

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GUIDE



EXPLORING LILLE: THROUGH THE EYES OF AN INITIATED

Numerous are the districts that compose the lovely city of Lille, however one can say that they are regroup under 4 main neighborhoods:

The **Vauban district** (Le quartier Vauban) is the main student neighborhood, as the Catholic University, which is the biggest campus in France, and its 25 000 students take a large place of it. This area goes from La Liberté boulevard to La Bassée street, while containing La Citadelle and the Léon Gambetta street. To get around, it is easy to use the subway and stop at Cormontaigne or Port de Lille (the red line 2), otherwise you may use the bus services (line 12, 18, Citadine or Liane 1) which go along the Vauban boulevard. Another way to get around in Lille is the V'Lille (bicycle), and a few stations are situated on the Vauban boulevard, Colbert street and Toul street.

WHAT TO DO THERE? WHERE TO CHILL OUT?

The Vauban district is lucky to have, not far from the University, a couple of squares where you can go and chill out in your spare time, when the weather allows it, and yes it

occurs from time to time! This is the perfect place to play ball with your friends, while others are quietly reading their lectures laying on the green grass. The campus of medicine is also a nice place to go for lunch, you just have to bring your meal and take place. Moreover, the well-known zoo of La Citadelle (the Citadel), free of charge, will welcome you with all its diverse species of animals.

For those who like to walk and discover, the ever-animated Léon Gambetta Street is for you. You will find little shops and restaurants of many kinds on the sides, and if some day you have a costume party, there is nowhere else to look for, this is where you will find what you are looking for!

- Jardin Vauban
- La Citadelle
- Léon Gambetta Street

WHERE TO GET A BITE TO EAT?

There are a few sandwich shops in front of the Academic Hotel of the Catholic University, along the Vauban boulevard, they are particularly frequented by the students of this University so, at noon, you will always see queues going out on the pavement from the inside of these places. However, it is not rare to encounter the lecturer of your upcoming class.

- Pizza Factory
- Le GreenFood
- Dog Sandwichs
- La boîte à Sandwichs

WHERE TO HAVE A DRINK?

Nearby the Campus are the Masséna and Solferino districts where you will find countless pubs, nightclubs and restaurants, one is as original as the other, with for example the Trading Bar on the Masséna

street where, in an american atmosphere, along with rap music, the prices of the boozes change every 100 secondes as the trade does itself. Also, if you want the DJ to save your life you might go to the Smile which have a floor dedicated to disco music. But don't worry, there are also more conventional pubs and nightclubs, where you can meet up and cheerfully have a drink with your mates such as the O'Scotland, the Zeppelin or la Plage (this particular one has a shot I am sure you will not last to try called « le triple dragon »), and tens of others. No need to say that on a Thursday night (which is the student night in Lille), partying is very intense around these two streets.

Bear in mind that the abuse of alcohol may be harmful, and as a bustling heart of Lille regarding partying, this area can eventually be the theater of unfortunate agressions and robberies.

Right on the corner of the uni, you will find a couple of nice pubs, where the atmosphere is more cosy and where the ritual is to sit on the couch with beers and sausage called « saucisson » after class with your mates.

- The Trading Bar
- The Smile
- The O'Scotland
- The Zeppelin
- La Plage
- The Network
- La Relève
- La Faluche
- Le Berkeley

The **Wazemmes district** is an ancient industrial district, now renewed in a dynamic and alive neighborhood. This neighborhood is special for its social diversity, which clearly has an positive impact on the light atmosphere, as well as the diverse nature of the shops and restaurants in the area, and the young population strolling in its streets. Concerning the transport, the district of Wazemmes is well-served due to the 5 metro stations in the area, and the recent V'Lille stations.

WHAT TO DO THERE? WHERE TO CHILL OUT?

The district of Wazemmes is famous for its free-range market that takes place every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday, it starts from the exist of the metro station Gambetta to. There you will be able to find anything at a petty low price. Needless to say that the place is crowded, especially on Sunday. Don't get afraid if you hear people screaming out loud to attract people to come to their stalls, this market is not known to be a quiet place, but it has plenty of other qualities. Next to the free-range market, you have the covered market which is as nice as the other, and you will find some places where you can eat pizzas (for example) for lunch.

The neighborhood is also very nice when it is to wander in the commercial streets of Gambetta, or Sarrazins, Jules Guesde and Postes. In this area, there is also the football field of Wazemmes, if you are willing to spend your energy playing football in its team.

- Free-range market of Wazemmes
- Gambetta Street
- Sarrazins Street
- Jules Guesde Street
- Postes Street

WHERE TO GET A BITE TO EAT?

As said above, the market is a nice place you can go and eat there. But it is also where you can find one of the best thailandese restaurant (the Kloung Sukhothai & Abet) held by a thailandese cook, all for a relatively average cost of 10-12€.

If you are keen to get to know other tastes, the colorful restaurant Flandre Liban (Lebanese restaurant) is also known to be one of the best Lebanese restaurant, besides being very convivial. Last but not least, a local restaurant with specials from the North of France, known as « Ch'ti ». Indeed, Les P'tits Loups may look like something you have already seen but it sure is not, and this thanks to its owner Pierrot who is a real living spectacle. The ambiance is very very warm, and even though you are shy, this place will catch you as it caught the others.

- The Kloung Sukhothai & Abet
- Flandre Liban
- Les P'tits Loups

WHERE TO HAVE A DRINK?

If there were only one pub to recommend in Wazemmes, without hesitating it would be the Oxford Café! This place is original, without being wild, and is bathed in an excellent mood. The waiters are kind and polite, this café is known to be the appointment of everyone, it is a must-see of Wazemmes, even of the city.

There are still some other nice pubs, such as Au Cheval Blanc (the legend pretends that beer flows freely).

- The Oxford Café
- Au Cheval Blanc

The **Lille City Center** is, with the Old Lille, the historical center of the capital of the North of France. At its heart is the Grand'Place, 2nd most beautiful square in France thanks to its marvelous flemish architecture that warm your heart and soul up even though it is -2 outside. The metro stations serving this zone are, on the line 1 (the yellow one), Rihour and Gare Lille Flandre and continue the visit on foot. The two train stations of the city, Gare Lille Flandre and Gare Lille Europe, are located next to each other in this area.

WHAT TO DO THERE? WHERE TO CHILL OUT?

As mentioned earlier, the Grand'Place is a wonderful place to wander, in summer like in winter with its enchanting Christmas Market, after eating some roast chestnuts the view from the ferris wheel is even more beautiful. It also regroups a few shops, especially Le Furet du Nord and La Fnac, if you need to buy books of any kind, multimedia stuff, etc. But if you are a shopping addict, the 2 main streets that lead to the Grand'Place, National street and Béthune street, are full of shops. The Bethune street and its roadsides are comparable to the Ramblas of Barcelona, at the only difference that the street is made with cobbles, it is most of the time crowded with people going in and out from shops (Mango, Zara, San Marina, Vans, etc.), the biggest of them all is Les Galeries Lafayette which you most probably had heard of before. Still on this road, if you are a cinephile, there are 2 cinema next to each other, the UGC and the Majestic, together there are making a good alternative of movies.

Nearby the Grand'Place, there is la Place du Théâtre (Theater) where is situated the Opera House, a magnificent edifice you must see, with the Beffroi of Lille which the highest of the whole Nord - Pas-de-Calais region (104m), and it is registered on the Unesco list of the mondial patrimony. Close to the train station Gare Lille Europe in the business center, you can have a shopping trip into the mall Euralille where you shall find tens of shops, such as H&M, Hollister and others, and some restaurants as well. Another must-see of the city of Lille: la Vieille Bourse (the Old Exchange Market). A 17th century building with a large courtyard where it is possible to meet booksellers and tango dancers.

- La Grand'Place
- National Street
- Béthune Street
- Place du Théâtre
- The Opera House
- The Beffroi
- La Vieille Bourse

WHERE TO GET A BITE TO EAT?

The most attractive place to eat in this area are for sure not all the Mac Donald's, and Subway at République and Grand'Place, or the BurgerKing at Euralille, but of course all the breweries at Rihour (metro station on the line 1) such as La Chicorée, La Paix or La Flore. If you want to eat some mussels that make the pride of the city, you may go the Aux Moules, in front of Les Galeries Lafayette on the Béthune street, where the cooking is superb and the prices affordable.

- La Chicorée
- La Paix
- La Flore
- Aux Moules

WHERE TO HAVE A DRINK?

The Grand'Place is occupied by few little pubs on its side. But right behind the Grand'Place, on la Place du Théâtre you got other pubs, which I think are nicer for their views on the Opera House and the Beffroi, this last one had given its name to one of this but: le Beffroi, but where the prices are a bit expensive. Closer to the Grand'Place is the Café Leffe is a nice place to enjoy a beer with friends.

- Le Beffroi
- Le Café Leffe

The **Old Lille**, with its cobbled streets, is the pride of the city of Lille. Remarkably restored, the Old Lille enchants the eye with its flamboyant architecture. The diversity of the 17th century streets is an invitation for a walk, it is up to you to look up and appreciate the perfect harmony of the bricks and stones, and be plunged in the magical atmosphere that this neighborhood provides. Nothing can stop it from shinning and attracting people from everywhere, not even the cold or the rain!

Be aware there is no subway passing in this area, though the bus services still serve the place from the metro station Rihour, or it is still possible for you to go there by cycling on a V'Lille or on your own bicycle.

WHAT TO DO THERE?

WHERE TO CHILL OUT?

You shall not pass through the Old Lille without going to Notre-Dame-De-La-Treille. Notre-Dame-De-La-Treille is the cathedral of the city of Lille, but it is also an architectural masterpiece. The first stones of this edifice had been put in 1854 and the last in 1999. Not without displeasing to some people,

the cathedral has for sure a curious outward at first look, it is in fact a product of the neogothic of the 21st century as the expert would say so. But still, it is a very nice place to chill, and it is often chosen as a meeting for some events such as the World Musical Day on the 21st of June. As its main goal asks to, the cathedral also shelters an alive community of faith.

There is also a nice square you can go and chill, it's called the Grimonprez square, situated right in front of 2 nice pubs.

Needless to repeat but still, every street of this area is an amazing place for strolling alone or accompanied, it is also a real jewel of Lille.

WHERE TO GET A BITE TO EAT?

First clarification: Yes this area is a jewel, but as jewels are in real life... most of the time expensive! But it is common to find the rare pearl and unearth a good restaurant affordable. L'arrière-Pays is a huge restaurant on 3 floors, open not 24/7 but slightly, the cooking is good and the bill is okay. It is somewhere you can invite your parents come to visit you from home to.

If you are looking for an Italian restaurant because we never get tired of Italian food, there is a great one for you: In Bocca Al Luppò. Pastas are home made, and the wine menu is very good and pretty affordable. To sum up, it is an elegant restaurant where you are not forced to tighten your belt to go to.

- L'Arrière Pays
- In Bocca Al Luppò

WHERE TO HAVE A DRINK?

Trying to make an exhaustive list of the pubs in the Old Lille, even just the coolest of them, would be impossible, because there

are too much! The great point with the amount of pubs is the diversity it provides and so that you are sure to find your favorite somehow!

To begin with a simplistic but still very nice one, Le Mange Disc is a cozy place with a great terrace enjoyable particularly during summer. La Part de Angès is a good place for those whom are amateur of wine, the site is apparently more than worth it, some would say it is unforgettable. The place also proposes food, for lunch and for dinner.

Located next to the Grimonprez Square, The Queen's Head is an ever-animated place with loud music dating back to the 80's, french and worldwide. The main beverage is beer but you are free to take anything you like. And to finish with, Le Dandy, very trendy place where the cocktails are known to be the best in the whole city!

The City of Lille also presents every year, the time of the weekend, precisely the first of September, the renowned *boot car sale of Lille*, which is the biggest boot car sale of Europe!

There you will be walking around and looking for whatever might please you or perhaps will you be seated at a chair competing for the highest pile of mussel's shells next to strangers come from everywhere in Europe or sympathizing with locals that are used to this annual fest but who are still celebrating it as their first times! This event not only covers a few neighborhood but really the whole city! It is a real opportunity to be around Lille at this period of the year, so do make the most of out of it, or you will have to wait till next year to grab this chance!

ON CAMPUS OR AT ESPOL: YOUR LIFE BE LIKE

ESPOL: 83 rue du Port

They are 4 buildings on campus you might have class in or that and you should know for any reasons:

- Saint Raphael (83 rue du Port)
- Robert Schuman (58 rue du Port)
- The Academic Hotel (60 boulevard Vauban)
- Rizomm (41 rue du Port)

Throughout the time you will be here, there are a few things you will need to know, which have been made to answer lots of your interrogations:

> *Where do I know when and where I have class?*

There is a platform online (shared between students and administrators) that will serve you all the time: AGORA. Here is a link which will lead you to another platforms where you will check every week, if not every day, your timetable which is available till the end of classes: HYPERPLANNING.

> *How do I know if one of my class is cancelled and/or postponed?*

On the first floor of the ESPOL's building (Saint Raphael) is held by the Academic service several bulletin boards, for each year, and you will find all the information you need.

> *The lecturer has upload material of work, where can I find it?*

There is a second platform (shared between students, lecturers and administrators) where you will find everything concerning your courses (lessons and material of works): ICAMPUS.

> *How can I keep myself inform of what is happening within the school?*

There are either the bulletins boards on the first floor of the ESPOL building or the platform online AGORA.

Finally, there are couples of associations within ESPOL that animate the starting with the BDE (Students' Union), the BDS (for sports), BDA (for art), ESPOMUN (Model of United Nation), Pôle Euro (for european actualities), also a Unicef delegation, an association of debating (Vox Juvenis) and a system of patronage for exchange students (Buddies).

LIFE ON CAMPUS

The University Catholic of Lille is the biggest campus in France, it includes 5 faculties and 20 schools and colleges (ESPOL is one of these 20 schools).

What else you will find on campus:

CPSU - multipurpose university health centre (67 boulevard Vauban, first floor)

It has 2 functions:

- 1) Prevention (medical visits, healthy lifestyle advice, prevention initiatives).
- 2) Treatment (general walk-in doctor's consultation, gynecology and emotional consultations on appointment, psychological support on appointment).

RU - university catering served by the AEU (125 rue Meurein and 47 boulevard Vauban) There are 6 restaurants where students eat at every noon (some of them are open at dinner) with their services cards. A healthy meal is given there for about 3,5€.

BU - University Library (60 rue du Port) where you can go to study, read or do any research thanks to your student card.

AEU - Student services for student (47 boulevard Vauban) which are in charge of the RU, the CPSU, the accommodation (student residences), sport (a fitness centre with a membership needed, a sport complex and a gymnasium are provided) and services card (in case you lose it or have anise with it).

Information you would be happy to know about living in Lille

For your safety, some numbers you should have in mind:

- **Police station:** 17
- **Fire service:** 18
- **Ambulance:** 15

If you are looking for a late-night pharmacy:

Grande Pharmacie
24/24 Les Halles,
99 rue Masséna

OFII (French Office for Immigration and Integration), concerning you visa:
2 rue de Tenremonde
(open: 8:30-12:30/13:30-16:45)

Prefecture of the region North:
12 rue Jean Sans Peur
Tél. 03 20 30 59 59
(Mon and Fri: 8:30-12:00/13:30-16:30
Tues, Wed and Thur: 8:30-12:00)

Where to do your groceries in Vauban district:

Carrefour market Gambetta:

281 rue Gambetta

Carrefour city:

43 avenue Architecte Cordonnier

Carrefour market :

(close to Résidence AEU -

Foyer international)

41 rue de la Moselle

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