



# Historial de la Grande Guerre

## Museum of the Great War

(Péronne - Somme)



In 1986, the Somme Council decided to create a museum dedicated to the 1914-1918 Great War. The project was part of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the Battle of the Somme in which more than 20 nations had come to fight. The museum opened in 1992. Its Corbusieran white concrete architecture by Henri-Edouard Ciriani was harmoniously built against Péronne's red brick castle, its main entrance.

This museum is neither a memorial nor a military museum but a cultural museum aiming at showing how combatants' and civilians' cultural representations were upset by the war through an exceptional collection of 50,000 objects and archives.

*Trilingual Museum, free audioguide (English, French and German)*  
*National Label "Tourism & Handicap"*  
*Bookshop and café*

## The Thiepval Center



Thiepval was one of the most important theatre of operation in the Battle of the Somme. Losses in men were enormous. In 1932, a memorial was inaugurated to commemorate more than 73,000 combatants lost to the Commonwealth, never retrieved and never buried.

On 27<sup>th</sup> September 2004, the Centre was inaugurated by the Historial de la Grande Guerre, the Somme Council and the (European-funded)

Thiepval Project. The Centre is intended to welcome and inform visitors wishing to know more about the Battle of the Somme and the Great War thanks to a permanent exhibition composed of texts, photographs and videos. There is also a specialized bookshop.

*Free entrance, trilingual (French, English and German) exhibition, bookshop, rest area*  
*Rue de l'Ancre - 80300 Thiepval - T. +33 (0)3 22 74 60 47 - F. +33 (0)3 22 74 65 44*  
*thiepval@historial.org - Open everyday from 10 am to 5 pm*  
*Annual 15 days closure around Christmas and New Year's Day*

## The Battlefields of the Somme



The battlefields of the Somme can be visited along a route linking two symbolic sites of the Battle, Albert, where British troops were stationed, and Péronne, then occupied by the Germans. This "Circuit of Remembrance" is lined with information boards bearing a poppy, the Somme flower which became the British emblem of remembrance. Each stop is a place of memory of the Great War—museums, memorials, remains, cemeteries, and other places dedicated to the memory of the Irish, Newfoundlanders, Australians, South-Africans, Germans, French...

*Brochures on demand at the CDT ([www.somme14-18.com](http://www.somme14-18.com)) and the Historial de la Grande Guerre*  
*Group information and reservations [group@historial.org](mailto:group@historial.org)*

## Practical Information

### *Press Contact*

Céline Persyn, Press Contact, [c.persyn@historial.org](mailto:c.persyn@historial.org)

### *Information*

Phone +33 (0)3 22 83 14 18 - Fax. +33 (0)3 22 83 54 18  
[info@historial.org](mailto:info@historial.org) - [www.historial.org](http://www.historial.org)

### *Site*

Historial de la Grande Guerre  
Château de Péronne - BP 20063  
F. 80 201 Péronne cedex

### *How to come to the Historial*

By car:  
From Paris or Lille: A 1, exit 13 or 13.1  
From Amiens or Saint-Quentin: A 29

By train:  
Stations TGV Haute-Picardie, Saint-Quentin or Amiens

50 kms from Amiens, 85 kms from Lille, 135 kms from Paris,  
145 kms from Brussels

### *Tourism in the Somme*

Somme Tourist Information Office  
Comité du Tourisme de La Somme  
21 rue Ernest Cauvin - F-80 000 AMIENS  
T. +33 (0)3 22 71 22 71  
[www.somme-tourisme.com](http://www.somme-tourisme.com)  
[www.somme14-18.com](http://www.somme14-18.com) (in French)  
[www.somme-battlefields.com](http://www.somme-battlefields.com) (in English)