

VISITOR GUIDE

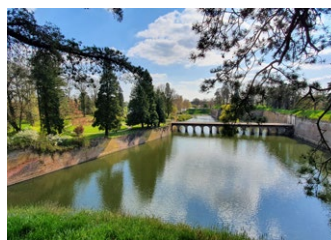
TE ARAWHATA
& LE QUESNOY

NEW
ZEALAND
LIBERATION
MUSEUM
TE ARAWHATA

Musée Néo-Zélandais
de la Libération
Le Quesnoy France

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INTRODUCTION

A visit to the New Zealand Liberation Museum Te Arawhata and Le Quesnoy in Northern France is an experience of not only learning about, and commemorating history, but also experiencing history.

Come to Le Quesnoy to visit New Zealand's tūrangawaewae on the Western Front. By visiting Le Quesnoy, you become part of this unique cross cultural community formed through the heroic actions of New Zealand soldiers in the final week of World War One.

Whether you are travelling from Paris for a day trip, spending the weekend visiting from London, or using your time in Le Quesnoy as a base to explore Northern France and the many surrounding sites of World War One history, this guide will help make your experience easy and as memorable as can be.

This guide is to help you, our visitor, navigate your way to Le Quesnoy, Northern France and the NZ Liberation Museum Te Arawhata. It includes information about accommodation, places to eat and drink, information about Le Quesnoy itself and also nearby places of interest.

There are many ways to experience Le Quesnoy and this is not a comprehensive guide.

This is where you can help. Please forward any additional information or suggestions to: adele.mcnutt@nzmmtlq.nz. We would love to hear about your experience of this special place. The guide will be updated on a regular basis.

Special thanks to the Cambridge/Le Quesnoy Friendship Association for their help with this guide.

Feedback is welcome.

**Thank you,
Ngā mihi nui,
Merci beaucoup.**



WHERE IS LE QUESNOY?

TRAVELLING TIMES

These times are approximate and only include travelling time not the time waiting at train stations for transfers. Give yourself plenty of time to stop at the stations for coffee and croissants!

	Train (hours/mins)	Car (hours/mins)
From Paris	2:30	2:30
From London (via Lille)	3:00	4:30
From Lille	0:50	0:50
From Valenciennes	0:15	0:22
From Arras	2:30	1:00
From Ypres (Ieper) Belgium	2:45	1:30
From Ghent, Belgium	2:45	1:30
From Amiens	2:45	1:40
From Dunkirk	2:30	1:40

ABOUT THE NEW ZEALAND LIBERATION MUSEUM – TE ARAWHATA

Phone: +33 (0)3 74 58 01 85

Address: 18 Rue Achille Carlier, 59530 Le Quesnoy, France

Email: info@nzliberationmuseum.com

Website: nzliberationmuseum.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tearawhata

Instagram: www.instagram.com/te_arawhata_nzlm

Linkedin: nz.linkedin.com/company/nz-liberation-museum

Youtube: www.youtube.com/@NZLiberationMuseum-TeArawhata

OPENING HOURS

Summer (1 April – 31 October)

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday to Sunday	10.30am – 6.00pm

Winter (1 November – 31 March)

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday to Sunday	9.30am – 5.00pm

The museum is closed for a period over the Christmas break – please check the website for exact dates.

GETTING HERE

The New Zealand Liberation Museum – Te Arawhata is located at

18 Rue Achille Carlier, Le Quesnoy.



By plane

The nearest airports are:

Paris Charles De Gaulle – 2 hours by Train and car

Lille Lesquin – 40 minutes by train and car (Europe flights only)

Brussels Charleroi – 1 hour by Car (Europe flights only)



By train

Le Quesnoy has a local train station, which is a one-hour train journey from Lille train station (Lille-Flandres). You can get to Lille every hour.

Lille is a one-hour TGV train ride from Paris.

There is also a direct line to Lille from Charles de Gaulle Airport.

If you are travelling from London, the Eurostar goes direct to Lille and is only a 1.5 hour train.

There are two train stations in Lille – Lille-Flandres and Lille Europe.

Lille Europe is where the Eurostar leaves and arrives.

Lille-Flandres is where the regional and local trains depart from.

The stations are very close to each other - about a 5 minute walk depending on your mobility

Give yourself a bit of time to get from one station to the other, especially if you have luggage.



By car

Le Quesnoy is 2h30 drive from Paris, a 45 minute drive from Lille, and a 1h30 drive from Brussels.

Rental Cars: Some rental companies require an international drivers licence. This is easy to apply for via AA.

Route: Use GPS apps such as Google Maps, Waze or Apple Maps.

Parking: There is FREE parking all throughout the town!

If you travel by car enjoy the perks of seeing other Western Front sites within a 30-minute drive.

If you want to avoid the Paris traffic, it can be easier to train to Lille and hire a car. They have all the usual firms: Hertz/Avis/Europcar/SIXT etc. – a simple Google away

Train from Paris

Le Quesnoy is 2h train journey from Paris, with one transfer in either Lille or Aulnoye-Aymeries.

Gare du Nord in Paris: All train routes to Le Quesnoy leave from the Gare du Nord Station.

Pro Tip: Tickets can be bought at the station. or use SNCF, Omio or Trainline apps. They make booking and managing your tickets super easy!

On arrival to Le Quesnoy: The museum is a 10-minute walk from the station at 18 Rue Achille Carrier.

Train from London

It is a 3h30 journey from the platforms of St Pancras Station to the doorstep of Te Arawhata.

Book: Buy your tickets from London to Lille via Eurostar. Use Omio or SNCF to book your ticket from Lille Flandres to Le Quesnoy

London to Lille: The train is 1h30 and arrives at Lille Europe station.

Transfer: Allow yourself 10 minutes to walk to Lille Flandres Station.

Train to Le Quesnoy: Take the 45 minute to train et Bivienne!

Example of a journey

Train from London to Lille - You can book the Eurostar from London

Make sure to check in at least an hour before your train, as you have to go through border security.

The train is one hour and a half, and takes you to the Lille Europe station, then allow yourself 10 minutes to walk to the Lille Flandres Station.

To get between the two stations, you will exit Lille Europe and see the big EuraLille Westfield shopping centre, continue to walk straight past the shopping centre and the Lille Flandres is the next big building on your left.

The train to Le Quesnoy will usually be going in the direction of Maubeuge or Jeumont.

The train is normally 50 mins to an hour.

The two stops leading up to Le Quesnoy are Valenciennes and Le Poirier Université.

Once you leave the train station turn right towards the petrol station, and then left following the sign to Centre Ville, this will take you into the town Square! Bienvenue à Le Quesnoy!

GETTING AROUND LE QUESNOY

Once you have arrived in Le Quesnoy you can walk the entire village within the ramparts quite easily. The Tourism Office offers bike hire and information about cycling tours. They also have a handy map of the town for your wanderings – the map is also available at Te Arawhata.

Le Quesnoy Tourist Information Centre

Address: 1 Rue du Maréchal Joffre, 59530 Le Quesnoy, France

Phone: +33 3 27 20 54 70

Website: <https://en.francevelotourisme.com/useful-information/tourist-offices/bureau-du-quesnoy-2>

Travel apps for your phone

The French national railway company's website is called **sncf-connect**: <https://www.sncf-connect.com>

This website has information about the types of trains to Le Quesnoy and what you can expect from the different train branches that operate – TGV INOUI and TER and OUIGO

Trainline

<https://www.thetrainline.com>

Download the app TRAINLINE on your phone. This app allows you to book trains very simply. Trainline is in English and if you enter your destination and when you want to leave and return – it will give you several options.

You have the option to load your credit card onto it so you can buy as you go. The ticket will then be on your phone. It is very user friendly. You can also load any travel discount cards on this APP (see discount card information below).

OMIO

<https://www.omio.com/>

Similar to Trainline, this is a great travel app that will give you bus/train/flight options so you can compare prices, travel time, amount of transfers, and different times of departure and arrival

Discount Card

There is a discount travel card for those lucky enough to be aged 60 and up.

It is called Carte Advantage Senior and the details and application can be found at this

website: <https://www.sncf-connect.com/app/catalogue/description/carte-avantage-senior>.

There is a fee of 49 Euros (about NZD\$87) to buy the card. But the discounts on train travel are substantial and if you are in France for a while, it is well worth it. Check it out!

Taxis and Uber

There are taxis services Le Quesnoy but you need to book them prior to use.

Uber is not available in Le Quesnoy, but is in Valenciennes and Lille.

Taxi de Mormal

Open 24 hours
+33 7 85 57 94 10
www.taxidemormal.fr

Taxi Carole

+33 3 27 49 71 02
14 Rue de Bosquiaux, 59144
Wagnies-le-Grand, France



STAYING HERE

THE NORTH OF FRANCE - HAUTS-DE-FRANCE

ACCOMMODATION

There are 6 Airbnb accommodations right in the centre of Le Quesnoy town. There are also many Gites in the surrounding area.

Gites de France-Nord

Cottages, B&B or home-stay style accommodation or other accommodation through the Gites de France-Nord website:

<https://www.gites-de-france-nord.fr>

Airbnb

There are many options in or near Le Quesnoy on the Airbnb website.

<https://www.airbnb.co.nz/le-quesnoy-france/stays>

Camping/Cabins/Motorhomes

Camping du lac Vauban

Chemin de Ghissignies 59530 Le Quesnoy Nord

The campground has cabins, tent sites and sites for campervans.

Website: <https://www.camping-lequesnoy.fr/>

Tel: +33 (0)3.27.49.10.07

Booking.com

Website: <https://www.booking.com/rooms/city/fr/le-quesnoy>

STAYING HERE

THE NORTH OF FRANCE - HAUTS-DE-FRANCE

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS VISITORS

Air BnB in Le Quesnoy – “Loft in Le Quesnoy”

\$142 per night, hosted by Thebaud.

<https://www.airbnb.co.nz/rooms/51301252>

Les Vergers Tellier

Our room had a Queen and 2 single beds with handy shop below & close to Le Quesnoy. Te Arawhata hosted the Anzac Dinner in 2024 at the restaurant at Les Vergers Tellier.

<https://www.lesvergerstellier.com/>

Chateau d'en haut

1980's style. Lovely hostess who loves kiwis and lovely home cooked evening meal available. Need own transport. 5 kms away from le Quesnoy.

<https://chateaudenhaut.fr/>

Aribnb - Le Quesnoy House - 65 sq. m downtown

We stayed here in 2019 when we visited and absolutely loved it and the host was amazing and went above and beyond. When we make it back I plan on staying again!

<https://www.airbnb.co.nz/rooms/28767881>

La Commanderie du Château - Ruesnes

This is a bookshop but Xavier Carpentier who runs the bookshop also has some accommodation and it is absolutely beautiful. Highly recommended. Xavier speaks English fluently and is a great supporter of Te Arawhata. A 7 minute drive from Le Quesnoy. If you don't stay here make sure to visit the bookshop for morning tea. Check Facebook for opening hours. Like many places they are closed Monday and Tuesday.

12 rue du Château Ruesnes

+33 6 76 77 86 66

lacommanderie.librairie@gmail.com

Booking.com: <https://www.booking.com/hotel/fr/chateau-de-ruesnes>

Logis Hotel La Gentilhommiere

Amazing accommodation and up-market restaurant in an old stable with a horse trough! Unique. 13 minute drive from Le Quesnoy.

<https://www.logishotels.com/fr/hotel/logis-hotel-la-gentilhommiere-971?partid=1535>

STAYING HERE

THE NORTH OF FRANCE - HAUTS-DE-FRANCE

RESTAURANTS, CAFES, BARS

Check opening hours carefully. Lunch opening is strictly 12 until 2pm. Some restaurants are not open for dinner Thursday evenings. It is recommended you book ahead, especially on weekends. Bookings can be made online or by phone.

There are plenty of places to eat in Le Quesnoy, from fancy dining to cheap eats!

For more information go to the Town Hall website and click the translate to English icon in the search bar:

<https://www.lequesnoy.fr/vivre-a-le-quesnoy/nos-restaurants/>

Here is a selection of restaurants, cafes, and bars

(please let us know if you can recommend somewhere we have missed!)

Ô Roi Bouef – one of the best restaurants within the town walls

[Ô ROI BCEUF, Le Quesnoy - Restaurant Avis, Numéro de Téléphone & Photos - Tripadvisor](#)

La Table d'Oliv – a ten-minute walk but excellent authentic French cuisine

la-table-doliv-restaurant-le-quesnoy.eatbu.com/?lang=en

Les Verges Tellier – 5-minute drive out of town, more traditional French food

<https://www.lesvergerstellier.com/>

Le Maori 2.0 restaurant in the middle of town is very popular

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g1424555-d27714109-Reviews-Le_Maori_2_0-Le_Quesnoy_Nord_Hauts_de_France.html

Chez Ahmed – A favourite. Moroccan cuisine

https://www.tripadvisor.co.nz/Restaurant_Review-g1424555-d3958391-Reviews-Chez_Ahmed-Le_Quesnoy_Nord_Hauts_de_France.html

Le Carpe d'Or – bar and restaurant on the ramparts. Great on a sunny day.

[LA CARPE D'OR, Le Quesnoy - Restaurant Avis, Numéro de Téléphone & Photos - Tripadvisor](#)

Le Bellevue

https://www.tripadvisor.co.nz/Restaurant_Review-g1424555-d3724040-Reviews-Le_Bellevue-Le_Quesnoy_Nord_Hauts_de_France.html

Restaurant Marama for Turkish Takeaways Always open until around 9.30

<https://www.facebook.com/MaramaLeQuesnoy>

Pizza Aldo - <https://www.facebook.com/PIZZA.ALDO.Le.Quesnoy?fref=ts>

Crêperie de la Poste, Great if you want a cheap dine in. Gallettes (type of savory pancake) from 10-14 euro, including salad and chips!

<https://en.creperiedelaposte.com/a-propos>

ABOUT LE QUESNOY

L'Association Le Quesnoy Nouvelle-Zélande



The local association of volunteers for many years has welcomed kiwis to Le Quesnoy and hosted events commemorating Anzac Day. They love to meet kiwis who visit Le Quesnoy and we proud to work in partnership with the Association welcoming Kiwis to Le Quesnoy. The Association do particular work with Cambridge, Le Quesnoy's sister city. If you are from Cambridge, please get in touch before your visit at kiwilequesnoy@gmail.com. They would love to meet you.

Cambridge Le Quesnoy Friendship Association



The Cambridge-Le Quesnoy Friendship Association keeps the bond strong between the twinned towns of Cambridge (New Zealand) and Le Quesnoy (France).

<https://www.cambridgelequesnoy.co.nz>

How to say Le Quesnoy

Le Quesnoy is pronounced LU - KEN - WAH

The history of Le Quesnoy and more information: useful websites

The NZ Liberation Museum Te Arawhata: <https://nzliberationmuseum.com/>

NZ Memorial Museum Trust – Le Quesnoy: <https://nzmmtlq.nz/the-le-quesnoy-story/>

NZ History: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/le-quesnoy/the-liberation-of-le-quesnoy>

Le Quesnoy Wikipedia entry: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Le_Quesnoy

Tripadvisor: https://www.tripadvisor.co.nz/Attractions-g1424555-Activities-Le_Quesnoy_Nord_Hauts_de_France.html

Hauts-de-France Tourisme: <https://www.tourisme-en-hautsdefrance.com/mes-envies/la-memoire-autrement/musee-neo-zelandais-de-la-liberation/>

Tourist information centre, Le Quesnoy

Address: 1 Rue du Maréchal Joffre, 59530 Le Quesnoy, France

Phone: +33 3 27 20 54 70

To visit the official region Tourism website visit:

[Vacances, visites, séjours et tourisme | Parc Naturel Régional de l'Avesnois \(tourisme-avesnois.com\)](http://vacances.visites.sejours.et.tourisme|Parc.Naturel.Regional.de.lAvesnois.tourisme-avesnois.com)

Listed here are many other fantastic experiences, museums and activities you can do as part of your visit to the beautiful Avesnois region.

ABOUT LE QUESNOY

The People

Population: 5,007

The mayor of the town is Marie Sophie Lesne.

The people of Le Quesnoy are really welcoming especially if you let on you are from New Zealand. Say “Bonjour” or “Bonne soirée” when you pass. As difficult as it might be, please try to speak French, even if you are embarrassed. It is polite to make the effort and your attempts, no matter how clumsy, will be received with good humour. At the very least learn the basics: please, thank you, hello, goodbye etc.

Check out the Town Hall with two cabinets of gifts from NZ. If you are visiting on a weekday, don't be afraid to go and knock on the big blue doors of the Town Hall under the bell tower. The friendly staff will be happy to meet you if they are available, and show you the gifts on display from New Zealand in their magnificent reception hall. You never know, you may get a surprise “bonjour” from Madame Le Maire.

Heritage and Culture

The NZ Liberation Museum – Te Arawhata

The NZ Memorial to the liberation of Le Quesnoy

The NZ Garden in the ramparts.

The Vauban ramparts (see below) – see the staff at Te Arawhata to arrange a tour of the ramparts otherwise just explore – they provide endlessly rewarding walks.

The Ramparts

The Vauban Ramparts surrounding the town of Le Quesnoy are perfect for rambling and exploring, soaking up history and taking photos!

The staff at the NZ Liberation Museum - Te Arawhata can organise a guided tour so you can learn as you walk. **For more information:**

Te Arawhata website: <https://nzliberationmuseum.com/nick-smith-ramparts-reveal-remarkable-history/>

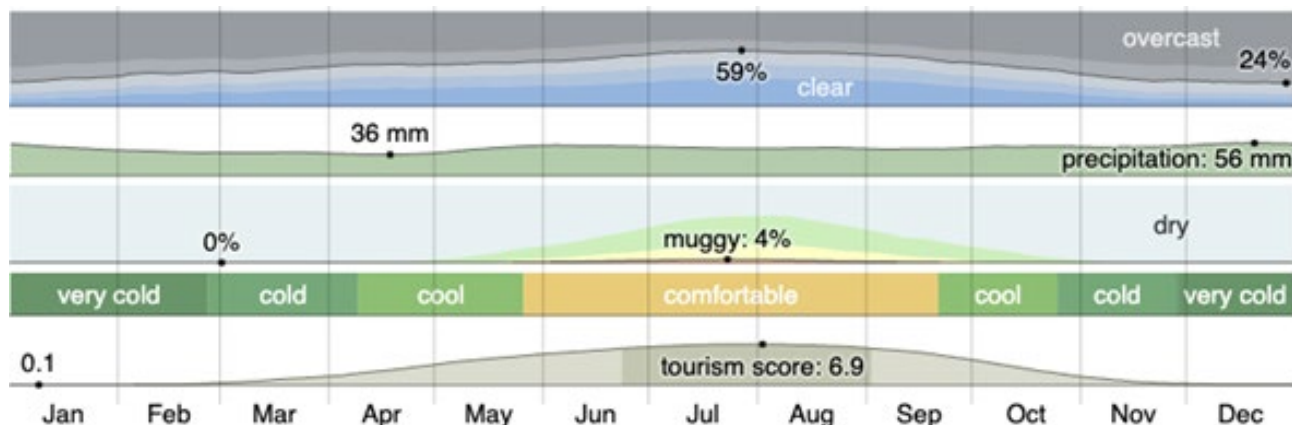
Network Vauban - <https://sites-vauban.org/en/node/7837>



ABOUT LE QUESNOY

Climate

Best time to visit? Anytime! In winter it is cold and grey but sometimes cold with blue sky. And sometimes there is beautiful snow, turning the town into a wonderland.



Flora and Fauna

Le Quesnoy is a town covered in oak trees. Le Quesnoy – in the heart of the Parc Naturel de l’Avesnois – has been known as the “town covered in oak” since the Middle Ages.

There many birds around the Le Quesnoy lakes: Étang du Pont Rouge and Étang du Fer à Cheval. Storks, herons, coot, geese, swans and others. Great bird watching.

The Mormal Forest (nearby – minutes by car – there is no public transport to the forest) has deer and wild boar and is the largest area of forest in the Nord department of France.

Throughout the park you will find hundreds of kilometres of walks and cycle tracks.

During the winter the forest is also used by hunters who are responsible for controlling the population of animals - primarily deer and wild boars. If you visit between October and March visit the Tourist Information Centre in Le Quesnoy before you go as they have the hunting schedule.

Le Quesnoy Tourist Information Centre

Address

1 Rue du Maréchal Joffre,
59530 Le Quesnoy, France

Phone

33 3 27 20 54 70

ABOUT LE QUESNOY

Festivals and Events in Le Quesnoy

- MARCH** The market is held on the **second and fourth Sunday of each month**, in the morning. In **March**, the city hosts an egg hunt on the ramparts.
- APRIL** Anzac Day - Commemorations and events held over four days around **25 April**. Please go to <https://nzliberationmuseum.com/anzac-day/> for details.
- MAY** In **May**, a strawberry festival celebrates this popular fruit with entertainment and tastings.
- JUNE** A communal feast with its flea market and carnival is organized in **June**.
- JULY** The town of Le Quesnoy hosts two motocross racing events on its walls, in **May and 14 July**.
14 July – Quatorze Juillet – Bonne Fête Nationale – Bastille Day - is a special day to be in France with many activities happening in Le Quesnoy. European Museum Night: NZ Liberation Museum – Te Arawhata **the closest Saturday to 18 May**.
- AUGUST** In early August, Le Quesnoy has a giant party with Bimberlot. The program includes a night flea market, musical entertainment or fireworks
- SEPTEMBER** Le Quesnoy has a **Milk Day in September**, including a market and a cattle competition.
- OCTOBER** The anniversary of the opening of the NZ Liberation Museum – Te Arawhata, **11 October**. In **October**, Le Quesnoy has a book festival.
- NOVEMBER** Liberation Day for Le Quesnoy **4 November**. Commemorations and events at Te Arawhata and the town - keep an eye on the Facebook page / website for details.
Armistice Day **11 November** Commemorations and events at Te Arawhata and the town - keep an eye on the Facebook page / website for details.
- DECEMBER** In early **December**, the Christmas market is the scene of many events.

Entertainment

There is a cinema if your French is up to it: https://www.cineligue-hdf.org/cinema/40-le_quesnoy/

Le Théâtre des 3 Chênes is a stage theatre, if a stage show is to your liking: <https://www.lequesnoy.fr/culture/le-theatre-des-trois-chenes/>

Brasserie Traditionele de Avenois (BTA)

This is a local brewery about a 15-minute walk from the museum. They even make a New Zealand Pale Ale! Every Friday night in summer they have live music in their beer garden. Great for everyone including families. They also have several options for food!

<https://www.facebook.com/lapronne> - their facebook, to check for upcoming events

Étang du Pont Rouge

A walk around the lake. On a nice day the lake is very lively with families and a small park, with a few options for food and drinks. There are also pedal boats on the lake available for hire.

ABOUT LE QUESNOY

SHOPPING

Things to note

In the centre of town there are butchers and bakers! Delicious. Best eclairs ever and giant slices of truly great salmon quiche.

These shops all come highly recommended.

Some of the shops however, close over the lunch break. And in France lots of shops are closed on a Sunday. Most restaurants are still open, but the big Intermarché (supermarket) is closed, and the Match supermarket in town closes at 12.30pm. Best to Google as you go for opening and closing hours so you don't get caught out.

There are local clothing shops in Le Quesnoy and places to buy souvenirs. A stationery shop in the centre of town has all the things you might need: notebooks, pens, art supplies, jigsaws (perfect if you are staying in Winter!). There are also hair salons and florists.



Supermarkets

Supermarchés Match (Le Quesnoy)

(just behind the museum). This supermarket is the easiest to use if you are staying in LQ – easy walking distance.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Supermarch%C3%AV9s-Match/100087559727245/>

Intermarché Le Quesnoy

The biggest supermarket and also a mall.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/interlequesnoy>

Aldi 2 route De Bavay, Rd 942,
59530 Le Quesnoy, France

Lidl 135 Rte de Valenciennes,
59530 Le Quesnoy, France

Hardware

Bricomarché Le Quesnoy– is like Mitre Ten - Google if you need hardware!

ABOUT LE QUESNOY

Pharmacies

There are three pharmacies in LQ. Please remember to check their hours as they could be closed over lunchtime.

Pharmacie du Centre

10 Rue Casimir Fournier · +33 3 27 20 53 35

<https://pharmacieducentrequesnoy.pharminfo.fr>

Pharmacie de l'Hôtel de Ville

50 Rue du Maréchal Joffre · +33 3 27 49 12 73

<http://pharmacie-lequesnoy.fr>

Pharmacie des Remparts

2 Rue Léon Gambetta · +33 3 27 49 03 26

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Pharmacie-des-Remparts-Le-Quesnoy/100068795402429/>

Tattoo Parlour

If you want a lasting memory of your time in Le Quesnoy then Shadow Ink's Tattoo is highly recommended. Female operated, clean and professional.

Address: 47 Faubourg Fauroeux 59530 Le Quesnoy.

<https://shadow-inks-tattoo-105489.square.site>

Shoe repair and leather goods

There is a small shop that makes leather bags and belts and does shoe repairs.

Cordonnerie Maroquinerie Cles Minute. Le Quesnoy

Address: 17 Rue Jean Jaurès, 59530 Le Quesnoy, France

Phone: +33 7 57 06 11 59

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLING IN FRANCE

Money Matters

Currency - Euro

Credit cards are accepted in LQ and there are ATMs available.

Cash is also accepted

Remember to alert your bank in advance of your travel plans to avoid them cancelling your credit card.

Driving in France

In France cars are driven on the righthand side of the road.

Driving in France requires an International Driver's Licence. This can be purchased from an AA Licensing centre in New Zealand before you travel. The cost NZD\$45.

For more information:

<https://www.aa.co.nz/drivers/driver-licences/driving-permits-for-driving-overseas/>

Visas and documents

No visa is required for New Zealand citizens to enter France for a short-term tourism purpose (90 days)

Working Holiday Visa if aged 18-30 years and you are a New Zealand citizen. These can be awarded for up to one year.

<https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/young-traveller>

New Zealand Embassy – Paris

Ambassador – Her Excellency Caroline Bilkey

Physical address:

Ambassade de Nouvelle-Zélande
103 rue de Grenelle 75007
Paris, France

Phone: +33 (0)1 45 01 43 43

If your passport is lost, stolen, or needs renewed call: +44 207 968 2730

Email: embassy.nz.fr@gmail.com

Embassy office hours:

Mon 1030-1300 / 1400-1700

Tues-Fri 0900-1300 / 1400-1700

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLING IN FRANCE

Mobile Phone

ROAMING

You can get a roaming package with your NZ provider.

If you download the App from your provider, you can top it up as you go and use WIFI when available.

BUY A LOCAL SIM CARD

As in NZ, you can buy a local SIM card for use in France.

DIGITAL SIMCARD - eSIM

Buying an eSim (digital SIM card) is an easy alternative, as it means you can keep and still use your New Zealand sim card at the same time. There are many online options that cater for both France and regional Europe (so you can use the same eSim across all countries). The installation process is very easy and will be given to you after the purchase.

<https://simcorner.com/collections/europe-sim-card>

<https://maya.net/plans/europe>

<https://www.airalo.com/europe-esim>

Emergency phone numbers in France

Europe Wide Emergency for all services - 112

Police 17

Ambulance 15

Fire 18

What to do in a medical emergency

There is a hospital in Le Quesnoy with an accident and emergency facility but best to have travel insurance for medical.

Hospital Center Du Quesnoy

General hospital in Le Quesnoy, France

Address: 90 Rue du 8 Mai 1945, 59530 Le Quesnoy, France

Hours: Open 24 hours

Phone: +33 3 27 14 86 14

WESTERN FRONT TOURS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

Te Arawhata and Le Quesnoy is New Zealand's home on the Western Front to commemorate our World War One story.

Le Quesnoy can be your start, finish or home base as part of your wider exploration of New Zealand's World War One story. It is within a few hours drive of all key Western Front battle sites. Below are some resources and highlights to help you plan your tours.

New Zealand Liberation Museum Te Arawhata aspires to be the gateway for New Zealanders exploring New Zealand's World War One story. Exciting work is in development for 2025 and beyond. Keep an eye out for further information from us about organised tours, events and special commemorative events coming soon.

RESOURCES

Ngā tapuwāe trails

Please visit this site to get information on the places on the Western Front where NZ soldiers served. This website provides a great deal of information about how you might plan your trip to the Battle sites and cemeteries on the Western Front. It includes downloadable maps and audio resources.

<https://ngatapuwaee.govt.nz/index.html>

Somme Tourism

The Somme remembrance trail is a great resource for finding locations and museums to visit in the Somme region.

<https://www.visit-somme.com>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The CWGC is a global organisation, caring for war graves at 23,000 locations in more than 150 countries and territories. They commemorate almost 1.7 million individuals, ensuring that all the Commonwealth men and women who died during both world wars are commemorated in a manner befitting their sacrifice.

This site can help you locate the graves of New Zealand soldiers who did not make it home.

<https://www.cwgc.org>

WESTERN FRONT TOURS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The below (and on next page) are just some of many places you can visit as part of a wider World War One tour of Northern France.

The Wellington Tunnels – Carriere Wellington - Arras

<https://www.carrierewellington.com/en/>

In 1916, the British discovered the potential of these forgotten chalk quarries. In November of the same year, the Allies were mounting the 1917 spring offensive: a British diversionary attack in Artois, followed by a French attack at the Chemin des Dames. The British stroke of genius was to have the former chalk extraction tunnels below the town linked up to create a network of underground barracks which could accommodate up to 24,000 soldiers while waiting for the Battle of Arras to start. The mission was entrusted to the New Zealand Tunnelling Company who, in just 6 months, accomplished a feat that is considered as the greatest engineering achievement of the Great War.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Experience, Beaurains

[The CWGC Experience](#) | [Visitor Centre, France](#) | [CWGC](#)

The CWGC Experience is a unique new visitor attraction in Beaurains, near Arras in France that shines a light on the work of the remarkable organisation at the heart of remembrance of the war dead. For the first time, visitors will be able to take a look behind-the-scenes at the work that is needed to commemorate the Commonwealth casualties from the First and Second World Wars.

Thiepval Memorial, Somme

[Thiepval Memorial](#) | [Cemetery Details](#) | [CWGC](#)

The Thiepval Memorial, built and now managed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is the largest Commonwealth memorial in the world. The 45-metre-high monument bears the names of over 72,000 British and South African soldiers who fell on the Somme battlefields between July 1915 and March 1918 and have no known grave.

The Sir John Monash Australian National Memorial

<https://sjmc.gov.au>

The Sir John Monash Centre tells Australia's story of the Western Front in the words of those who served. Set on the grounds of the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery in northern France, and adjacent to the Australian National Memorial, the Sir John Monash Centre is the hub of the Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front, and establishes a lasting international legacy of Australia's Centenary of Anzac 2014-2018.

WESTERN FRONT TOURS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Menin Gate

Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Belgium hosts a Last Post ceremony every evening at 8pm. It is a moving ceremony that is a privilege to attend. Arrive at least 45 minutes before it starts to secure a good spot. It is open to the public.

Passchendaele Museum 1917 Zonnebeke, Belgium

<https://passchendaele.be/en/home-en/>

In Flanders Fields Museum Ypres

<https://www.inflandersfields.be/fr>

Talbot House

<https://www.talbothouse.be/en/>

COMMERCIAL TOUR COMPANIES

Les Alouettes

<https://lesalouettes.net/>

B&B on the Somme, self-catering, personalised Great War tours.

Terres de memoire

contact@terresdememoire.eu

Fully guided bespoke or general world war one tours.

Old Blighty Battlefield Tours

www.oldblightytours.com

Fully guided bespoke or general interest military history tours.

Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours

info@mclachlantours.com.au

NZ Western Front Private Tour: \$2810pp. No departures Sundays or Mondays due to museum closures during the week.

Contact: Greg Lee (Sales/Operations Consultant)

NEARBY CITIES AND TOWNS

This is a small selection of places that are great to visit when using Le Quesnoy as your base. Most cities have extraordinary Art Museums and nearly all the cities in the north of France, and into Belgium, have museums or heritage sites that have a connection to both World Wars.

Valenciennes

From Le Quesnoy to Valenciennes is half an hour on the train – 20 minutes by car

Valenciennes is the nearest large town to Le Quesnoy, (20 kms away) with a good selection of different types of accommodation, restaurants etc. Please Google the usual accommodation providers.

Recommended luxury accommodation for example:

The Royal Hainaut and Spa: <https://royalhainaut.com/en/>

Lille

From Le Quesnoy to Lille is one hour by train and a bit less by car.

Lille is a big city with all the restaurants, malls, and accommodation, and entertainment you would expect.

Lille has markets and museums and the two big train stations (Lille Europe and Lille Flandres). It is a transport hub and the Eurostar arrives at Lille Europe. There is also a train to Lille directly from the airport in Paris.

Le Palais des Beaux Arts is a wonderful art museum. Highly recommended. Don't miss the plan relief maps in the basement – extraordinary giant contoured table maps of fortified towns.

Website: <https://pba.lille.fr>

There are other art museums as well, just Google.

The Old Town is really beautiful, with lots of lovely French boutiques.

Lille Parc de la Citadelle – is a beautiful park in Lille. It has a Citadelle which was built by Vauban – the same architect that built the ramparts in Le Quesnoy.

Arras

From Le Quesnoy to Arras is two and half hours by train and about one hour by car.

The must see is:

Carriere Wellington: <https://www.carrierewellington.com>

An immersive experience at a depth of 20 metres

20 metres under the cobblestones of Arras, discover the Wellington Quarry, a place full of memory and emotion. From November 1916, the British prepared for the spring offensive of 1917. Their genius idea: to have New Zealand tunnel boring machines connect the city's medieval chalk extraction quarries, to create a veritable network of underground barracks, capable of accommodating up to 24,000 soldiers.

NEARBY CITIES AND TOWNS

Bavay

From Le Quesnoy to Bavay 20 minutes by car.

A small village with impressive Roman ruins of an ancient forum. There is also an archaeology museum. <https://forumantique.fr/>

Amiens

Le Quesnoy – Amiens is about two hours and forty-five minutes by train (changing at Lille) and about one and a half hours by car.

Amiens is well worth a day trip from Le Quesnoy.

Amiens is a city in northern France, divided by the Somme river. It's known for the Gothic Amiens Cathedral (this central landmark is the largest Gothic cathedral in France) and the nearby medieval belfry.

Shops and cafes line the Quartier St.-Leu's narrow streets. Floating market gardens ("hortillonnages") dot the city's canals. The Musée de Picardie shows art and antiquities spanning centuries. Nearby, the Maison de Jules Verne is a museum where the science fiction author once lived.

Ypres – Ieper BELGIUM

Le Quesnoy – Ypres (Ieper) Belgium is about two hours and forty-five minutes by train (changing at Lille) and about one and a half hours by car.

If you are visiting sites of significance on the Western Front – Ypres is important.

In Flanders Field Museum - <https://www.inflandersfields.be/>

Menin Gate - https://www.toerismeieper.be/menentor?_translate=en

Every evening at 8pm, buglers from the Last Post Association close the road which passes under the memorial and sound the "Last Post".

Reims

From Le Quesnoy to Reims is close to four hours by train and 2 hours by car.

Reims is a city in north-eastern France's Grand Est region. It's the unofficial capital of the Champagne wine-growing region, and many of the champagne houses headquartered there offer tastings and cellar tours.

For more than 1,000 years, French kings were crowned at its Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Reims. This grand cathedral is known for its stained-glass windows and Gothic carved portals, including the Smiling Angel.

Ghent, Belgium

Le Quesnoy – Ghent, Belgium is nearly three hours by train and about one and a half hours by car. Ghent is stunning and well worth an overnight stay.

Ghent is a port city in northwest Belgium. During the Middle Ages it was a prominent city-state. Today it's a university town and cultural hub. Its pedestrianised centre is known for medieval architecture such as 12th-century Gravensteen castle.

Excellent art museums and of course the famous Ghent Altarpiece, which was begun around the mid-1420s and completed by 1432, and it is attributed to the Early Netherlandish painters and brothers Hubert and Jan van Eyck.



TIPS AND TRICKS

“When you are in a large town – Lille for example, avoid the large restaurants on the edge of the Town Square. They are very touristy, expensive and not nearly as good as some of the smaller restaurants in the lanes and back streets.”

“Do some research before you go to make sure you are going to the places that have heritage and cultural relevance to what you like to see and do, when you travel.”

“When we stayed in Le Quesnoy we did not have a car, and after exploring Te Arawhata, the ramparts and the town of Le Quesnoy, we made short-stay trips to Paris, Ghent, Mons, London, and day trips to Lille, Valenciennes, Amiens and other places, using Le Quesnoy as our base. We walked all over the countryside surrounding Le Quesnoy and did not miss having a car at all. It was stress free.”

- Adele NZ

“We trained up from Paris and our most amazing host (Le Quesnoy House 65) picked us up at the train station and dropped us at his Airbnb and showed us a few places along the way. Otherwise, we just walked everywhere in town.”

- Christine, NZ

BOOKS TO READ

Le Quesnoy 1918 – New Zealand’s Last Battle

Written by Christopher Pugsley

Available to buy at the NZ Liberation Museum – Te Arawhata

The Life of Leslie Averill M.D. - First into Le Quesnoy Battles, Babies, and Boardrooms

Author(s): Colin Averill; Quentin Wilson (Editor); Geoffrey Rice. 2018.

Dorincourt Press. (available to buy at Te Arawhata).

Le Quesnoy – the story of the town New Zealand saved

Written by Glyn Harper and illustrated by Jenny Cooper

Children’s book about the Story of Le Quesnoy.

Written by Glyn Harper and illustrated by Jenny Cooper

Available to buy at the NZ Liberation Museum – Te Arawhata

The Great Adventure Ends, New Zealand and France on the Western Front

Edited by Nathalie Philippe, with Christopher Pugsley, John Crawford and Matthias Strohn, 2013.

Holding on to Home: New Zealand Stories and Objects of the First World War

Kate Hunter and Kirstie Ross, 2014.

How We Remember, New Zealanders and the First World War

Edited by Chris Ferrall and Harry Ricketts, 2014.

New Zealand and the First World War

Damien Fenton, 2013

New Zealand’s Western Front Campaign

Ian McGibbon, 2016.

Te Hokowhitu a Tu, The Pioneer Māori Battalion in the First World War

Christopher Pugsley, 2015.

Into the Unknown - The Secret WWI Diary of Kiwi Alick Trafford No. 25/469.

Written by Ian Trafford.

Reader recommendation - The Le Quesnoy chapter goes into great detail about the preparations and the mission to free the town. Alick lead Kiwis into battle on the auspicious day. It has such detail, one could follow the book’s path. <https://www.penguin.co.nz/.../into-the-unknown-9780143775126>