



« WE MAKE MENTION OF THE CHOIR OF BEAUVAIS... IT IS THE PARTHENON OF FRENCH ARCHITECTURE; IT ONLY REQUIRES TO BE COMPLETED. »

Eugène Viollet-le-Duc / 1868

WALK BEAUVAIS

DISCOVER BEAUVAIS, CITY OF ART AND HISTORY



Guided Tours:

from April to September

A guide will tell you all about the history and heritage of Beauvais. Information on +33 (0) 44 15 30 30

À la carte visits

according to your desires!

Book your visit according to one of the «à la carte» themes, on the days and times of your choice. You can to get together with your family or friends and contact us at +33 (0) 44 15 30 34.

If you are in a group

The Tourist Office can organise guided visits all year round, advance booking is required.

A selection of brochures can be provided on demand. Information on +33 (0) 44 15 30 34



La P'tite Boutique du Coin

Come and visit the Tourist Office and discover La p'tite boutique of the corner... You will find products (local craft beers local beers, Beauvais caramels, donkey milk soaps), souvenirs (magnets, mugs, postcards, postcards, collectors' items), handicrafts and books on our destination for for all tastes and budgets. New products all year long, a personalized advice, a smiling and dynamic team smiling and dynamic team is also our commitment!

FOCUS
ILS ONT LAISSÉ LEUR NOM
A BEAUVAIS

FOCUS
LA TAPISSERIE
A BEAUVAIS

To learn more about the history and heritage of Beauvais...
... a collection of brochures is at your disposal.
Available at the Tourist Office ... but also on
BEAUVAIS CULTURE

The City of Art and History department

Coordinates and implements the initiative of Beauvais City of Art and History. All year round, it organises events for local residents and school pupils and is at your disposal for any project.

This document was designed

under the direction of Marie Ansar, architecture and heritage interpreter in partnership with the Tourist Office of Beauvais urban district

Photos

Communication department of Beauvais city, unless otherwise stated - Cathedral on the cover : B: Teissedre - Tourist office - Beauvais

Map

Geographical information systems of Beauvais urban district

Design

Communication department of Beauvais city - 12/2022

Beauvais has been part of the national network of Villes et Pays d'art et d'histoire (Cities and Countries of Art and History) since 2012.

The Ministry of Culture and Communication awards the label Cities and Countries of Art and History to local authorities that carry out activities to promote and enhance their architecture and their heritage. It attests to the competence of the official tour guides, and the curators of the architecture and heritage and the quality of their actions. From ancient vestiges to 21st Century architecture, cities and countries showcase the diversity of their heritage. Today, a network of 202 cities and countries offer you their expertise throughout France.

Nearby:

Amiens Métropole, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Calais, Cambrai, Chantilly, Laon, Lens-Liévin, Lille, Noyon, Roubaix, Saint-Omer - Flandre Intérieure, Saint-Quentin, Santerre - Haute-Somme, Pays de Senlis à Ermenonville, Soissons and Tourcoing have all been awarded the « Ville et Pays d'art et d'histoire » label.

Information

« Ville d'art et d'histoire »

Ville de Beauvais
Direction des affaires culturelles
Espace culturel
François-Mitterrand
Rue de Gesvres
60000 BEAUVAIS
03 44 15 67 00
patrimoine@beauvais.fr
All the cultural news about the city can be found on culture.beauvais.fr

Office de Tourisme Beauvais & Beauvaisis

1, Rue Beaugard
60000 BEAUVAIS
03 44 15 30 30
ot.beauvaisis@beauvaistourisme.fr
More information on beauvaistourisme.fr

HAUTS-DE-FRANCE



VILLES & PAYS D'ART & D'HISTOIRE

Beauvais was founded in the 1st Century AD under the name of *Caesaromagus* ‘The market of Caesar’ before being renamed *Civitas Bellovacorum* or the ‘City of the Bellovaques’, from which its current name is derived. In the early Middle Ages, the city was raised to the rank of Diocese, the seat of the Count Bishop, who built his cathedral in the heart of what had been the ancient city. From this time, the city was renowned for its textile activity. In 1664, the city’s expertise in this area led Colbert, the Financial Comptroller of Louis XIV, to set up a royal tapestry-making manufactory, which found fame all around Europe. Beauvais kept its image as a medieval city until spring 1940, when 80% of the city centre was destroyed by the German Air Force. This meant it had to be rebuilt and the urban area modernised, while continuing to showcase the ancient heritage.



© B. Trévisse - Office de tourisme - Beauvais

Let the salamander guide you and take a walk through 2000 years of the history of Beauvais from the Gallo-Roman ramparts through Le Quadrilatère, without forgetting the cathedral, of course.




Throughout this tour you will find explanatory panels to enhance your visit. They are shown by this symbol in the tour. On each sign, additional information is available using a smartphone.

The Episcopal district is at the heart of Beauvais’ history. The forum of the Roman city, which was founded in the 1st Century and known as *Caesaromagus* (Caesar’s market), was created in this district. It is also here that the Count-Bishops of Beauvais chose to locate their power.


THE CATHEDRAL DISTRICT

(1.2 km – 30 min)


1 COLLÉGIALE SAINT-BARTHÉLEMY

 This gothic structure is the only remaining vestige of the collegiate church of Saint Barthelemy – a church until the Revolution, only the choir has resisted the passage of time.

2 LE QUADRILATÈRE


 Opened in 1976 to exhibit tapestries produced in the Beauvais workshop, Le Quadrilatère is today home to exhibitions of all artistic fields.

3 CATHÉDRALE SAINT-PIERRE


 This Cathedral boasts the highest Gothic vaults in the world, and symbolises the power of the Bishops of Beauvais, the Counts of the city since the 11th Century. The facade which appears before you is teeming with sculptures and details. This sumptuousness was designed to dazzle the visitor, whether they were Kings or local people, and continues to do so with 21st Century tourists.



4 NOTRE-DAME DE LA BASSE-ŒUVRE


 Beauvais has preserved not one but two cathedrals. As construction of Saint Peter was never completed, the first cathedral, Notre-Dame de la Basse-Œuvre, was partially retained and still stands modestly alongside the imposing Gothic structure.

5 MUDO - MUSÉE DE L'OISE

 This palace was the home of famous bishops including Philippe de Dreux, nephew of King Louis VII, and Pierre Cauchon, who condemned Joan of Arc to the stake. Today it houses the collections of the Oise Museum, which illustrate the virtuosity of the artists and the expertise of the department.



© Stéphane Vermeiren

 You have the choice of two tours. On leaving the MUDO, you can go directly to point 9 by turning left. Walk up the full length of Rue du Musée and turn right at the end, until you reach the Cathedral gate. You can also discover the many and varied features of the cathedral district by walking down Rue Saint-Pierre to the right. After 60m, turn left into Rue de l’Ecole de Chant.

6 RUE DE L'ÉCOLE DE CHANT

At the end of this street, a blue half-timbered house was once the home of the sculptor Rodin, who lived there with his uncle.

7 LE THÉRAIN

Since Gallo-Roman times, the course of the River Thérain has been deviated to enable human activity, whether to protect the city, to provide clean water or for industrial purposes, notably for the textile activities that made the city so wealthy in the Middle Ages.

8 PUBLIC BATH HOUSE

Opened in 1921, this establishment allowed the people of Beauvais who did not have a bathroom at home, to have a weekly “full wash”, generally on Saturdays before going out. It only closed in 1981.



9 CLOÎTRE DE LA CATHÉDRALE

As you approach the cathedral, the cloister is on your right. Combining a variety of styles and materials (stone, timber frame and brick) it is one of the most picturesque in France and also one of the oldest, dating from the 11th Century.



10 15TH CENTURY HOUSE

The surroundings of this house are an illustration of traditional Beauvais architecture. Most of Beauvais houses were timber frame and clay structures until the 20th Century.

Walk around the house and on its right, take the door that crosses the rampart. Opposite you will see Rue Nicolas-Pastour, which is also made up of ancient timber-frame houses. Turn right and follow the ramparts..

11 STATUE OF JEAN RACINE

Sculpted in 1937 by Eugène-Paul Benet, this statue is the reminder that the playwright Jean Racine studied at Beauvais School.

12 THE ANCIENT RAMPARTS

From the top of this rampart, you can contemplate 17 centuries of history! This Gallo-Roman rampart is the oldest monument in Beauvais.

After this immersion in the cathedral district head to the city centre, which also has secrets to share with you. Three discovery tours of the city can be found overleaf.



© Cathédrale de Beauvais OiseTourisme - Comedimages.com

NEARBY...

AVENUE VICTOR-HUGO

Follow the River Thérain, cross Boulevard Amyot d'Inville then stroll along Avenue Victor-Hugo, a veritable museum of ceramics. Built between 1890 and 1910, the houses that line the avenue are teeming with details – snails, thistles, sunflowers – the works of the local ceramicist, Charles Gréber.



DID YOU KNOW?


Beauvais Cathedral has the highest Gothic choir in the world

The vaults of the Saint Pierre Cathedral, considered to be the “Parthenon of French architecture” by Viollet-le-Duc, soar to a height of some 48 metres. They are the highest in the history of Gothic art!


THE HISTORICAL CENTRE AND THE SAINT-ÉTIENNE CHURCH


(1.2 km – 30 min)

We invite you to visit the historical centre following three tours, each of which covers one part of it.

 From the Tourist Office, take the pedestrian street to the right, then take the first right into Rue de la Taillerie. Cross the square until reaching the information table to the right of the town hall.

13 PLACE JEANNE-HACHETTE AND THE TOWN HALL


 Since the 11th Century, this square has been the centre of community life. The town hall with its 18th Century facade reflects Beauvais' success, when it was renowned throughout Europe for the tapestries from its royal manufactory. At the centre of the square stands the statue of Jeanne Hachette, heroine of Beauvais since the siege of 1472, her bravery inspiring Beauvais' citizens to push back the Burgundians.

 On your right, 20 metres behind, you can find Rue de la Frette, at the end of which can be seen the Greber Fountain.

14 FONTAINE GRÉBER

At the end of Rue de la Frette, the goddess Venus emerges from the waters at the very moment of her birth. This fountain, made in 1906, is the work of the Beauvaisian sculptor, Henri Gréber.


15 ÉGLISE SAINT-ÉTIENNE

 Until 1789, Saint-Étienne was the church of the municipal power. Acting as a belfry, its bells would summon the local population. When he was elected, the city's mayor would take his oath at the northern door which stands before you, under the round bay window of the 12th Century transept, known as the "wheel of fortune".




16 PONT DE PARIS

Opened in 1951, this bridge was created with the reconstruction of the city centre after the Second World War. An exceptional work of art for its period, this panoramic bridge combines the audacity of a curved format with pre-stressed concrete.


 Mid-way across the bridge, take the footbridge to the right. Continue straight ahead then 60m later on your left, take the bridge towards the Ile Saint-Symphorien.

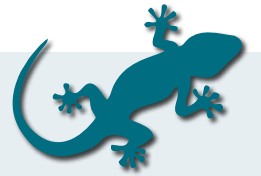
17 ÎLE SAINT-SYMPHORIEN

The island was occupied from the Middle Ages by a number of mills, destroyed by the war in 1940. Today the island has become a park, where it is possible to enjoy a pleasant stroll along the banks of the Thérain.

 Walk up the right hand side of the island. At the Fernand Watteeuw square, turn left in the direction of the level crossing. A few metres before the level crossing, on the right, enter into the square of the Boileau tower.

18 TOUR BOILEAU

 The vestiges of medieval fortifications placed outside of the ramparts, the tower defended the city against artillery cannons that could be located on Saint-Jean hill, which lies just 150 metres from the Thérain



DID YOU KNOW?
The salamander is the symbol of Beauvais' heritage.

A mythical fire-dwelling animal but which is immune to its effects, the salamander symbolises the renaissance of Beauvais, a city that has been destroyed many times in its history but each time always rises from the ashes.




EXTEND YOUR VISIT, WITH THE FLOOR TILES IN JEANNE-HACHETTE SQUARE


Tiles with the symbols of Beauvais' heritage have been incorporated into the paving stones of the square and pay tribute to the Beauvais tile manufactories of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, including Colozier and Boulenger. Each pattern represents an element of the heritage of Beauvais and is explained on the base of the statue of Jeanne Hachette.

RUE DU 27 JUIN

(600 m – 20 min)

 From the Tourist Office, take the pedestrian street to the right until you reach the fountain. Walk up the shopping street on your left until the Post Office. You will find an explanatory panel on the side of the building in Rue Gambetta.


19 THE POST OFFICE

 Dominating the main shopping street, the post office is an example of the regional architecture of Beauvais in the 1920-1930s.

20 HÔTEL DU LION D'OR, No. 52 RUE GAMBETTA

Formerly its name was “au lit on dort” (in bed we sleep) and this building is a fine example of an 18th Century Town House. Behind it is an attractive courtyard surrounded by timber framed houses.

21 RUE DU 27 JUIN


 Lined by timber-framed tiled-roof houses or brick houses with slate roofs,



this street is a catalogue of the historical architecture in Beauvais.

© Beauvais-Oise Tourisme Comdesimages

22 ESPACE CULTUREL FRANCOIS-MITERRAND

 This imposing stone façade from the 18th Century was a hospice for more than 300 years, where orphans, the elders and homeless people were secluded, on the margins of society.

23 PORTE DE BRESLES ET LE PONT DU JEU DE PAUME

One of the gateways to the city occupied this location, the Porte de Bresles, where Jeanne Hachette tore the standard of a Burgundian soldier, on 27 June 1472. The bridge giving access to the gateway, which was found during archaeological excavations, has been partially conserved in the Jeu de Paume shopping centre.


NEARBY... MAISON GRÉBER

 Just 500 metres from Rue du 27 juin, in Rue de Calais, admire the facade of the Maison Gréber. The last remaining vestige of the Gréber ceramics manufactory, created in 1866, the facade is designed like an advertising hoarding, showing the catalogue of products made at the beginning of the 20th Century. It is occasionally used to host cultural events or when associations require it.




THE WALK TO SCHOOL

(1.6 km – 45 min)

 At the end of Rue du 27 Juin, climb the stairs to your left, then cross the Place des Maréchaux until the Lycée Félix-Faure (Félix-Faure high school).

24 LYCÉE FÉLIX-FAURE

 From the Middle Ages to the 20th Century, education has been very present in Beauvais, with famous alumni including Jean Racine and Félix Faure. The city still has high schools of monumental architecture, “school palaces” that are pay witness to the significant debates around public education at the end of the 19th Century.


25 STATUES OF FRENCH MILITARY LEADERS

These four monumental statues represent the military leaders Juin, De Lattre de Tassigny, Koenig and Leclerc de Hautecloque, commemorating the commanders of the armed forces during the Second World War. This monument by the sculptor Charles Correia had been planned for Les Invalides in Paris.



26 BOULEVARD SAINT-ANDRÉ

On your left, observe the houses that line the boulevard. Built in the early 20th Century, they are decorated with architectural ceramics, a tradition in Beauvais, produced by the Gréber manufactory.

 After the shopping centre, turn right towards the cathedral and carry on until you reach the intersection of Rue Jeanne d'Arc and Rue Jacques de Guéhengnies.

27 RUE JEANNE D'ARC

This street was created after the Second World War, during the reconstruction of the city, in order to offer a view of the cathedral.

28 RUE VINCENT DE BEAUVAIS

Vincent de Beauvais was a 13th Century monk, the author of an encyclopaedia compiling the knowledge of the Middle Ages, and a member of the Dominican monastery in Beauvais.

29 LYCÉE DES JACOBINS

This centre of education was already in activity in the 17th Century, with nuns raising, educating and providing religious instruction to poor young girls. Today it has become a public building, but the former convent is still an educational establishment.



30 PLACE DES HALLES

In the square, walk along the archway to the left. Near the pedestrian crossing on the right, you will find an explanatory panel.

Despite its name, no hall exists on this square, despite the fact that a market is held there twice a week. In the 1940s, there had been plans to rebuild the hall, as it had been before the Second World War. But the project never came to fruition in the immediate post-war period.

31 RUE D'ALSACE

The houses in the street are some of the oldest in the city. Numbers 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 date from the 16th Century and a large decorative frieze runs under the roof of number 19.

32 CHAPELLE SAINT-JOSEPH

The seat of the archconfraternity of Saint Joseph since 1859, the decoration of this neo-gothic chapel is in line with its role, Saint Joseph dominating the facade while the Holy Family surrounded by angels is represented above the portal.

33 RAILWAY STATION

At the end of the 19th Century, the railway station was the main entrance to the city for tourists on holiday. Immediately upon leaving the train they could admire the newly-designed town with a square facing the station and tree-lined boulevards encircling the city-centre, ideal for Sunday strolls.



The seven districts that surround Beauvais city centre also have their secrets. The main monuments are indicated by explanatory panels, including the Maison Gréber, the churches of Notre-Dame de Marissel, Notre-Dame-du-Thil, and Saint-Jacques, the former abbey of Saint-Symphorien, the Saint-Lucien Tower, the Prefecture of the Oise, the trimmings manufactory, the Argentine water tower, and the Maladrerie Saint-Lazare.



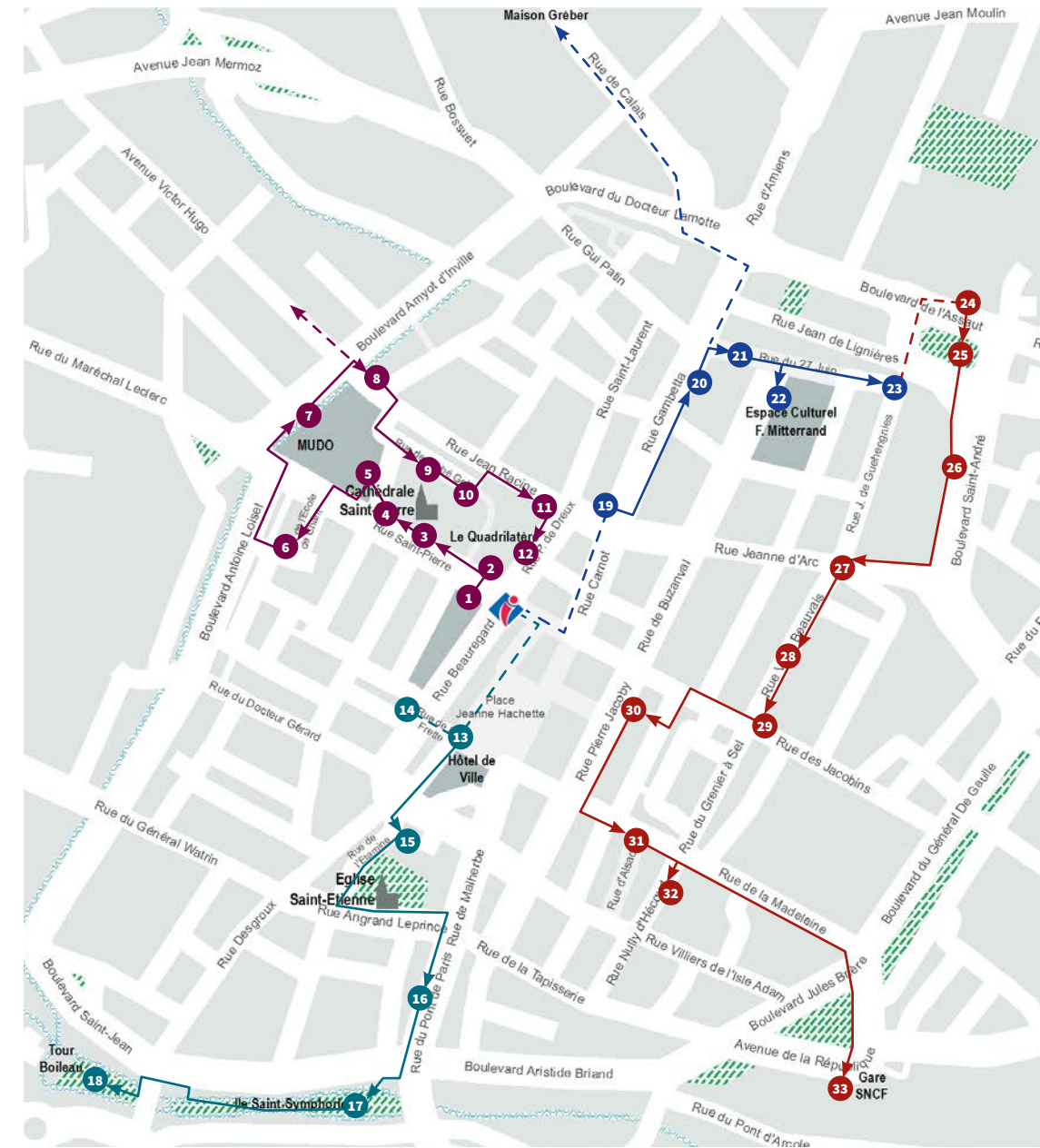
350 YEARS OF EXPERTISE... THE NATIONAL TAPESTRY MANUFACTORY

Beauvais has been home to a tapestry manufactory since 1664. Created by Louis XIV, it is still in activity today and produces tapestries for the State each year. The manufactory is open all year round to groups and each summer individual visits are possible, but must be booked in advance. Information and booking on +33 (0) 44 15 30 30

EXCEPTIONAL MEDIEVAL ARCHITECTURE... THE MALADRERIE SAINT-LAZARE



On the outskirts of the city, the Lazaret consists of three exceptional buildings on one site, dating from the 12th and 13th Centuries, and a garden of medieval inspiration which is pleasant to stroll around. This former hospital from the Middle Ages today plays host to cultural events, concerts, street arts and exhibitions. Information on +33 (0) 44 15 67 62 or maladrerie.fr



PARCOURS

- The Cathedral district
- The historical centre and the Saint-Étienne church
- Rue du 27 juin
- The walk to school