



WATERWAYS GUIDE

Navigate on the Somme



USEFUL CONTACTS

Conseil départemental de la Somme

River and ports management

03 60 01 52 00

agencefluviale@somme.fr

NAUTICAL SERVICES

Latitude 50

(boat dealership)

80230 Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme

03 22 61 21 70

EMTCM

(fishing and pleasure craft)

80230 Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme

03 22 26 82 20

Nautic 80

(sailing licences, equipment sales)

80000 Amiens

06 23 02 38 59

Barone SARL

(boat dealership)

80000 Amiens

03 22 92 68 73

LES COPAINS BABORD

(maritime and river motor boats)

80000 Amiens

07 55 72 55 54

Evraud Ludovic

(Boat mechanics, maintenance and repairs)

06 34 02 20 59

Association Les Amis du Fleuve Somme

(Users' association, advice and information for leisure craft users)

80340 Cappy

lesamisdufleuve@laposte.net

TOURIST INFORMATION SERVICES

Haute Somme Tourist Office

Péronne : 03 22 84 42 38

hautesome-tourisme.com

Poppy Country Tourist Office

Albert : 03 22 75 16 42

tourisme-paysducoquelicot.com

Val de Somme Tourist Office

Corbie : 03 22 96 95 76

valdesomme-tourisme.com

Amiens Métropole Tourist Office

Amiens : 03 22 71 60 50

amiens-tourisme.com

Nièvre and Somme Tourist Office

Ailly-sur-Somme : 03 22 51 46 85

nievresomme-tourisme.fr

Long Tourist Office and Lock-keeper's cottage

09 64 46 87 76

longvalleedesomme.fr

Baie de Somme Tourist Office

Abbeville : 03 22 24 27 92

Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme : 03 22 60 93 50

tourisme-baiedesomme.fr



SOMME TOURIST INFORMATION SERVICE

54 rue Saint Fuscien - 80000 AMIENS

+33 (0)3 22 71 22 71

accueil@somme-tourisme.com

vallee-somme.com

somme-tourisme.com



VALLÉE DE SOMME

Vallée idéale

MORE THAN JUST A CANAL, AN IDEAL VALLEY

A VALLEY TO EXPERIENCE AND SHARE

Set off on the River Somme, the backbone of our department.

Internationally recognised by Ramsar for its biodiversity, the Somme is a crossroads for migrating birds and fish. Pedal along the former towpath, now a cycle path, or even better, get on the water. The Conseil Départemental continues to develop East - West route, punctuating it with places to stop and setting off the landscapes.

The ideal valley programme is both collective and transversal, linking visitors and residents as well as towns, villages and districts.

Summary

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BEFORE YOU CAST OFF...

GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Somme Canal is particularly suited to leisure craft. One major attraction is that it flows to the sea at the Baie de Somme. The canal is linked to the network of major French and northern European navigable routes by the Canal du Nord.

Unusually, from downstream of Péronne as far as Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme (120 km), the canal is not managed by VNF, but by the Département de la Somme through the Direction du Fleuve et des Ports (DFP) team.



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

THE SOMME: THE BACKBONE OF THE DEPARTMENT

The river Somme begins at Fonsomme in the Aisne and flows into the sea in the Baie de Somme at Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme, having covered over 160 km.

It is the backbone of our department and lent it its name. 70% of the inhabitants of the Somme live less than 5 km from the banks of the river which flows through a great many villages and several major towns, such as Ham, Péronne, Corbie, Amiens and Abbeville

Since the Middle Ages the Somme has linked Paris and England by water and been a major commercial artery. In the 18th Century the wealth generated by trade (salt, pewter...) led to the building of the canal, completed in 1827.

During the 19th Century the canal became a transport infrastructure in itself, contributing to the development of the textile industry in particular between Amiens and Abbeville, and the growth in the trade of agricultural raw materials.



In the second half of the 20th Century competition from other means of transport (road, rail...) as well as the silting of the bay and the two world wars, led to the decline of freight transport on the canal. Leisure activities and tourism on inland waterways slowly took over and the management of the Péronne to Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme section of the canal was handed to the Département. In 2006 the Département became the owners of this section of the canal.



MORE THAN JUST A CANAL, AN IDEAL VALLEY

Following flooding in 2001, the Département undertook a vast renovation programme of its civil engineering structures: 12 locks and 5 weirs were fully renovated.

At the same time as these major renovations, other works were undertaken to improve the canal and its surroundings (picnic areas, vegetation, signage...), the services provided to leisure craft users (moorings and services...) and conservation (fishways).

The river is the heart of a mosaic of natural environments, widely renowned for their ecological interest. The valley – from the springs to the Baie de Somme – is an incredible asset for the attractiveness of our department. In 2009 the Département launched the Grand Projet Vallée de la Somme, with a view to enhancing the ensemble. This led the Département to set up various structures designed to promote waterways tourism: the 160 km cyclepath Véloroute Vallée de Somme (V30), the renovation of lock-keeper's cottages (cafés, self-catering accommodation, information and events points...), the setting up of the lookout point trail, and informative signboards along the river...

Taking things even further, in 2019 the Département committed to the "Somme Valley, Ideal Valley" programme which is designed to make the valley a "renowned tourist destination, opening into one of the world's most beautiful bays". New developments and installations will be progressively implemented, in particular for leisure craft users: new service areas, improvement of water and electricity points, a study looking into the creation of a proper port at Amiens... New ways of "inhabiting" the water will also be tested so that we can fully enjoy our beautiful Somme Canal... and make it our focal point. A way in which we can make a lasting contribution to its conservation...



THE ITINERARY AND MAIN PORTS OF CALL

SAINT-VALÉRY-SUR-SOMME

Moorings :

- > 130 m floating pontoon with 2 water-electricity points before the sea-lock.
- > Quays along the maritime canal: Pinchefalise (PK 155,5) and Petit Port (PK 148).

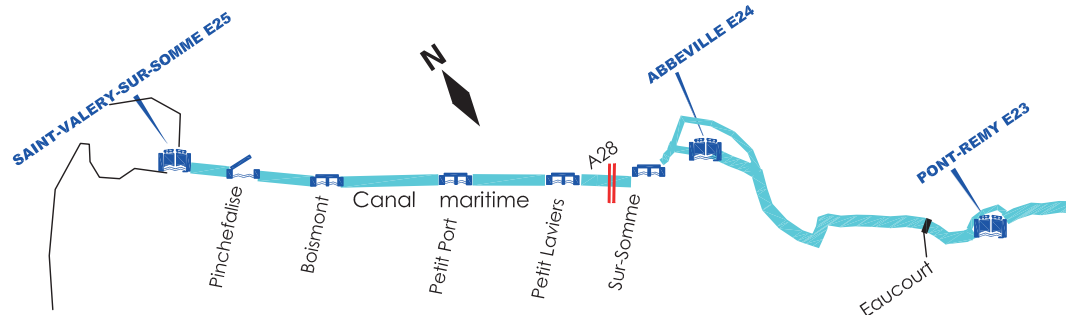
EMTCM shipyard: 03 22 26 82 20.

Sea Port : 06 45 19 15 72 - VHF channel 9.

Passage of the sea-lock: approximately 90 minutes before high tide.
Call the PCE (Central Operating Desk).

Things to see in Saint-Valéry : the bay, steam train, mariner's chapel, wildlife outings, medieval town ...

Market held on Sunday mornings, Place des Pilotes.



ABBEVILLE

Moorings :

- > 60 m quay with 3 water-electricity points and waste water disposal (PK 141).
- > Quays (no electricity) downstream of the lock, depth 2.50 m.
- > Turning possible for large boats downstream of the lock.
- > 4 m quay at Epagne (PK 134).

Things to see in Abbeville : St-Vulfran's Church, Manessier stained-glass windows at Saint-Sépulcre, belfry, Boucher-de-Perthes museum

Market held on Thursdays and Saturdays.

NOTE : Rowing club at the entrance to the town.



EAUCOURT-SUR-SOMME

Moorings :

- > Two 4 m quays on the right bank, shallow draft (PK 133).
- > 4 m quay on the left bank, no electricity.

Things to see in Eaucourt : Mill, château, Jessy brasserie barge,
Le Saltimbanque restaurant by
Sébastien Porquet

PONT-RÉMY

Moorings :

- > 120 m quay with water-electricity point (PK 131).
- Nearby shops: petrol station and supermarket (500 km).

Things to see in Pont-Rémy : Ruined chateau, Gaulish workshops,
fishway, ...

NOTE : Give way to boats going downstream; the lock is in a bend, the current will push the rear of the boat outwards.

LONG

Moorings :

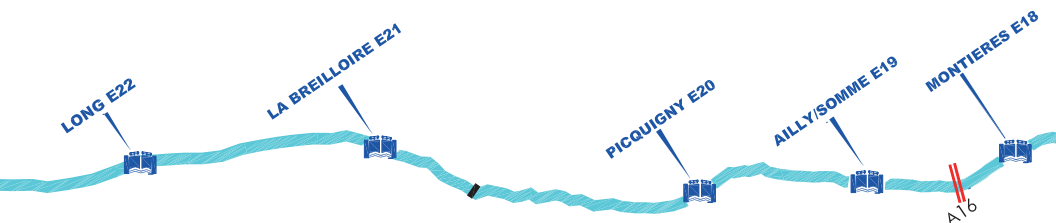
- > 55 m quay with water-electricity point, just before the lock (PK 125).
- > Mooring for large boats (no electricity), downstream of the lock.
- > Stopover at the campsite, 45 m with water-electricity point (PK 124).
- > Floating pontoon at Carrière, no electricity (PK 123).

Things to see in Long : Hydro-electric station, Maison des Marais, church organ, chateau, restaurants, lock-keeper's cottage, tourist office, ...

NOTE : give way to boats going downstream; the lock is in a bend, the current will push the rear of the boat outwards.



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PICQUIGNY

Moorings :

- > 150 m quay on the left bank before the lock, water-electricity point (PK 108).
- > 17 m floating pontoon with water-electricity point in Samara archaeological park (PK 106).

Things to see in Picquigny : Chateau and escape game, Île de la Trêve (Truce Island), rapids, ...
Market held on Sunday mornings

AILLY-SUR-SOMME

Moorings :

- > 35 m quay, 1 km upstream of the lock (PK 102).
- > 4 m quay with electricity point.
- > 47 m quay downstream, no electricity.

Things to see in Ailly-sur-Somme : Lock-keeper's cottage housing the tourist office (cycle and boat hire), ...
Market held on Saturday mornings



BETWEEN LONG AND PICQUIGNY

NOTE : very strong cross-current (over 10m3/second) upstream of the Picquigny lock, be sure to adjust your steering in consequence.
The inside of some of the bends is silted up: steer between the buoys which mark the channel in these places.

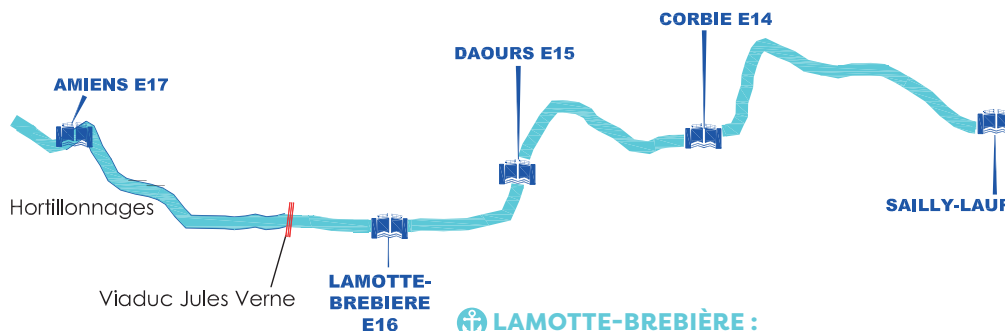


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MONTIERES LOCK : *this is a double lock, allow ½ hour to pass through the chambers.*

LA CAROLINE LOCK AT AMIENS : *this is the highest lock on the canal (at 4.2 m), be sure to have enough mooring rope and boat hooks to give the lock keeper. Strong hydraulic force.*



⚓ AMIENS :

Moorings :

- > Port d'Aval (downstream port), 135 m quay with 2 water-electricity points.
- > Upstream of Amiens lock, water-electricity point.
- > Port d'Amont (upstream port), floating pontoon with 3 water-electricity points and waste water disposal. No mooring opposite the stopover point.
- > Turning possible at the Port d'Aval and Port d'Amont as well as in the winding hole ahead of the lock. Slipways at the lock and the Parc Saint-Pierre.
- > Three floating pontoons with shore power/water

Things to see in Amiens : Cathedral, Hortillonnages (floating gardens), Jules Verne's house, Musée de Picardie, zoo, ...
Markets held on Saturday mornings, place Parmentier (produce from the Hortillonnages) and on Wednesdays and Saturdays at the Halles

⚓ LAMOTTE-BREBIÈRE :

Moorings :

- > Downstream of the lock, turning possible for boats up to a maximum of 25 m.
- > 15 m quay on the left bank and three 4 m pontoons opposite with water-electricity points.

Things to see in Lamotte-Brebière : lock-keeper's cottage with bar and restaurant, ...

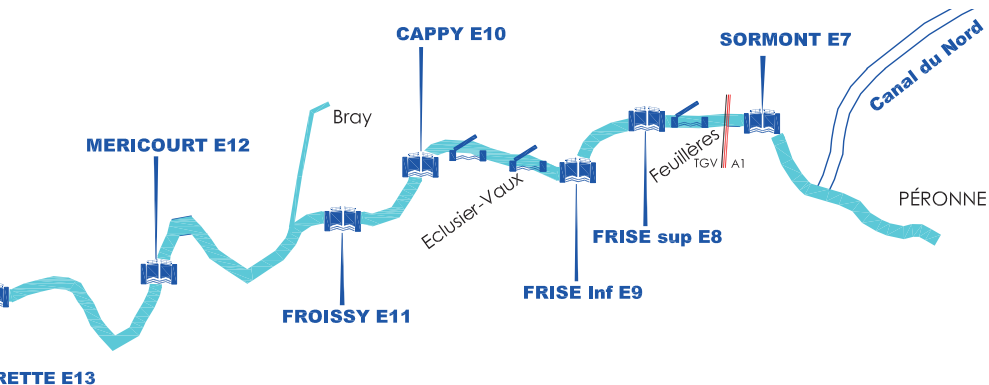
⚓ CORBIE :

Moorings :

- > 170 m quay on the left bank upstream of the lock with water-electricity point and access to waste disposal and recycling containers. Key available at the tourist office.
- > Blue markings show moorings reserved for stopovers, up to 72 hours. Other markings for residents.
- > 78 m quay at the campsite, with water-electricity point (PK 74).

Things to see in Corbie : Town hall, Sir John Monash Centre at Fouilloy, Saint-Pierre's Abbey, heritage tour, ...
Market held on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

NOTE : *the cross-current from the downstream end of the lock on the right bank pushes boats into the opposite wall, particularly those coming up the canal.*



🚢 FROM THE SAILLY-LAURETTE LOCK TO FROISSY

Moorings :

- > Sailly: upstream of the lock, 46 m quay, no electricity (PK 65).
- > Chipilly: 26 m quay, no electricity (PK 62).
- > Bray-sur-Somme: after the junction at PK 54, head 2 km up the natural river for 2 moorings with water-electricity point.
- > Froissy: upstream and downstream of the lock, 60 m and 95 m quays.

Things to see in Froissy : lock-keeper's cottage, narrow gauge railway

🚢 CAPPY

Leisure port with approximately 25 moorings.
Tariff according to length, see www.portdecappy.com.

Things to see in Cappy : Market garden "La Cueillette de Cappy", Frise mountain, port with one-wheel scooters, canoes and boats for hire, ...

🚢 PÉRONNE

Leisure port 1 km south of the town, up to 17 boats.
03 22 84 19 31

Things to see in Péronne : Historial of the Great War, Musée Alfred Danicourt, Cam lake, Hardines, Porte de Bretagne and ramparts, ...
Market held on Saturday mornings



THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF NAVIGATION

CONTACT DETAILS

Le poste central d'exploitation (PCE) de la Direction Fleuve et Ports - CD 80 (Central Operating Desk)

Before casting off on the Somme Canal, download the mobile App "Somme en poche" which will coordinate the locks as you approach them. In case of difficulty you can always call the PCE helpline on : 06 74 83 60 69

8:30am- 12:30am / 1:30pm - 5:45pm

Unlike other French canals, Somme Canal locks are opened and shut by mobile lock teams, who will accompany you by car along your journey. These teams are spread over the operations centres along the canal :

- Bray-sur-Somme: covering Sormont to Sailly-Laurette,
- Amiens: from Corbie to Montières,
- Long: from Ailly-sur-Somme to Pont-Rémy,
- Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme: Abbeville to the Baie de Somme.

SAILING TIMES

HIGH SEASON

From 1st April to 31st October

Open every day including weekends and bank holidays from 9am to 12:30pm and from 1:30pm to 6pm

Late morning (12.30pm) and late afternoon (6pm) sailing times correspond to the end of lock passage times. Locks are generally closed from 12pm to 2pm depending on through traffic. Call the PCE (Central Operating Desk) in the mornings for information.



LOW SEASON

From 2nd November to 31st March

Navigation by request: contact the PCE 36 hours before sailing.

Open from Monday to Friday, closed on Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays from 9am to 12:30pm and from 1:30pm to 5pm

Navigation between locks is authorised outside of these times.



ENJOYING THE VALLÉE DE SOMME TOGETHER

Since the Département's redevelopment of the Canal, it is not uncommon to encounter bikes, electric boats, canoes and kayaks, hikers...

So that everyone can successfully enjoy the Canal, the Département and their partners have signed a charter, setting out their objectives and framework for working together.

The communication tools designed for the general public are produced within this framework, reminding everyone of "good practice" on and around the Canal, guaranteeing safety, tranquillity and a happy atmosphere.



PARTICULAR NAVIGATION CONDITIONS

PRESENCE OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES (MYRIOPHYLLUM)

The Somme Canal has been colonised by the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) "Myriophyllum Heterophyllum". Dense and forming a thick layer on the water's surface, this watermilfoil can hinder angling, water sports and navigation. The species also represents a threat to biodiversity and ecological balance.

Since 2011, the Conseil Départemental has been actively working to halt the proliferation of this species. In 2019, 360 000€ was spent on this alone. Every year harrowing, cutting and collection operations take place in order to keep navigation conditions as favourable as possible. The PCE is able to provide real-time information as to the exact navigation conditions.

For boats which are not equipped with a keel cooling system, we advise you to clean your filters after passing through an affected area and to run your propeller in reverse from time to time, so as to free it of any plants which may have become wrapped around it.

Weed should not normally enter the cooling system of a moving boat, but will do so in quantity when the boat is stationary or moving slowly. Switch off the engine as soon as possible, especially in locks once the mooring lines have been put on land.



NOTE

Do not throw myriophyllum debris back into the water, it could start a new colony. Please leave it on the riverbank.

CURRENTS

From Froissy onwards, the Somme Canal is affected by a current which can reach 2-5 km/h. Don't be caught out when navigating on the river after navigating on still waters.

Think ahead : the stern may slide outwards in sharp bends, coast more easily heading downstream than upstream.



REQUIRED INFORMATION

The PCE will ask for the exact name of your boat, your nationality, a phone number that will enable you to be reached on the boat if necessary, the boat's deep draught, air draught, length and width.

Supply a realistic deep draught, taking into account the boat's actual depth in the water, the amount of water and fuel on board, rather than the theoretical draught. If your boat displaces more water than you indicate, the lock keeper might lower the water level too much and the boat touch the cill (causing possible damage).

Call the PCE 30 minutes before you cast off each day. Indicate the number of locks you think you will pass in half a day. If you decide to stop sooner or longer than expected, please let them know so that the team don't have wasted journeys.

During your journey along the Somme Canal, you will see specific signage: ex. "you are "upstream" of lock n°10" or "you are "downstream", bridge n°3" n°10 M et n°3 A.



Pont



Ecluse

When you see these signs, you must contact the PCE; they will schedule a team member to assist your passage through the approaching structure. Sometimes you will have to wait so that several boats can go through at the same time and thereby save water.

If you would like to stop and visit the surrounding area, please contact the PCE 30 minutes before you begin sailing again.

THE NAVIGATOR'S GOLDEN RULES

Before leaving, skippers must ensure that they have the correct documents for operating a boat according to current legislation.



IMPORTANT : *The skipper must ensure that they are informed of the navigational authority's rules and regulations and the general restrictions that are imposed or requested by the representatives of the competent services in order to prevent accidents. They must be able to present their boating licence as well as the obligatory safety equipment. A third-party insurance policy is strongly recommended.*

Navigation is subject to rules, and the skipper must :

- Without exception find out from the Direction du fleuve et des ports (river and ports authority) about the notices to skippers so as to be aware of navigation rules.
- Sail on the right, unless otherwise stated.
- Give priority to commercial traffic.
- Cross other boats only if the channel is wide enough.
- Give way to downstream traffic.
- Only overtake if it is safe to do so.
- Reduce speed when another boat catches up, to make overtaking easier. Overtaking is from the left, sailing starboard - starboard.
- Put signal lights on the boat when the weather is foggy.
- Respect basic courtesy rules towards other users (anglers, skippers, the canal and river team, locals...).
- Respect waterfront properties.
- Respect the **speed limit on the canal and the canalised river which is 6 km/h, unless otherwise indicated**. In this case, please check navigational rules, the signage in place and navigational orders.



In addition, the skipper must not :

- Throw anything whatsoever in the water or leave items or rubbish of any nature on the riverbanks.
- Damage riverbanks: the fauna and flora must be preserved.
- Come too close to the banks: speed must be reduced to avoid making waves.

Notices to skippers: + more info on somme.fr
> search for "notices to skippers"

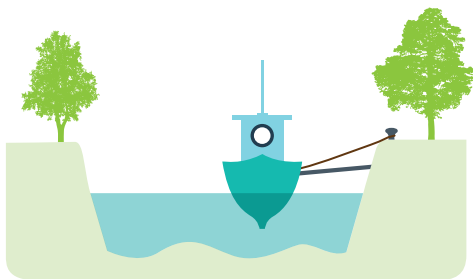


MOORING, BERTHING AND SERVICES

AUTHORISED

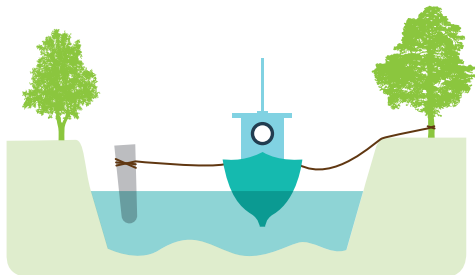
Mooring : Allow the boat to follow the variations of the water level. To moor your boat correctly, please :

- Do not place a cable or rope across the tow path.
- Do not switch off the engine until the boat is securely moored.
- Use ramps to avoid the hull hitting the bank, especially at night.
- Allow for the fact that the water level may rise or fall, depending on the section (tidal effect).

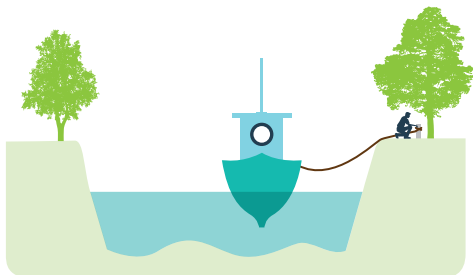


FORBIDDEN

Berthing : in a navigable channel or under bridges.



Mooring : To trees, posts, railings or wherever it is indicated by a sign that mooring is not allowed.



- > Berthing is limited to 3 days at a service area (mooring points with coin-operated service points).
- > Long-stay berthing outside of the service areas is subject to authorisation. Please contact the PCE.

WATER-ELECTRICITY POINTS

You will find coin-operated water and electricity points along the canal. These take 2€ coins. 2€ = 4 hours, 8€ = 16 hours.

If the point trips, press the reset button on the side.

Please use French coins.

WASTE WATER POINTS

Fittings can be found inside the points, except at Corbie where you should enquire at the campsite reception.



PRESENTATION OF THE CANAL STRUCTURES

APPROACHING A LOCK

If the gates are closed, please keep a sufficient distance to avoid any waves created by the filling or emptying of the chamber.

Step 1: Entering the lock

Give priority to the boats leaving the lock. Wait until the gates are open or the team member signals you to advance.

Please indicate the exact deep draught of the boat so as to avoid hitting the cill, especially in double locks.

Step 2: Entering the Lock

Basic rules :

- Allow enough rope to cope with the different water levels.
- Carefully monitor the whole operation.
- If the walls of the lock are inclined, push off with the help of a boat hook as the water level drops.

In the lock :

- Do not moor up to a barge.
- Tie the mooring lines to a bollard (or mooring post).
- Do not use the engine.

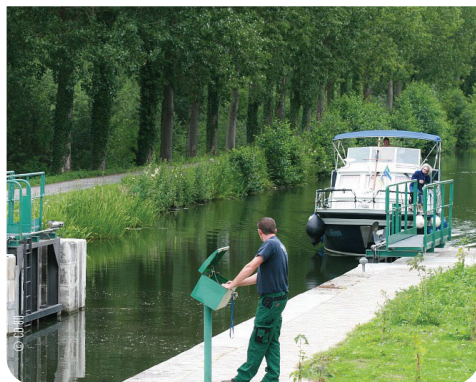
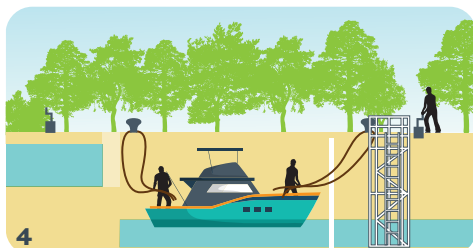
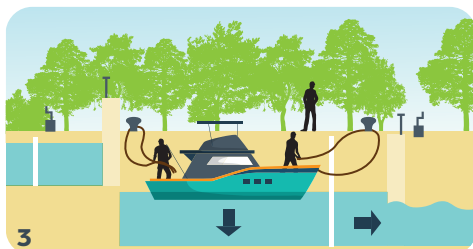
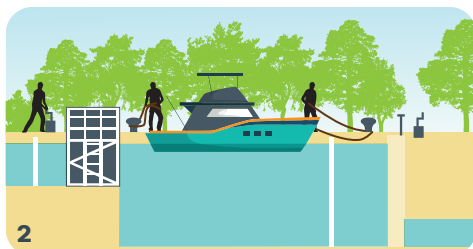
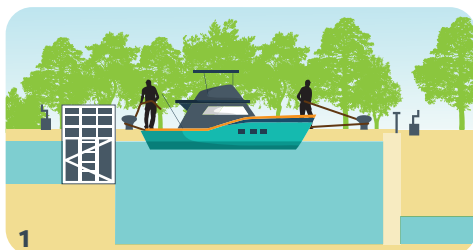
Different elements can make crossing through the lock difficult.

Please be particularly vigilant with :

- ladders
- slippery steps
- the masonry at the bottom of the lock (do not stop too close to gates).

Step 3: Exiting the lock

- Do not untie the mooring lines until the lock has finished operating.
- When exiting, respect the order of boats.



DIFFERENT WAYS OF PASSING A LOCK

1. 1 Lock gates :

These are operated solely by the canal and river team.

2. Passing through the lock at St-Valéry-sur-Somme :

This lock can only be used approximately an hour to half an hour before high tide. It is therefore essential to check the tide tables beforehand at www.somme-tourisme.com. The canal and river team take up their posts two and a half hours before high tide.

Steps to passing the lock at Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme :

- Leave a message on the lock answer phone: 00 (0)3 22 60 80 23. The canal and river team check the messages when they arrive.
- Arrive with your boat approximately two hours before high tide.
- Wait until the water level is high enough and go through when the lock is opened by the team.



APPROACHING A WEIR

Where the weir is combined with a lock or stop gate, on approach you must :

- Keep to the bank on the left-hand side of the lock.
- Never head towards the weir. If you do so by mistake, you must immediately turn around and navigate upstream.

In the event of an involuntary approach: turn around quickly and head upstream.



SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

INFORMATION



Mooring allowed



Junction with main channel



Berthing allowed



Power cable



Restriction ends

ORDERS



Steer towards indicated side



Keep to the port/starboard side of the channel



Cross channel towards port/starboard



Obligation to stop in certain conditions



limited height



limited depth



Compulsory direction



Speed limited to 6km/h

PROHIBITED



No bathing



No mooring



No berthing



No entry



No anchoring



No turning



Do not make waves

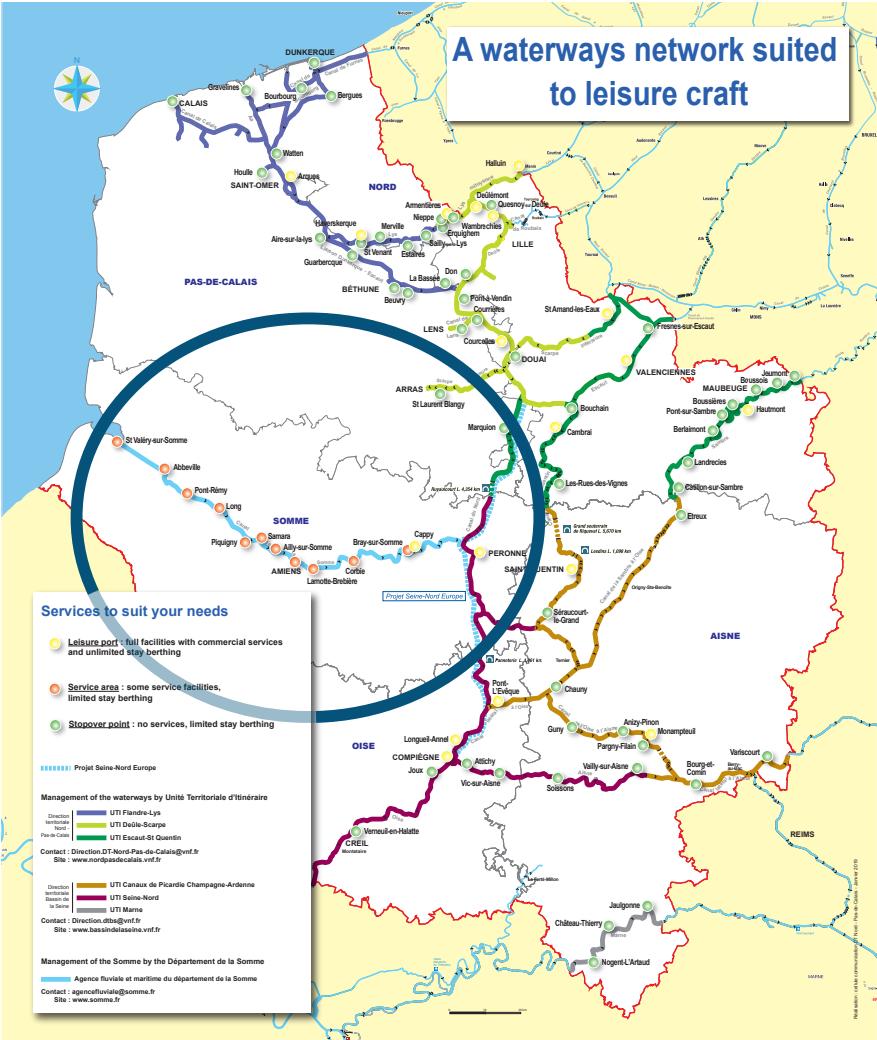


No overtaking



No overtaking, no crossing

NAVIGUABLE ROUTES IN THE HAUTS-DE-FRANCE



CONSEIL DÉPARTEMENTAL DE LA SOMME

53 rue de la République - 80000 AMIENS

+33 (0)3 22 71 80 80

somme.fr





Glossary

UPSTREAM In or towards the higher part of a stream; against the current.

DOWNSTREAM In or towards the lower part of a stream; with the current.

CANAL SECTION Part of a canal or river between two locks or two weirs.

BOLLARD Post for mooring on a quay.

CHANNEL A navigable course through a body of water through which boats can travel.

STOPPAGES Interruption of navigation due to maintenance work.

RAMP Length of wood to prevent damage to the boat or mooring structure during mooring/berthing periods.

COASTING The residual speed of a boat once the engine is off.

SHEET PILE Metal device to protect the banks.

CILL Masonry at the bottom of the lock, underneath the upstream gates.

CHAMBER Area situated between the upstream and downstream gates of a lock.

AIR DRAUGHT > of a civil engineering structure: height available between the water level and the highest point under the structure (ex. bridge).
> of a boat: the distance, measured vertically, between the water's surface and the boat's highest point.

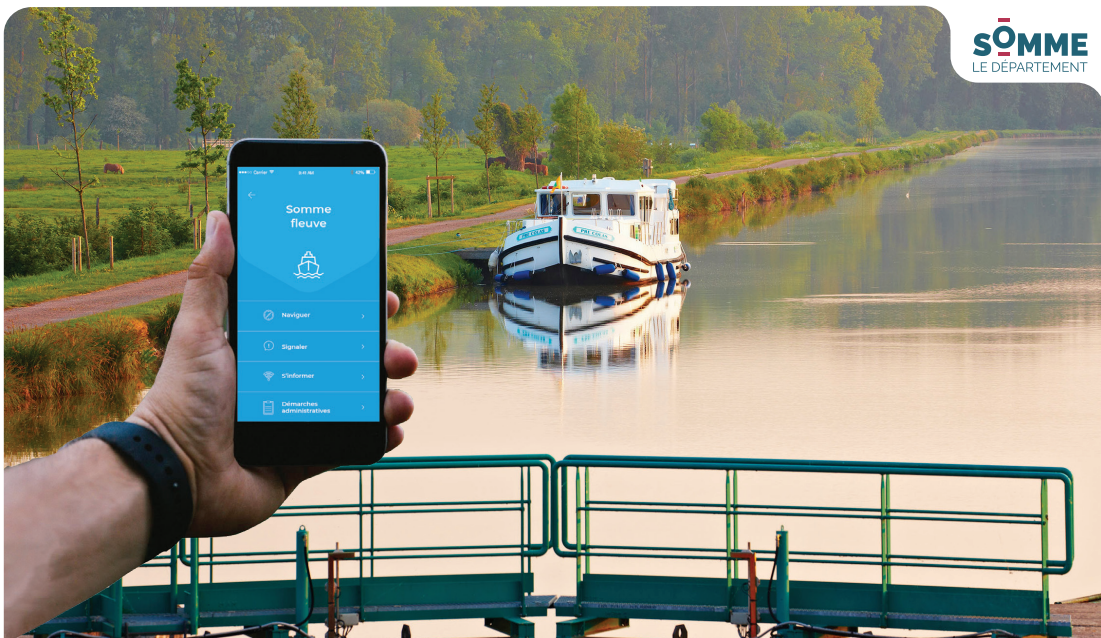
DEEP DRAUGHT the measurement from the water's surface to the deepest part of the hull.

OVERTAKING passing another boat going in the same direction.

GATE Mobile part of a lock; locks have either one or two gates.

PADDLE Valve by which the lock chamber is filled or emptied.





SOMME EN POCHE

1 app, 4 services !



SOMME RIVER, NAVIGATE THE RIVER EASILY

- Benefit from the assistance of the Department's services to navigate the Somme Canal.
- Discover the points of interest around the river: facilities and services, restaurants, accommodation, nautical bases, built and natural heritage, bicycle rentals, tourist sites, stations, canoe pontoons, fishing, etc..

Other services with
Somme en Poche



Somme road



Somme hike



Somme services



VALLÉE DE SOMME
Vallée idéale

