



# Montreuil Sur Mer & ses Vallées

Life-size History...



Patrimoine  
& Culture



Nature



Evènements



Gastronomie

# Press Kit

# 2010

Office de Tourisme de Montreuil-sur-Mer et ses Vallées

21 rue Carnot - BP 13 - 62170 Montreuil-sur-Mer

Administration : 03 21 06 72 47 - Accueil : 03 21 06 04 27 - fax : 03 21 06 57 85

Web : [www.tourisme-montreuillois.com](http://www.tourisme-montreuillois.com) - Mail : [accueil@tourisme-montreuillois.com](mailto:accueil@tourisme-montreuillois.com)

Siret : 78404687200015 - Code APE : 633 Z



## Montreuil-sur-Mer and its valleys

Stop over at Montreuil-sur-Mer!

Fashioned along the centuries by historical events or architectural skills, this fortified town is one of the most beautiful illustrations of history of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais. From the ramparts or the citadel, a romantic refuge, where you will discover a fascinating heritage. After visiting its rich and varied museum, you can make your way its squares and shopping streets.

Let yourself be enticed by one of the countless bars and restaurants of the town; feasting on one of the numerous specialities that account for the region's gastronomical repute, you will be able to dream on about Montreuil.

Then take time to discover this attractive region and become familiar with the gentle charms of the surrounding Opal Coast with its nature trail and outdoor activities. Inns, B&B's, chambres d'hôtes, the region's products will be as many reasons to prolong your stay.

What could be more fascinating than a journey through time!  
Let a varied and preserved nature help you relax!

If you wish to receive more detailed information, please forward your request to:



## Montreuil-sur-Mer, a city of heritage and history

*“I left Etaples at the crack of dawn. I wanted to have lunch in Montreuil-sur-Mer, from the ramparts the view onto the hills and meadows is fantastic as the town is situated on high ground.”* (Letter to Adèle by Victor Hugo, 1837)

Montreuil-sur-Mer is situated at the mouth of the river Canche, overlooking the hills of the Ponthieu and the Opal Coast. From this geographical situation, the town has inherited its military position. It is the most beautiful walled town at Northern France.

Churches, chapels, mansions and picturesque streets are enclosed within its beautiful stone walls. Either state, religious or military, the monuments from the Middle Ages to present day tell the visitors about the unique history of Montreuil-sur-Mer.

Three heritage tours allow the visitors to discover the military, economic or religious past of the town. A leaflet is available at the Tourist Information Office.

### Flowers everywhere

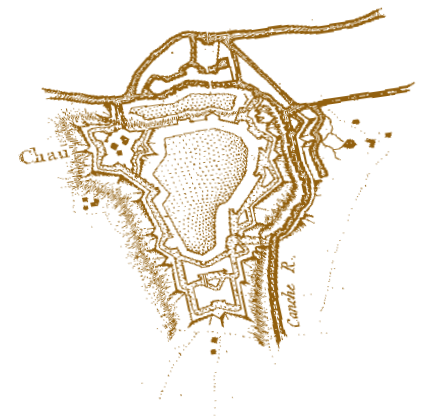
Montreuil-sur-Mer has been awarded a 4-star national floral distinction since 1998, which makes the inhabitants proud of their city and its refined floral displays.

### Heritage Programme

April: Euro – regional days of the walled cities

June: Local heritage days

September: European heritage days



## Unexpected Treasures are hidden in churches and museums

The area of Montreuil-sur-Mer has kept a lot of memories and relics throughout history. While visiting the museums and monuments, you will discover unexpected treasures.

### Acary and the five senses

The hotel Acary de la Rivière was built in 1810 by Marshal Henri Dominique d'Acary de la Rivière. Its special location, its architecture, its finely sculpted façade make it one of the most beautiful dwellings in Montreuil-sur-Mer.

Its last owner gave it to the town as a legacy in 1978. A guided visit and special events will offer the visitor sensual feelings of history and art.

### The Roger Rodière Museum

The museum of art and history was named after Roger Rodière, an archaeologist who lived in Montreuil-sur-Mer. It was located in the chapel of the old orphanage in 1970. Exhibitions, sacred art and a collection of old coins can be seen here.

Because the museum is being restored at the moment, it's closed for the public.

A lot of relics of saints are kept in churches and chapels in Montreuil-sur-Mer and its area. The collections have grown thanks to the faith and the generosity of the inhabitants.

### The old treasure in the Abbey Church of St Saulve

Monks coming from Landevennec in Brittany, founded the abbey of St. Saulve early in the 10th century. It was a church on the pilgrimage route. A lot of restorations were undertaken between the 12th and the 19th century. One of the oldest abbey crosses in Europe is the most beautiful piece of sacred art in Northern France.

### Valuable furniture of the Chapel of the Hotel Dieu

The Hotel Dieu was founded around 1200 by Gauthier de Maintenay, the squire of Montreuil and was used as a hospital until 1992. In 1870, the architect Clovis Normand instigated its restoration with the addition of magnificent stain-glass windows. The Chapel has retained its 15th century portal, depicting scenes from Christ's Passion. Outstanding pieces of furniture dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries can be seen inside.

### A tour of the churches

Six churches in Montreuil and its area can be visited.

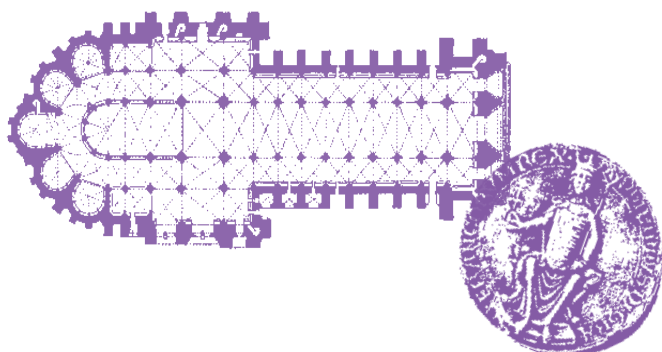
A leaflet is available at the Tourist Information Office.

**For further information:**

**Service d'animation du patrimoine et des musées**

**Tel: 03.21.06.01.33**

**Website: [www.montreuilpatrimoine.org](http://www.montreuilpatrimoine.org)**



## The Source of peaceful atmosphere

The famous N 1 road runs through Montreuil and its region which is divided into the Canche, the Course and the Authie valleys. The harmonious and varied landscapes offer open air activities. Numerous picturesque villages hide themselves, preserving their architecture and history.

## Canoeing on the river Canche

In a preservation area, the river Canche flows across varied landscapes. Individuals or groups can be accompanied by qualified instructors.

Please contact the Canoe-Kayak Club:

Tel.: 03 21 06 20 16

E-mail: [ckmontreuil@wanadoo.fr](mailto:ckmontreuil@wanadoo.fr)

## The Course Valley, one of the most beautiful valley in the Nord/Pas-de-Calais region

Famous for trout fishing, water cress growing, the river Course flows across meadows and picturesque villages full of flowers. It is also well-known for its heritage: castles, manors, churches, water mills, houses and farm buildings made of cob.

Every Friday in July and August, local farmers have hold their evening market where you will find genuine specialities. The week-end of August 15th, local houses, churches and other buildings are illuminated

Information:

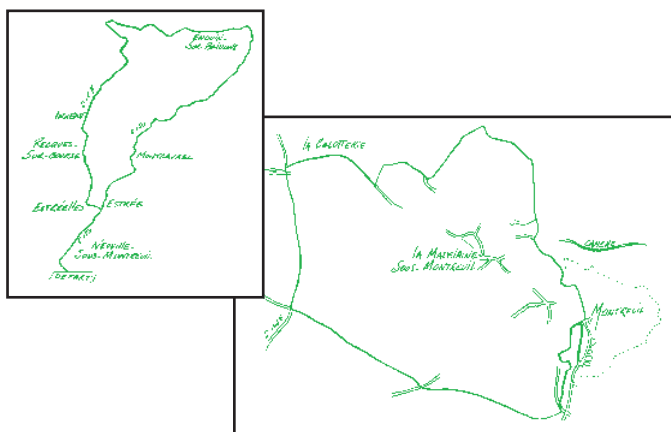
Syndicat d'Initiative de la Course et de ses Affluents

Tel : 03.21.90.54.00

## A Variety of outdoor activities

Are available, e.g: pony-trekking, rambling, walking, cycling, ...

All information on these activities can be found at the Tourist Information Office.



## Montreuil-sur-Mer, a city of culture and events

A lot of events are held between April and October in a friendly atmosphere: heritage festivals, exhibitions, concerts, lectures, sporting events, ...

The summer season highlights are attended by thousands of people. From September till June, there are plays at the theatre and at other places around Montreuil.

Ask for the programme at the Tourist Information Office:

Tel.: 03 21 06 04 27

Website: [www.tourisme-montreuillois.com](http://www.tourisme-montreuillois.com)

Or contact Passerelles, theatre and cinema:

Tel.: 03 21 81 52 73

E-mail: [passerelles.paysdumontreuillois@wanadoo.fr](mailto:passerelles.paysdumontreuillois@wanadoo.fr)

## Victor Hugo and Montreuil-sur-Mer

In 1837, Victor Hugo toured Belgium and Northern France. On his way back to Paris, he travelled along the Opale Coast and stopped in Montreuil-sur-Mer on September 4th 1837. A few years later he set the main story of the first part of his novel "Les Miserables" in this town. Since 1996, more than 400 volunteers have performed in a famous Sound and Light Show.

Fiction and reality mingle, the story and the dream overlap each other within the mysterious setting of the citadel.

Information:

Sound and Light show "Les Miserables" in Montreuil-sur-Mer

Booking: 03 21 06 72 45

## "Les Malins Plaisirs" Festival

*Les  
Malins  
Plaisirs*

A theatre, opera and music festival has been held in Montreuil-sur-Mer since 1989.

Enjoy yourself through theatre, opera, dance, walks and rural food tasting.

Information:

Renseignements : 03.21.98.12.26

ou [lesmalinsplaisirs@wanadoo.fr](mailto:lesmalinsplaisirs@wanadoo.fr)



## Fantastic chefs of our area

The heritage of Montreuil and its many festivities attract more and more tourists, the town is also the best place for keen gastronomes. There are 12 high-quality restaurants which offer a wide range of menus. From family cooking to the more sophisticated, from a Michelin-starred restaurant to brasseries and bistros, Montreuil-sur-Mer means choice and deserves its gastronomic reputation.

Most restaurants offer a variety of local products such as “Pré salé lamb” (lamb reared on salt marshes from the Somme Estuary), the “Andouille” from Montreuil (a local type of sausage), sheep cheese from Esgranges, watercress from Enquin-sous-Baillons.

Come and visit these restaurants to taste their wide variety of delicious regional dishes. For example: “Sautéed frog legs with watercress and garlic from Arleux”, “Crispy Vieux Boulogne cheese with leeks”, “Sheep cheese tartare from Esgranges”, “Oysters cooked in champagne served hot”, “Welsh rarebit”, “Flammenkuche” or “Ficelles picardes” (stuffed pancakes from Picardy).

Information:

Club hôtelier "Saveurs, Terroir et Hostellerie du Pays de Montreuil"

Website : [www.tourisme-montreuil.com](http://www.tourisme-montreuil.com)

Côte d'Opale Gourmande

Website : [www.cotedopalegourmande.com](http://www.cotedopalegourmande.com)

## Gourmets restaurants of Montreuil or around

In a region where gastronomy, country cooking and local products contribute to the daily pleasure of both gourmets and those who simply enjoy their food, Montreuil and its area abound with many local producers. You will discover a variety of local specialities either savoury or sweet, as well as all sorts of cheeses, cakes and drinks. You can sit back and really enjoy these local and traditional specialities.

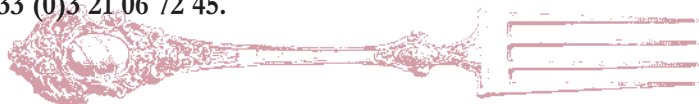
Some producers revive long-forgotten delights such as a sparkling red-currant wine called “Perlé de Groseille”, the traditional whisked cake called “Gâteau battu” in Picardy or a sort of brioche called “Cugnot” which was once offered the inhabitants by the local millers. New products are also invented such as: the Jean Valjean and Cosette beers or the Miserables chocolates named like this as a tribute to Victor Hugo.

## GASTRONOMY in MONTREUIL-SUR-MER and around

On Saturday July 4th and Sunday July 5th 2009., a big gastronomy festival will take place on the Grand Place, offering a lot of different activities:

- famous local chefs will cook and make you taste their cuisine in the marquee,
- a market with regional products will be held,
- exhibition and sale of table decoration,
- music and theatre all over the week-end.

For further information, please call the Tourist Office at  
0033 (0)3 21 06 72 45.



# Notes Personnelles



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## **Contact Presse**

Maxime BERTON  
Office de Tourisme de Montreuil-sur-Mer et ses Vallées  
21 rue Carnot - BP 13  
62170 MONTREUIL-SUR-MER

Tél. : 03.21.06.72.45 - Fax : 03.21.06.57.85  
E-mail : [promotion@tourisme-montreuillois.com](mailto:promotion@tourisme-montreuillois.com)

