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Lille to Paris

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Lille to Paris

History, not hills. Cycling from Lille to Paris, through the battlefields of the First World War, you're riding a route known as *La Véloroute de la Mémoire* – the Route of Remembrance.

The fields you ride through are the very ones fought over so bloodily in 1916. The Thiepval memorial to the 72,000 missing soldiers of the Battle of the Somme is directly on the route.

This might sound like the cycle route that puts the Somme in “sombre”. Far from it. It's a delightful way to discover Northern France, its sleepy village charm, its easy cycling, and some simply stunning sights that you've almost certainly never heard of. You'll pass Arras and its colossal Grand Place city square; Amiens, historic capital of the Somme; and Beauvais with its stratospheric cathedral. The cycle route links them via a succession of canalside paths, railway trails and quiet country roads... with hardly a hill to trouble your legs.

The route is mostly open, but there are a few sections where signs haven't yet been put up or improvements are still to be made. Our plotted route follows quiet lanes for easy navigation where there's no official cycleway yet.



























