

VISITOR GUIDE

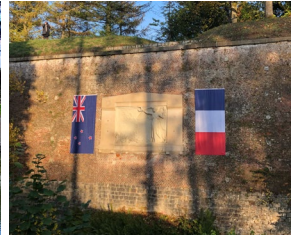
TE ARAWHATA
& LE QUESNOY

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 opportunity to not only learn about and commemorate history, but to experience our past.

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 Le Quesnoy as a base to explore Northern France and the many surrounding sites of the Western Front, this guide will help make your experience easy and as memorable as can be.

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

We hope you enjoy your time in this beautiful town steeped in history.

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



WHERE IS LE QUESNOY?

TRAVELLING TIMES

These times are approximate and depend on the length of train transfers.

	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)

Wednesday to Sunday	
Monday	
Tuesday	
	10.30am – 6.00pm

Winter (1 November – 31 March) **Closed**

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

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

GETTING HERE



By plane

The nearest airports are:

Paris Charles De Gaulle – 2 hours by train or car

Lille Lesquin – 40 minutes by train or car (Intra-European flights only)

Brussels Charleroi – 1 hour by car (Intra-European flights only)



By train

Le Quesnoy has a local train station, which is a one-hour train journey from Lille is central 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 in 1.5 hour.

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

Lille Europe is served by the Eurostar and other high-speed international trains.

Lille-Flandres is served by regional and local trains.

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



By car

Le Quesnoy is a 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, but must be completed in New Zealand.

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

Parking: There is free parking all throughout Le Quesnoy!

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, Valenciennes 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

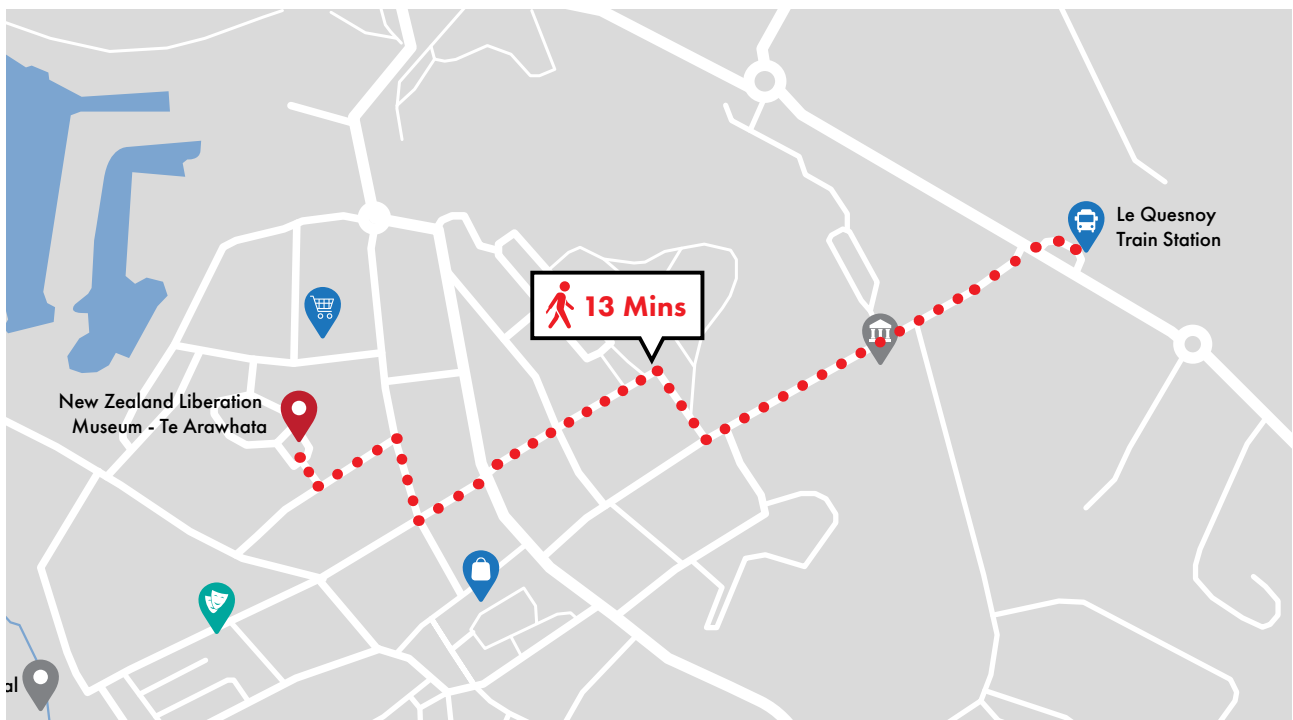
It is a 3h30 journey from the platforms of St Pancras Station to the doorstep of Te Arawhata, including wait time between trains.

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 Bienvenue !



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 1h30, 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 Lille Flandres is the next big building on your left.

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

The train journey is normally about 45 minutes. There are no assigned seats so you may sit where you like.

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

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://www.tourisme-avesnois.com/contact/6269162_bureau-du-quesnoy/

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

Download the app [TRAINLINE](https://www.trainline.com/) 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

Similar to Trainline, this is a great travel [app](https://www.omio.com/) 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 Hauts-de-France - TER discount card for your journeys on the train. This [card](https://www.ter.fr/fr/la-carte-ter) gives you discount for your journeys to cities like Lille, Arras, Valenciennes or Paris from Le Quesnoy.

There are other attractive cards, which give you discounts for your TGV (fast train) trips around the rest of France. There is a [senior card](https://www.tgv.com/fr/la-carte-senior) for 60+ years old, a [youth card](https://www.tgv.com/fr/la-carte-jeune) for under 26 years old and an [adult card](https://www.tgv.com/fr/la-carte-adulte) for between 27 and 59 years old. These cards offer reduced fares and make TGV journeys more accessible according to the age or status of the traveller.

There is also the [Ouigo](https://www.ouigo.com/), a cheaper option than the TGV, with departures from Aulnoye-Aymeries to reach Belgium (Mons and Brussels) or Paris, and other destinations in France from Lille.

Enjoy your trip in Hauts-de-France , capital and France!

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(0)7 85 57 94 10

<https://www.taxiproxi.fr/reservation-reserver-taxi-hecq>

Taxi Carole

+33 (0)3 27 49 71 02

14 rue de Bosquiaux
59144 Wargnies-le-Grand



STAYING HERE

THE NORTH OF FRANCE - HAUTS-DE-FRANCE

ACCOMMODATION

There are several Airbnb accommodations right in the centre of Le Quesnoy. There are also many Gites (Bed and Breakfast) 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.

Airbnb

There are many options in or near Le Quesnoy on the Airbnb [website](#).

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

Château d'en Haut

An 18th century castle surround by large garden, hosted by Claire. " Lovely hostess who loves kiwis and lovely home cooked evening meal available. Need own transport. 5 kms away from le Quesnoy."

<https://chateaudenhaut.fr/>

Les Vergers Tellier

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

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

Air BnB in Le Quesnoy – "Loft in Le Quesnoy"

\$142 per night, hosted by Thebaud.

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

Airbnb - 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 owner Xavier Carpentier also has some accommodation and it is absolutely beautiful. Xavier speaks English fluently. 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 noon 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, the museum reception is happy to help.

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

Ô Roi Bouef – One of the best restaurants within the town walls.

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

Le Maori 2.0 - Restaurant in the middle of town very popular for burgers.

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](#)

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, traditional French food.

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

Le Bellevue

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

Restaurant Marama - Turkish takeaways, always open until around 9.30.

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

Pizza Aldo

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

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 are proud to work in partnership with them

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

Pronunciation : Le Quesnoy : LER - KEN - WAH

Te Arawhata : TEAR - ARA - FA - TA

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://nzmmfqlq.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 (0)3 27 20 54 70

To visit the official region Tourism website visit:

[Vacances, visites, séjours et tourisme | Parc Naturel Régional de l'Avesnois \(tourisme-avesnois.com\)](#)

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 very welcoming especially if you are from New Zealand. Say "Bonjour" or "Bonsoir" 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.

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, offered for 15€.



**To Museum from
New Zealand Memorial and
New Zealand Peace Garden**



To Museum from Cemetery

ABOUT LE QUESNOY

Memorial

The New Zealand Memorial was unveiled on 4 November 1923, five years after the liberation of Le Quesnoy. It was designed by NZ sculptor A.R. and the completed by French sculptor Félix Desruelles. The Memorial is one of just four NZ-specific memorials on the Western Front, and it is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Its position was chosen as it is close to the spot where the New Zealand soldiers climbed the ramparts by ladder.

New Zealand Peace Garden

Opened in 2018 and designed by New Zealand landscape artist Xanthe White, this peace Garden remembers the sacrifice of the New Zealand soldiers on 4 November 1918. The garden is planted with New Zealand flora.

Le Quesnoy Communal Cemetery Extension

This Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery is the final resting place of 137 Commonwealth soldiers, including 50 New Zealanders. The cemetery is UNESCO listed and a vital part of any visit to Le Quesnoy.

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:



ABOUT LE QUESNOY

Climate

Best time to visit? Anytime! In winter it is cold and cosy. Sometimes there is beautiful snow, turning the town into a wonderland.



Flora and Fauna

Le Quesnoy – in the heart of the Parc Naturel de l’Avesnois – has been known as the “town covered in oaks” 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.

The Mormal Forest (nearby – minutes by car – there is no public transport to the forest) is the largest area of forest in the Nord Department of France.

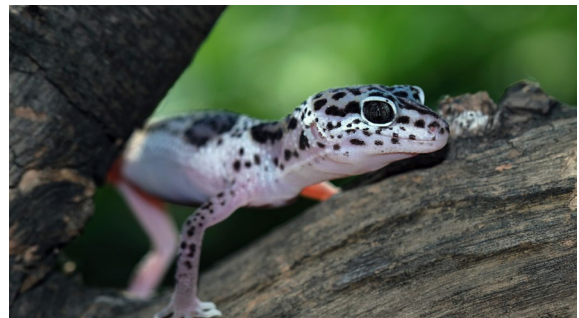
Throughout the park you will find hundreds of kilometres of walks and cycle tracks.

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 (0)3 27 20 54 70



ABOUT LE QUESNOY

Festivals and Events in Le Quesnoy

A market is held on the **second and fourth Sunday of each month**, in the morning. In **March**, the city hosts an egg hunt in the ramparts.

Anzac Day - Commemorations and events held over four days around 25 April. Please go to <https://nzliberationmuseum.com/anzac-day/> for details.

In **May**, a strawberry festival celebrates this popular fruit with entertainment and tastings.

A communal feast with a flea market and carnival is organised in **June**.

The town of Le Quesnoy hosts two motocross racing events on its walls, in **May and 14 July**.

Bastille Day on 14 July - is National Holiday in France with many activities happening in Le Quesnoy.

European Museum Night: NZ Liberation Museum – Te Arawhata the **closest Saturday to 18 May**.

In early **August**, Le Quesnoy has a giant party with Bimberlot the town mascot. The program includes a night flea market, musical entertainment or fireworks.

Le Quesnoy has a **Dairy Festival** in **September**, including a market and a cattle competition.

The anniversary of the opening of the NZ Liberation Museum – Te Arawhata, 11 October.

In **October**, Le Quesnoy has a book festival.

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.

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 Traditionnelle de l'Avesnois (BTA)

This is a local brewery about a 10-minute walk from the museum. 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! See Facebook for their events details :

<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, close over the lunch break, and many are closed on Sunday. Most restaurants are still open, but the big Intermarché (supermarket) is closed, and the Match supermarket in town closes at 12.30pm. Google opening 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

Supermarché Match (Le Quesnoy)

This supermarket is the easiest to use if you are staying in Le Quesnoy – easy walking distance from the museum. <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 Le Quesnoy. 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://pharmacieducentrelequesnoy.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/>



TRAVELLING IN FRANCE

Money Matters

Currency - Euro

Credit cards are accepted in Le Quesnoy 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 Permit](#). This can be purchased from an AA Licensing centre in New Zealand before you travel. The cost is NZD\$45.

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

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 to be 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

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

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.

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 (0)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.

RESOURCES

Ngā Tapuwāe trails

This [website](#) provides a great deal of information about how you might plan your trip to the New Zealand battle sites and cemeteries on the Western Front. It includes downloadable maps and audio resources.

Somme Tourism

The Somme Remembrance Trail is a great resource for finding locations and museums to visit in the [Somme](#) region.

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. The Commission cares for the graves of almost 1.7 million individuals, ensuring that all the Commonwealth men and women who died during both World Wars are remembered in a manner befitting their sacrifice.

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

New Zealand Pilgrimage Trust

The New Zealand Pilgrimage is a non-profit organization based in Belgium. It supports schools, groups, and individuals from Aotearoa/ New Zealand in visiting the Western Front. The Trust also helps organize commemorative events and exhibition, fostering remembrance and honoring shared history.

To learn more about the Trust, visit their website [here](#). The Trust also welcomes people getting in touch so do not hesitate if you have any questions or comments.

WESTERN FRONT TOURS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

These are just some of the places you can visit as part of a wider World War One tour of Northern France.

The Wellington Tunnels – Carriere Wellington - Arras



The [Wellington Tunnels](#) are a must-see experience for any New Zealander visiting the Western Front. In 1916, the Allies devise the biggest surprise attack of the First World War. To enable the attack, a tunnel system leading from the heart of Arras to the a Ferman line is dug by the New Zealand Tunnelling Company. By April 1917, more than 18km of tunnels are connected and visitors can experience incredible story of their creation by descending 20 metres underground and retracing the soldiers steps.

The Sir John Monash Australian National Memorial



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, 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.

Menin Gate

The [Menin Gate](#) is a famous war memorial located in Ypres, Belgium, commemorating the Commonwealth soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient and have no known grave. Unveiled in 1927, it is named after the Menin Road, which was a key route used by Allied forces. The gate bears the names of over 54,000 soldiers who perished in the region between 1914 and 1918. Every evening, a moving Last Post ceremony takes place under the gate, honoring their memory and ensuring they are never forgotten. The Menin Gate stands as a symbol of sacrifice, courage, and remembrance.



Longueval - New Zealand National Memorial

[Longueval](#), a village in northern France, holds significant historical importance as a key site during the Battle of the Somme in World War I. It was New Zealand's first action on the western front, and the first presence of tanks in battle. Nearby, the New Zealand National Memorial stands as a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of New Zealand soldiers who fought on the Western Front. Set amidst peaceful fields, the memorial is a poignant reminder of the enduring bond between New Zealand and France. Visitors come to pay their respects and reflect on the courage of those who served in one of history's most challenging battles.



Caterpillar Valley - Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing

[Caterpillar Valley Cemetery](#), located near Longueval in northern France, is a solemn resting place for soldiers who lost their lives during the Battle of the Somme in World War I. The cemetery also includes the Memorial to the Missing, which honors over 1,200 New Zealand soldiers with no known grave. Surrounded by rolling fields, the site is a place of reflection and remembrance, symbolising the sacrifices made during one of the war's most intense battles. It continues to be a poignant destination for visitors from around the world.



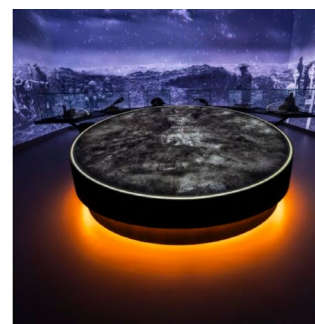
Vimy Ridge - National Canadian Memorial

[Vimy Ridge](#), located in northern France, is home to the National Canadian Memorial, one of the most iconic World War I monuments. It commemorates the Canadian soldiers who fought and died during the pivotal Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917. The towering white limestone monument, set atop the ridge, symbolizes bravery and sacrifice, honoring the 11,000 Canadians who have no known grave. Surrounded by preserved trenches and a serene park, the site serves as a powerful reminder of Canada's contributions to the war and its enduring legacy of peace



Passchendaele Museum 1917 Zonnebeke, Belgium

The [Passchendaele Museum](#), located in Zonnebeke, Belgium, is dedicated to preserving the memory of the infamous Battle of Passchendaele during World War I. The museum offers a powerful experience with interactive exhibits, reconstructed trenches, and dugouts that vividly portray the harsh conditions soldiers endured. It also honors the hundreds of thousands who fought and died in the battle. Surrounded by a peaceful park, the museum serves as both an educational center and a place of reflection, ensuring the history and sacrifices of 1917 are never forgotten.



In Flanders Fields Museum - Ypres

The [In Flanders Fields Museum](#), located in the historic Cloth Hall of Ypres, Belgium, offers a compelling exploration of World War I and its impact on the Flanders region. Through interactive exhibits, personal stories, and artifacts, the museum brings the history of the Great War to life, highlighting the human experience of those who lived and fought during the conflict. Named after the famous war poem, it serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made and the importance of peace. Visitors are invited to reflect while overlooking the town from the museum's bell tower.



Talbot House

[Talbot House](#), located in Poperinge, Belgium, is a historic sanctuary that served as a haven for soldiers during World War I. Opened in 1915 by army chaplains, it provided a place of rest and camaraderie, welcoming soldiers of all ranks to escape the hardships of the front lines. Known affectionately as "Toc H," the house features a charming garden, a chapel in the attic, and a museum that preserves its rich history. Today, Talbot House stands as a symbol of peace, unity, and the enduring spirit of humanity amidst war.



COMMERCIAL TOUR COMPANIES

Les Alouettes

<https://lesalouettes.net/>

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

Old Blighty Battlefield Tours

www.oldblightytours.com

Fully guided bespoke or general interest
military history tours.

Terres de Mémoire

contact@terresdememoire.eu

Fully guided bespoke or general World War One 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, or in which you might stay when visiting Le Quesnoy. 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 15 minutes by train – 20 minutes by car

Valenciennes, located in northern France near the Belgian border, is a city rich in history and culture. Known as the “Athens of the North” during the 17th century, it has a strong artistic heritage, producing renowned painters like Antoine Watteau and the sculptors like Félix Desruelle. The city boasts charming architecture, including the beautiful Place d’Armes and the Basilica of Saint-Cordon. Valenciennes is also a modern hub, with a thriving university and industries. Its warm atmosphere and cultural events, such as the annual film festival, make it a vibrant and welcoming destination.



Lille

From Le Quesnoy to Lille is 50 minutes by train and 45 minutes by car.

[Lille](#) is a big city with all the restaurants, malls, and accommodation, and entertainment you would expect.

Lille has markets, museums and 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.

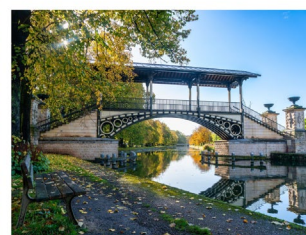
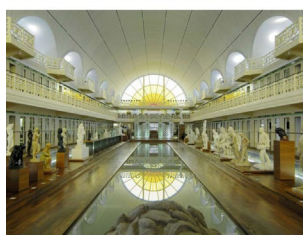
Le [Palais des Beaux Arts](#) is a wonderful art museum. Highly recommended. Don't miss the plan relief maps in the basement – extraordinary giant contoured table maps of fortified towns.

The Old Town is very 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.

[La Piscine de Roubaix](#)

André Diligent Museum of Art and Industry is an art gallery within Roubaix's historic bathing complex, built during its industrial golden era. This museum showcases numerous artistic movements, presenting various collections of textile works, sculptures, paintings, and both contemporary and older works in all styles. Be sure not to miss the stunning stained-glass windows overlooking the basin.



NEARBY CITIES AND TOWNS

Arras

From Le Quesnoy to Arras is 2h30 by train and about 1h by car.

[Arras](#) is an historic city in northern France, known for its stunning Grand Place and Flemish-style architecture. A UNESCO World Heritage site, it boasts landmarks like the Arras Cathedral and Belfry of Arras. Rich in history, particularly from World War I, visitors can explore its underground tunnels and local museums. With its cobblestone streets, vibrant markets, and charming cafés, Arras offers a perfect mix of culture and French heritage.

The must see is [Carrière Wellington](#), 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 tunnelers connect the city's medieval chalk extraction quarries, to create a veritable network of underground barracks, capable of accommodating up to 24,000 soldiers.



Bavay

From Le Quesnoy to Bavay 20 minutes by car.

Bavay is a small historic town in northern France. Known for its rich Roman heritage, the town is home to the remains of an ancient Roman forum. Bavay features charming architecture, quaint streets, and a mix of medieval and modern influences. The town's local market and peaceful atmosphere make it a lovely destination for visitors interested in history and culture.



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.

[Ypres](#) is a historic city in Belgium's Flanders region, known for its role in World War I. Nearly destroyed during the war, it was carefully rebuilt and is now a symbol of remembrance. Key sites include the [Menin Gate Memorial](#), where nightly ceremonies honor fallen soldiers, and the [In Flanders Fields Museum](#), which explores the area's wartime history. With its medieval architecture, canals, and vibrant culture, Ypres offers a mix of history and charm.

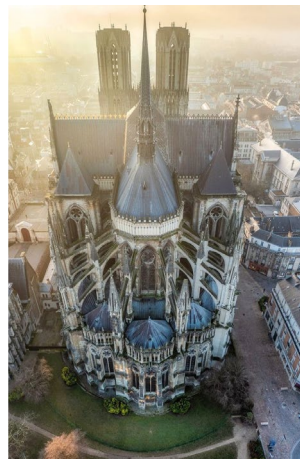


Reims

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

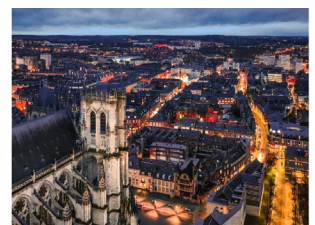
Reims is a city in north-eastern France's Grand Est region. It's the unofficial capital of the Champagne wine-growing region, and many of the champagne houses headquartered there offer tastings and cellar tours.

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.



The Somme

The Somme is the quintessential location of the First World War memory trail. Just one hour's drive from Le Quesnoy, the Somme includes key sites for New Zealanders such as the memorials at Longueval and Caterpillar Valley. Beyond those sites, we encourage our visitors to discover the Australian and South Africa national memorials at the Sir John Monash Centre and Delville Wood respectively.





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

RECOMMENDED READING

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 the NZ Liberation Museum – 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.

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 Hokowhita 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.