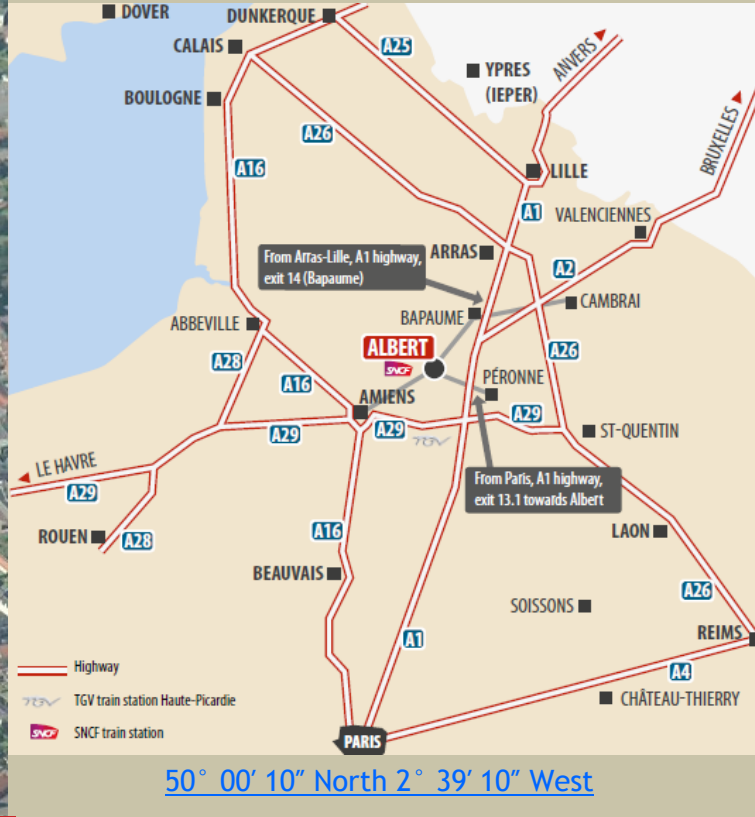




Photographic credit : Georges, Planneur club des coquelicots.



50° 00' 10" North 2° 39' 10" West

# ALBERT

## A must visit town !



Photographic credit : Georges, Planneur club des coquelicots.

### Heritage, History

### How to get to Albert ?

### Nature, Leisure



- Basilica**
- Town Hall**
- Station**
- Somme 1916 museum**
- Aeronautic and Industrial story**
- Public baths exhibition room**
- Art deco style**

Motorway access : A1-A2-A29-A16  
 Railway access : on the line Paris-Lille via Amiens getting off at Albert / TGV station Haute-Picardie from Albert 18kms.  
 Aerial access : Albert-Picardie airport, Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport 130kms, Lille-Lesquin airport 80kms, Beauvais-Tillé airport 80kms.



The Tourist Office is in the center of Albert 9 rue Gambetta, in the Art Deco style former public baths. The team is available :

OFFICE DE TOURISME

from 1/09 to 30/04: from 9am to 12.30 and from 1.30pm to 5pm, from Monday to Saturday



from 1/05 to 31/08: from 9am to 12.30 and from 1.30pm to 6.30pm, from Monday to Sunday (9.00am to 1.30pm)

#### Twin towns :



Ulverston, Niesky, Aldenhoven



- The velodrome park,**
- its campsite, its ponds**
- The public garden**
- and its arboretum,**
- The Ancre river,**
- and its waterfall**
- The bike track of 90kms**

All the information regarding accommodation, cultural events, cinema, restaurants, shops..., are available at the Tourist Office in our Tourist Guide.





The town hall and the train station represent the architecture of the reconstruction. Both buildings reflect the typical architectural Flemish regionalist style.

**1 The Town Hall**

It was rebuilt with a 64-meter high belfry and was inaugurated in 1932 in the presence of the President of the Republic. The facade is adorned with two designs depicting working life before the war : agriculture and industrial activities. Inside, there are stained glass windows, stairs and chandeliers reflecting Art Deco style.



**Guided tours :**  
All year long enthusiastic guides can take you for guided walks within the town.  
Contact : Tourist office of the Poppy Country  
9 rue Gambetta 80300 Albert - +33(0)3.22.75.16.42  
officedetourisme@paysducoquelicot.com

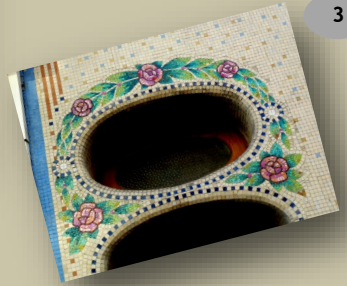


**2 The train station**

Inside the station, a plane hangs. It's known as Potez 36 which is an example of its designer Henry Potez, an aviation pioneer who was a native of this area. In 1924, he established his factory which is now known as « Stelia aerospace » where the cockpits of the Airbus planes (A320- A380) are produced.

**What is Art Deco style?**

After WWI, the town of Albert was in ruins. It was rebuilt using local material (red bricks) in Art Deco style. About 250 facades reflect Art Deco style.



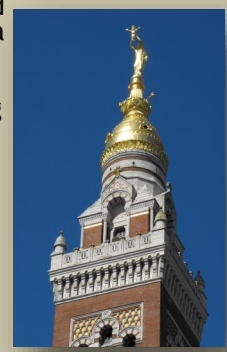
Art Deco means « Art Decoratifs ». It was the name of the international modern and artistic building exhibition, which took place in Paris in 1925.

This architectural style is mainly defined by its simplicity and geometry. Mosaics, ceramics, floral details, decorative bricks, stained glass windows, bow-windows, wrought iron are elements of Art Deco.

**Guided tours :**  
(on booking)  
The town of Albert  
And Art Déco style :  
2h/5€/adult

**4 The Basilica Notre-Dame de Brebières**

Built in a neo-byzantine style, it is one of the most spectacular buildings in town. A legend started in the 11th century when a shepherd and his ewe found a statue.



**Guided tours :**  
(on booking)  
Basilica :  
1h/5€/adult  
Climb the bell tower :  
1h/2€/adult

A second legend during WWI made it more famous : the Leaning Virgin. The Basilica is well known because of the golden Virgin which is covered with 40000 golden leaves. Its sculptor was Albert Roze.

**5 The Somme 1916 Museum**

Situated in a former tunnel which dates from the 13th century, it was used as a public shelter during WWII. Since 1992, the museum, 10 meters underground over 250 meters long, gives an idea of the daily life of the soldiers in the trenches during WWI and in particular the Battle of the Somme.

Rue Anicet Godin  
80300 Albert  
+33(0)3.22.75.16.17  
Open 7/7 9am to 6pm  
(closed from mid-dec to 24/01)  
www.musee-somme-1916.eu  
musee@somme1916.org

Ask at the Tourist Office about the tour of the 10 statues : « Witnesses »



**6 The private collection about Aeronautic and Industrial Story**

The private collection of Marc Betrancourt enables visitors to see about 40 civilian and military aircrafts, that flew between 1944 and 1970, as well as a collection of caravans, bikes, tool machines to show the evolution of technical progress.

17 rue de l'industrie  
80300 Albert  
+33 (0)6.07.36.84.43  
Open on Sunday from 10am to 12 and from 2pm to 5pm for individuals and the week for groups on booking  
www.musee-eia.com



**7 The public garden and its arboretum**



The public garden is from the 15th century when the town had its castle. It has a band stand, flowers, an Art Deco style stairs, statues, and an arboretum with 35 different species of trees. The Ancre river crosses the garden. Its waterfall is 7-meter high and its force was used in the past for the local industries.

Ask at the tourist office about the walking tour through the town and the cycling tours. The new one is Remembrance Tour n°32.



**8 The velodrome area, its ponds, its campsite**

A 333-meter cycling test track was built around the river in 1897 by the local cycling factory called « Cycles Rochet ». After several floodings the track was abandoned and ponds were dug. Nowadays this 24he area is a paradise for fishermen, but also for cyclists, joggers... There is also a 7he protected area for its flora and fauna. The campsite has 75 places and a camping van area for 8 places.

The calendar of all the nature events is available at the Tourist Office.

**End 1st Century AD** A small village was created around the river « ENK ».

**1178 - XVic** In 1178, this small village became a town called Encre and after Ancre when Concini « favourite of the Queen Marie de Médicis » became Marquis of Encre.

**1620** In 1620, the town became known as « Albert » because the title was given to Charles d'Albert de Luynes after the death of Concini.

**1846** Inauguration of the Paris-Lille line. As the population of the town increased. A lot of factories were set up in the town.

**1885-1897** Construction of the Basilica Notre-Dame de Brebières by Edmond Duthoit, architect from Picardy.

**1914-1918** WWI. From the 1st July to the 18th November 1916 : The Battle of the Somme. The town of Albert is released the 23rd August 1918.

**1919-1932** Reconstruction of the town with the help of inhabitants and the foreign labor, especially the one of the towns of Bordeaux, Birmingham, Tien-Tsin et Ain-Temouchent. 1932 : inauguration of the town hall.

**1939-1945** WWII

**2014-2018** For the Centenary of WW1, 10 statues known as « Witnesses of the past » are in town. A walking tour to see them is available at the Tourist Office.