-lille.fr](http://www.lapetitecour-lille.fr)

### La Chicorée



This atmospheric brasserie often stays open till the wee morning hours, entertaining guests with live music shows and fine food. It is

a rather popular local dining spot, not least because of its great value French and Flemish cuisine. A "Chicorée" menu will set you back just over a dozen euros (includes starter or dessert, plus main).

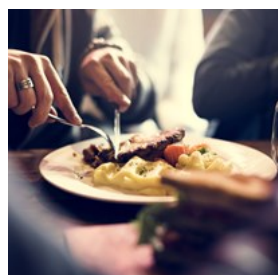
Photo: Piyato/Shutterstock.com

Address: 15 Place Rihour, Lille

Phone: +33 3 20 54 81 52

Internet: [www.chicoree.restaurantsdelille.com](http://www.chicoree.restaurantsdelille.com)

### Pancook



Popularity of this corner restaurant is on the rise, and no wonder: dishes served are all great value home-style cooking at its best. The star of the

menu are the "pancooks" themselves - hollowed-out bread bowls stuffed with a mix of ingredients, sealed off with a generous helping of cheese.

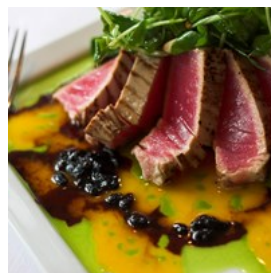
Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

Address: 125 Rue Colbert, Lille

Phone: +33 3 20 40 10 97

Internet: [www.pancook-restaurant-lille.fr](http://www.pancook-restaurant-lille.fr)

### Quai 38



Quai 38 is all hype among local seafood-lovers, for it is fresh seafood that the restaurant has its focus on. From scallops to lobster, to perfectly

seared fish, there simply is no room to go wrong on the extensive and carefully thought out menu. Ring the day of booking to confirm the restaurant will be open.

Photo: John Wollwerth/Shutterstock.com

Address: 38 Rue Saint-Sébastien, Lille

Phone: +33 3 20 42 10 68

Internet: [www.quai38-lille.fr](http://www.quai38-lille.fr)

### CAFES



Dziorek Rafal/Shutterstock.com

When in Lille, do not skip on the city's most sought-after dessert: vanilla waffles served at Méert, Lille's historic and most reputable cafe. There are plenty of places to tuck into a savoury galette, a syrup-drenched crêpe, or even just grab a cup of coffee (some particularly good finds are concentrated around old town's Grand Place). A dessert you will be seeing nearly anywhere you go is "merveilleux", a small, meringue-based cake sprinkled with chocolate shavings.

And if you are into cheese, try the city's own "Le Vieux Lille", a gourmet variety with a distinctive smell.

### Pâtisserie Méert



Méert's gourmand history begins in the 18th century, when chocolate maker Delcourt opened his first boutique in Lille and started a real pastry

revolution in the city. Nowadays, this tea salon is very popular for their exquisite cakes and pastries, along with, of course, the famous vanilla waffles--considered the best in Lille.

Photo: Lumen Photos/Shutterstock.com

Address: 25-27 Rue Esquermoise, Lille

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 9am-5:30pm

Phone: +33 3 20 57 07 44

Internet: [www.meert.fr](http://www.meert.fr)

### La Crêperie de Lille



Lille's finest crêperie boasts an extensive selections of sweet and savoury crepes as well as galettes (the latter are made with buckwheat

flour). The chefs make sense of the most bizarre flavour combinations and easily turn even the most sceptical of diners into converts.

Photo: norikko/Shutterstock.com

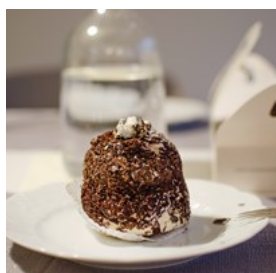
Address: 64 Rue de Gand, Lille

Opening hours: Mon-Wed 11:30am-2pm, Thu-Sat 11:30am-2pm, 5:30-9pm

Phone: +33 3 20 12 77 76

Internet: [www.lacreperiedelille.fr](http://www.lacreperiedelille.fr)

### Cafés Méo



Despite its central location smack in the Grande Place of Lille, this café manages to keep its prices reasonable and its slew of customers

content. Grab a coffee and head to the second floor, and if you're lucky, you might be able to secure a spot by the window, overlooking the very heart of the city.

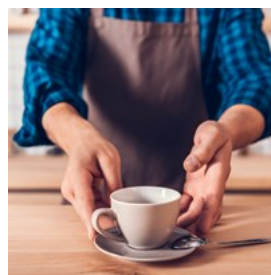
Photo: michajela/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5 Place Charles de Gaulle, Lille

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-7pm

Phone: +33 3 20 57 34 54

### Coffee Makers



This little gem of a cafe is a favourite for breakfast, casual lunch, or even just a cup of coffee (soy and oat milk available on request). One of the

cafe's best attributes is the jovial, welcoming attitude of the staff (that apart from the delicious toasted sandwiches).

Photo: LightField Studios/Shutterstock.com

Address: 151 Rue de Paris, Lille

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 11:30am-2:30pm, Sat 2-5pm

Phone: +33 9 73 55 93 60

Internet: [www.coffeemakers.fr](http://www.coffeemakers.fr)

Email: [bonjour@coffeemakers.fr](mailto:bonjour@coffeemakers.fr)

### Crêperie Beaurepaire



It would be an abomination to leave northern France without sufficiently indulging in the region's speciality - galettes and crepes - and

Beaurepaire lets you do just that, all at very reasonable prices. The menu variety astounds - from classics containing just egg and ham to much more elaborate concoctions (look out for the day's specials on the chalk board above the kitchen counter). The chef graciously agreed to take us in despite the scheduled afternoon break (2-7pm).

Photo: Vladislav Noseek/Shutterstock.com

Address: 1 Rue Saint-Etienne, Lille

Phone: +33 3 20 54 60 54

Internet: [www.creperiebeaurepaire.com](http://www.creperiebeaurepaire.com)

### Notting Hill Coffee



With multiple locations across the city, Notting Hill Coffee is an easy-to-find spot for a snack or a full meal accompanied by very decent coffee. In the food department, there are soups, salads, pasta, bagels, wraps, and all sorts of sandwiches; for dessert, pick from muffins, cookies, brownies, cakes and more.

Photo: mavo/Shutterstock.com

Address: 11 Rue de Béthune, Lille

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-7pm, Sat 8am-6pm

Phone: +33 3 20 49 77 41

Internet: [www.nottinghill-coffee.com](http://www.nottinghill-coffee.com)

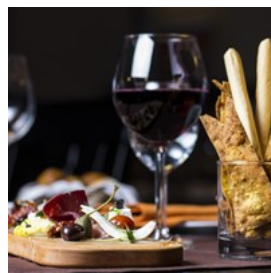
## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



*DisobeyArt/Shutterstock.com*

The Lillois drink of choice is beer, with some of the coolest beer bars concentrated around Place de la Gare. There are dozens of varieties, each served in its own designated glass. The Lillois know how to let loose, and a typical evening would consist of pre-drinks somewhere along Rue de Gand, followed by a night out at one of the livelier nightlife venues.

### Jaja



Jaja does what one would expect a French wine bar to do, which is commendably showcase wines from the country that knows how to make them best. There are many labels to choose from, and delicious meat and cheese platters to order on the side.

Photo: StockPhotosLV/Shutterstock.com

Address: 36 Rue Saint-André, Lille

Phone: +33 3 20 51 83 73

### Dernier Bar avant la Fin du Monde



This quirky bar is a find for any sci-fi, comic book, or even just pop culture enthusiasts. With regular thematic exhibitions and events, it attracts patrons with not only drinks but the thematic component, too, making for an entertaining pastime in the well-stocked game room.

Photo: wavebreakmedia/Shutterstock.com

Address: 12 Rue de Pas, Lille

Phone: +33 3 61 50 43 20

Internet: [www.dernierbar.com](http://www.dernierbar.com)

### Bar L'Illustration



This atmospheric bar in Lille's old town has, over the years, become a meeting place for the cultured elites, who rub shoulders with those outsiders who are lucky enough to stumble upon or learn of the place. The bar hosts live singers and serves a pleasant selection of drinks.

Photo: Kichigin/Shutterstock.com



Address: 18 Rue Royale, Lille  
Phone: +33 3 20 12 00 90  
Internet: [www.bar-lillustration.fr](http://www.bar-lillustration.fr)  
Email: [bar.lillustration@voila.fr](mailto:bar.lillustration@voila.fr)

### Le Network



Following the closing of Lille's popular Magazine Club, Le Network now remains Lille's best of the kind for a night out on the dance floor. Le

Network's indoor space is fit to host up to a few hundred party-goers, all dressed to the nines and ready to light up the night to house and electronic beats.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 15 Rue du Faisan, Lille  
Opening hours: Tue-Wed 10:30pm-7am, Thu 9:30pm-7am, Fri-Sat 10:30pm-7am, Sun 7pm-7am  
Phone: +33 3 20 40 04 91  
Internet: [www.lenetwork.fr](http://www.lenetwork.fr)  
Email: [network-cafe@wanadoo.fr](mailto:network-cafe@wanadoo.fr)

### La Pirogue



Patrons do not mind being a little cramming into the compact space of this atmospheric bar with a very eclectic client base. In the drinks

department, everything here revolves around rum and rum-based drinks, so expect to leave being on a friendly footing with the drink.

Photo: White78/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 16 Rue Jean Jacques Rousseau, Lille  
Phone: +33 3 20 31 70 82

### Bartown



Bartown serves – rumour has it – some of the best cocktails in the city, with generous servings of fruit

mounted on top of some of their concoctions. The atmosphere is pleasant and relaxed, forged by the establishment's jovial regulars. Meat and cheese platters complement the drinks.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 10 Rue Saint-Sébastien, Lille  
Phone: +33 3 20 21 16 97

## SHOPPING



Izabela Magier/Shutterstock.com

Rue de Bethune is Lille's main shopping thoroughfare, while Rue de la Grande Chausseé is the place to go for upscale luxury brands. There are plenty of individual boutiques selling deli (try the local Le Vieux Lille cheese) and drinks, with plenty of ethnic shops scattered around the Wazemmes area. Lille's modern shopping centre, Euralille, contains stores of internationally known brands, as well as all the facilities one would expect from a commercial complex of the kind.

### Wazemmes Market



The working-class, eclectic neighbourhood of Wazemmes contains Lille's most praised food market, the Marché de Wazemmes. On Sundays, trade spills out onto the adjacent outdoor area, making for an animated commercial affair. Nearby streets contain shops that minister to residents of North African origin.

Photo: Nikolay Dimitrov - ecobo/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Place Nouvelle Aventure, Lille  
More Info: Halles de Wazemmes:  
[fr-fr.facebook.com/hallesdewazemmes](https://fr-fr.facebook.com/hallesdewazemmes)

### Furet du Nord Bookshop



Spread over an entire 8 floors, the stunning Furet du Nord is a bookstore that lays substantial claim to being the best in all of northern France. Genres represented vary greatly, from classics to manga comics, and a pleasant selection of English-language literature, along with local souvenirs, is also on offer.

Photo: LStockStudio/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 15 Place Charles de Gaulle, Lille  
Opening hours: 9:30-19:30 (Monday to Saturday)  
Phone: +33 3 20 78 43 43  
Internet: [www.furet.com](http://www.furet.com)  
More Info: Lille's bookshop:  
[www.furet.com/cafe/librairie-de-lille](http://www.furet.com/cafe/librairie-de-lille)

### Philippe Olivier Fromagerie



The cheese boutique of a century-old family business is an absolute must: the family has long-dedicated itself to preserving rare varieties of cheeses and propelling the cheese-making tradition further. The boutique stocks cheeses sourced from small local producers.

Photo: Hayati Kayhan/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 3 Rue Cure St Etienne, Lille  
Phone: +33 3 20 74 96 99  
Internet: [www.philippeolivier.fr](http://www.philippeolivier.fr)  
Email: [info@philippeolivier.fr](mailto:info@philippeolivier.fr)

### Sebastopol Market



The market in Lille's Place Sébastopol takes place twice a week, gathering farmers from the region, who come to showcase and sell the finest produce, charcuterie, cheeses, and other locally-grown products.

Photo: Ekaterina Pokrovsky/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Place Sébastopol, Lille  
Opening hours: 7:00-14:00 (Wednesday, Saturday)

### Braderie de Lille

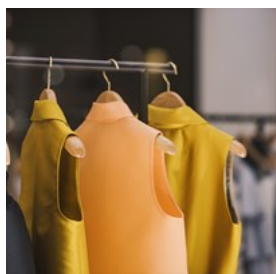


The annual Braderie held in Lille the first weekend of September is a city-wide flea market, the largest one of its kind in Europe. For two days, the entire city transforms into an open-air marketplace featuring events and celebrations, as roughly two million shoppers make their way into town.



Photo: Ekaterina Pokrovsky/Shutterstock.com

### Maisons de Mode



Maisons de Mode is a collection of small designer boutiques selling unique, one-of-a-kind creations, primarily clothing and accessories. There are two locations of the "maisons" in Lille, another one being in Roubaix (Jardin de Mode, 58-60 Rue du Faubourg des Postes).

Photo: Creative Lab/Shutterstock.com

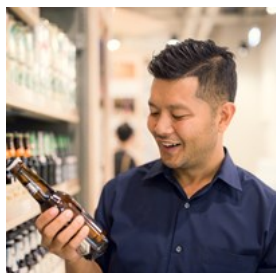
Address: 31-62 Rue du Faubourg des Poste, Lille

Phone: +33 3 20 99 91 20

Internet: [www.maisonsdemode.com](http://www.maisonsdemode.com)

Email: [contact@maisonsdemode.com](mailto:contact@maisonsdemode.com)

### L'Abbaye des Saveurs



This compact old town store is truly a dream-come-true for all beer-lovers: the selection of artisan brews and beers from all over the region impresses and invites visitors to discover flavours they would never have elsewhere. Stocks a selection of other regional products.

Photo: NARONGRIT LOKOOLPRAKIT/Shutterstock.com

Address: 13 Rue des Vieux Murs, Lille

Phone: +33 3 28 07 70 06

Internet: [abbaye-des-saveurs.business.site](http://abbaye-des-saveurs.business.site)

### Les Vins d'Aurelien



What makes this particular wine shop stand out from competition is the owner, Aurélien, who is a wine connoisseur and

enthusiast that prides himself on being personally involved in tasting and independently selecting each wine represented at the boutique. Quality is, therefore, at the forefront. Wine tastings are held frequently; check the website for schedules.

Photo: Tyler Olson/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5 Rue Jean Sans Peur, Lille

Phone: +33 3 62 64 36 63

Internet: [www.lesvinsdaurelien.fr](http://www.lesvinsdaurelien.fr)

Email: [caviste@lesvinsdaurelien.fr](mailto:caviste@lesvinsdaurelien.fr)

More Info: Information about tastings (ateliers):  
[www.lesvinsdaurelien.fr/ateliers](http://www.lesvinsdaurelien.fr/ateliers)

## TOURIST INFORMATION



SergiyN/Shutterstock.com

### Passport/Visa



France can be visited visa-free for up to 90 days by citizens of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Israel, UAE and

most countries in America. If you are unsure whether or not you need to apply for a visa, we recommend contacting the embassy or consulate in your country. International (non-Schengen) travelers need a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after the end of their intended trip in order to enter the Schengen zone. Citizens of

Schengen countries can travel without a passport, but must have a valid ID with them during their stay.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

### Best Time to Visit Lille, France



The best times of year to visit Lille are late spring and summer, when warm temperatures allow for walks and outdoor pursuits. The first

weekend of September is also an interesting time to visit, since this is when Lille hosts its historic "braderie", a large-scale, city-wide flea market that attracts 2 million visitors annually.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

### Airport



Lille Airport, also known as Lille-Lesquin Airport or Lesquin Airport, is located 7 km southeast of Lille in Lesquin. A shuttle bus service is offered and

runs between the airport and the Euralille shopping centre (next to the main train station of Lille), and the journey lasts 20 minutes: [www.lille.aeroport.fr/getting-to-the-airport/shuttle/](http://www.lille.aeroport.fr/getting-to-the-airport/shuttle/)

Taxis can also be hired at the airport: [www.lille.aeroport.fr/getting-to-the-airport/taxis/](http://www.lille.aeroport.fr/getting-to-the-airport/taxis/)

Lille can also be reached by train or bus from Brussels, and direct bus routes exist between the Brussels South Charleroi Airport and the city of Lille: [www.flibco.com/en](http://www.flibco.com/en)

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Lille Airport, Lesquin

Internet: [www.lille.aeroport.fr/home/#](http://www.lille.aeroport.fr/home/#)

### Public Transport



Lille has a well-developed public transportation system, managed by Transpole, comprising metro, tram, and bus lines. Transpole has two

underground lines which share the different areas of the city.

The bus service include many lines which entirely cover the city of Lille. The service also include a night line (every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night) et a shuttle for the old city (with departures every 10-15 minutes, Monday to Saturday, from 7:00 to 21:00).

Lastly, two tram lines serve nine districts of the city.

Tickets for every mean of transport can be purchased both at the stations and online. For further information about tarifs: [www.transpole.fr/fr/32-les-titres-occasionnels](http://www.transpole.fr/fr/32-les-titres-occasionnels).

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Address: Lille Flandres Station

Opening hours: 6:30-20:00 (Monday to Friday) 9:00-20:00 (Saturday)

Phone: +33 3 20 40 40 40

Internet: [www.transpole.fr](http://www.transpole.fr)

### Taxi



There are several taxi ranks across the city (Boulevard de Leeds at Lille Europe station or on Place de Buisses at Lille Flandres station).

Multiple taxi-to-order companies operate in Lille,



some of which include:

TaxisLille  
+33 7 60 06 61 61  
[www.taxislille.com](http://www.taxislille.com)

Taxi Flandres  
+33 6 05 05 05 01  
[www.taxi-flandres.com](http://www.taxi-flandres.com)

Photo: ArrivalGuides

### Pharmacy



Pharmacies are marked with a green cross and are relatively easy to locate. One 24-hour pharmacy is Grande Pharmacie des Halles:

Photo: Gemma Garner  
Address: 99 Rue Solférino, Lille  
Phone: +33 3 20 54 02 74

### Post



Stamps may be purchased at post offices (most close for lunch) and tobacco shops. Post boxes are yellow in colour.

Photo: Andy Fuchs  
Address: 8 Place de la République, Lille  
Internet: [www.laposte.fr](http://www.laposte.fr)

### Telephone



+33 (country code) 3 (city code)

Photo: Jardson Almeida

### Electricity

230 V, 50 Hz



Photo: Stirling Tschan

### Population

The metro area population of Lille: 1,073,000 (2022)

### Currency

1 euro = 100 cents

### Opening hours

Most shops operate between 9am and 6pm, from Monday to Saturday (closing on Sundays). For restaurants and other businesses, hours may vary.

### Newspapers

La Voix du Nord – [www.lavoixdunord.fr](http://www.lavoixdunord.fr)  
20 minutes – [www.20minutes.fr/lille/](http://www.20minutes.fr/lille/)

### Emergency numbers

112

### Tourist information

Office de Tourisme de Lille  
Palais Rihour, Place Rihour, Lille  
Opening hours: daily 10am–5:30pm  
+33 3 59 57 94 00