1. From the car park, follow Avenue Aristide Briand to the Ponthieu Crossing (La Traverse du Ponthieu). Follow it to the left.
   ▸ *The hiking trail follows a section of the former Lille-Abbeville-Le Tréport railway line. It was inaugurated in 1869, closed to passenger services in 1956, but maintained for transporting goods until 1989. Service stopped completely in 1998.*
2. Pass underneath the Scardon Bridge.
   ▸ *This A16 bridge, measuring 1022 metres and named after the river it crosses, is the most important piece of road engineering in the Somme.*
3. Take the D82 at l'Heure, a hamlet of Caours.
   ▸ *In the 13th century, pilgrims came to the 9th and 10th century Notre-Dame Chapel to pray for protection against epidemics.*
4. Cross the bridge at Caours.
   ▸ *St. Martin Church from the 18th century and two chateaus from the same period.*
5. At Neufmoulin, cross the Rue du Bois de l'Abbaye.
   ▸ *With no church, this village has never known the origin of its name (translated as "Newmill" or "Ninemill). Did it come from one brand-new mill or from a series of mills established along the River Scardon? You can decide which explanation you prefer!*
6. Take the D925 at Drugy.
7. You have arrived at Saint-Riquier. Cross the D12 and then a bridge under which a branch of the River Scardon flows. This river begins its journey from the woods.
8. Cross the D925 at Neuville, a hamlet of Oneux.
9. Walk past the St. Martin Cross
   ▸ *Tucked into the greenery, this crucifix is supposed to mark the location of the old cemetery and church of Oneux, now 2km away; the 18th century St. Martin Church; funeral chapel of the 19th century; crucifixes, one of which is in iron on a foundation of stone that represents a castle; ponds and wells.*
10. Cross under the bridge.
    ▸ *Nearby: the St. Gervais Chapel and Coulonvillers Cemetery located 1km away, St. Claude Chapel from the 16th century at Festel.*
11. Cross the ancient Roman Way, known as the Chausée Brunehaut and now the D108.
    ▸ *In Picardy in the 6th century, the Roman Ways were called "Chausées Brunehaut", after the Queen of Austrasia. She was accused of many crimes, horribly tortured and torn limb from limb, dragged behind a horse. At Hanchy, 18th century St. Barbe Chapel.*
12. You have arrived at Conteville.
    ▸ *The former Aimont Abbey Chapel and old brick-factory chimney.*
    Pass through the former station of Conteville and under the bridge.
    ▸ *The St. Pierre Church dates from the 17th century, an imposing cross flanked by two statues can be found in the graveyard.*
13. Cross the D166 (former level-crossing) and walk under the bridge. Continue to Mortay Woos.
14. Walk through the wood.
15. Cross the railway bridge at Paniers Wood.
    ▸ *A wooden staircase takes you to a path (on the left) leading to the St. Claude Chapel, nestled in the greenery. An iron crucifix leans against it.*
    Continue through Guet Wood.
    ▸ *Underground caves, or "muches", where villagers took shelter during invasions can be found nearby at Hiermont. Close to the 13th century Jean-Baptiste Church stands an iron cross set in a sandstone base. The 10th century Manatre Chapel in the cemetery is dedicated to Our Lady.*
16. Leave the wood and follow alongside it to the former Bernatre platform.
    ▸ *This single rail track provided extra tracks at stations to allow trains to pass each other. A platform was all that welcomed passengers in some of the more humble villages. Remains of the castle, dovecote, wells, and an iron cross donated by the "Youth of Bernatre" in 1869.*
17. Exit the Ponthieu Crossing, which today ends 850 metres before the border with the Pas-de-Calais Department.



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somme
LE CONSEIL DÉPARTEMENTAL

The Ponthieu Crossing

Follow the old railway track where for over a century trains travelled from the capital of Ponthieu to the capital of Flanders.

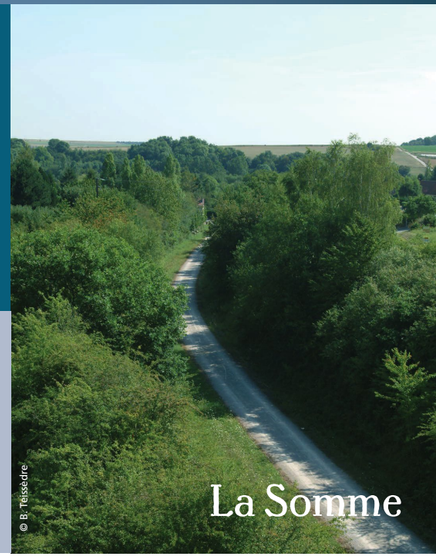
Time: **8 hours**

Distance: **24 km**

Route: **moderate**

Starting at: The old station house at the Porte du Bois (Rue Aristide Briand), car park at the Abbeville swimming pool (Aqu'Abb).





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La Somme

Of Interest

The "Voie"

Ainsi appelée dans le jargon
This is how train drivers called this railway line. It is composed of three elements: ballast - stone-chippings laid to stabilise the ground - on top of which are placed 2.6 metre long, hard wood sleepers to hold the width between the rails. These two essentials provided operational flexibility at the platform as the convoys passed. The steel rails, fixed onto the sleepers by lag bolts, stretch out in parallel lines 1,435 metres apart. They used to be attached to each other with bolts with a gap left to allow them to expand in the heat: this is what gave the familiar "railway" sound as the wheels passed. In recent times, many new technologies have been developed but these three essential elements have remained unchanged.

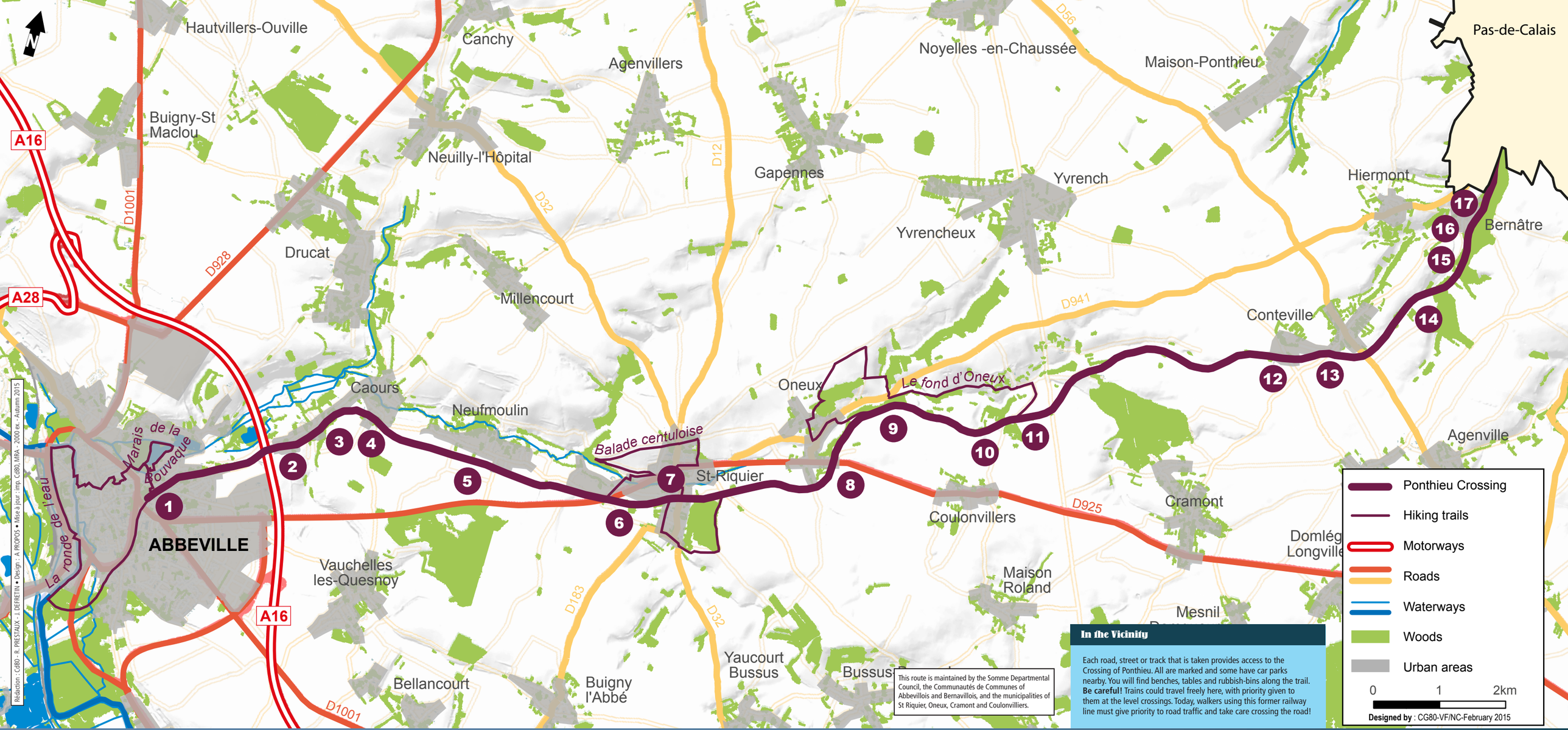
Abbeville, a Town with a Rich Heritage

The Flamboyant Gothic master-piece that dominates the façade of the St. Vulfran Collegiate dates from the 15th century, while the choir dates from the 17th. From its 15th century tower, the St. Sépulcre Church presents modern stain-glassed windows by Alfred Manessier. The St. Gilles Church portal is the last testimony of the 15th century. A museum of archaeology named after Jacques Boucher de Crévecoeur de Perthes, known as the "Father of Pre-history", can be found in the 13th century belfry. The 18th century Royal Manufacture of Rames (fine cloth) pays homage to the weaving industry, started by the Van Robais cloth merchant family from Holland, who owned the Bagatelle chateau. The Emonville Park (named after the botanist from the 19th century) houses part of the municipal library.

The Pride of Centule

A monastery was built on the tomb of Saint Riquier, after whom the capital city of Centule was renamed, in the 7th century and soon became a renowned Carolingian abbey. The greatly modified abbey-church is a master-piece of Flamboyant Gothic architecture of the 17th century and today a museum, exhibitions and music festivals are held here. The stone belfry, with its turrets and pinnacle, is an emblem of the communal charter. It was built in the 13th century and restored in the 16th. The Hôtel-Dieu Chapel from the 18th century is decorated with wooden sculptures by Pfaffenhoffen, an Austrian baron who was exiled here after an unlucky duel, and the iron gates were created by Veyren, known as the Vivarais.

Tourist Offices: St-Riquier: 03 22 28 91 72 / Crécy en Ponthieu: 03 22 23 93 84 / De l'Abbevillois: 03 22 24 27 98


Hautvillers-Ouville
Canchy
Agenvillers
Noyelles -en-Chaussée
Maison-Ponthieu
Pas-de-Calais
Buigny-St Maclou
A16
Neuilly-l'Hôpital
D1001
D12
D32
Gapennes
Yvrench
Hiermont
Bernâtre
Yvrencheux
D928
Drucat
A28
Millencourt
D941
Conteville
Caours
Neufmoulin
Oneux
Le fond d'Oneux
Balade centuloise
Marais de la Couvaque
La ronde de l'eau
ABBEVILLE
St-Riquier
Coulonvillers
D925
Cramont
Agenville
Vauchelles les-Quesnoy
Maison Roland
Mesnil
D183
Yaucourt Bussus
Bussus
Buigny l'Abbé
Bellancourt
D1001
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
Ponthieu Crossing
Hiking trails
Motorways
Roads
Waterways
Woods
Urban areas
0
1
2km
Designed by : CG80-VF/NC-February 2015
In the Vicinity
Each road, street or track that is taken provides access to the Crossing of Ponthieu. All are marked and some have car parks nearby. You will find benches, tables and rubbish-bins along the trail. Be careful! Trains could travel freely here, with priority given to them at the level crossings. Today, walkers using this former railway line must give priority to road traffic and take care crossing the road!
This route is maintained by the Somme Departmental Council, the Communautés de Communes of Abbevillois and Bernavillois, and the municipalities of St Riquier, Oneux, Cramont and Coulonvilliers.
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