



European  
Joint  
Support Unit

# Welcome to

## Lille





## WELCOME

This handbook is designed to give you as much advice, help and information as possible about the local area. Though by no means exhaustive, its intent is to help you prior to your arrival and during your time here in Lille.

Your tour here in France will offer you lots of great opportunities with regards to travel, recreation and a whole lot more. The customs, culture and way of life here are significantly different from what you may be accustomed to and shopping, driving and dining are all a different experience. Some people may find this a little daunting at first but embracing the culture, food and people you meet will help ease the transition.

We understand that moving yourself and your family to a new country can be extremely stressful so our EJSU staff is here to help you adjust and get settled. You will also be allocated a sponsor before your arrival who is there to aid your arrival and help orientation to the local areas and the CAOC.

## Lille Town

Lille is a medium-sized (233,000-inhabitant), dense city (6,700 inhab/km<sup>2</sup>), in an urban area (Lille European Metropolis – MEL) of 1.2M inhabitants. The MEL covers 90 local authorities, pooling their resources together for more efficient action in a number of fields (water management, mobility, economy...). Lille remains a working-class city, recognized for its dynamism. Lille also faces a high poverty rate with 1 in 4 inhabitants living below the poverty line.

The title of European Capital of Culture awarded to Lille over a decade ago was not the height of its ability, but rather a humble beginning, for in the years to follow Lille has grown to become a cultural hub second to none in northern France – and, some would argue, even beyond. There is a strong Flemish flavour in Lille, which manifests itself literally, through Lillois cuisine, and figuratively, through the ornate buildings of the charming old town (Vieux Lille).

Although Lille has a reputation for being a sprawling city – and it is indeed the largest one in northern France – its charming old town is entirely walkable, and contains all the attractions, restaurants, and nightlife establishments a weekend city-breaker could wish to explore in a couple of days. The vibrant, multicultural neighborhood of Wazemmes, known for its popular market, lies just south of the old town, and is within equally easy reach. The significant student population accounts for Lille's youthful, jovial spirit, which co-exists with refinement and cultural heritage that spans many centuries.

Once an important trading post, Lille later grew into an industrial powerhouse and even became known for being a working-class stronghold, a status that has now given way to one of a cultural hub. Beyond the old town, museums worth making the trip to the suburbs for are the curious La Piscine (museum set up inside a 20th century swimming pool building, the pool still technically functional) of Roubaix and Lille Métropole Museum of Modern, Contemporary and Outsider Art in Villeneuve-d'Ascq.



## Sponsorship

Your line manager will allocate a sponsor to assist with your arrival. Your line-manager will try to allocate someone who lives nearby, whether married or single, and they will be able to show you the local amenities to help you settle in more quickly

## Host Nation Liaison Officer

We are lucky enough to have a Host Nation Liaison Officer (HNLO), Sylvia Lopomo, who is available to do translations of documents you receive in French and will also translate English into French where necessary.

## LOCAL AREA INFORMATION

### Leaflets & Guides

The CLO holds lots of leaflets as well as multiple guides (including City Guides) containing useful information on things to do in the local area. There are also maps as well as walking and cycling routes. For more information on the local area, please call into the NSE.

### Cinema

UGC Lille : Rue de Béthune, 40 59800 Lille

Kinepolis : rue du Château d'Isenghien, 1, 59160 Lille

### Swimming and Sauna

Piscine Marx Dormoy : avenue Marx Dormoy, 36, 59000 Lille

Piscine municipale de Lomme : Avenue de Dunkerke, 433Bis

### Shopping

Rue de Bethune is Lille's main shopping thoroughfare, while Rue de la Grande Chaussée is the place to go for upscale luxury brands. There are plenty of individual boutiques selling deli (try the local Le Vieux Lille cheese) and drinks, with plenty of ethnic shops scattered around the Wazemmes area. Lille's modern shopping centre, Euralille, contains stores of internationally known brands, as well as all the facilities one would expect from a commercial complex of the kind.

<http://ontheworldmap.com/france/city/lille/lille-shopping-map.jpg>

The annual Braderie held in Lille the first weekend of September is a city-wide flea market, the largest one of its kind in Europe. For two days, the entire city transforms into an open-air marketplace featuring events and celebrations, as roughly two million shoppers make their way into town.



European  
Joint  
Support Unit

## Supermarkets

Euralille is a French shopping centre located in Lille in the neighbourhood Centre Lille in the north. The mall consists of a Carrefour hypermarket and more than 120 shops including, a large supermarket, restaurants and a hotel, Hotel Lille Europe.

Euralille is served by several modes of transportation. Thanks to the proximity of the two stations, Line 1, Line 2 subway of Lille, row R, the T line tram from Lille, lines TER Nord-Pas-de-Calais, and the TGV and Eurostar, serves Lille Euralille. Euralille is also accessible by car thanks to its underground parking spaces 3000 managed by VINCI.

## Theme parks

### Lille Zoo

Located only a short walk outside the old town, the Lille Zoo is a pleasant afternoon pastime for the whole family. Ticket prices are times lower than those at an average west European zoo, all animals are well looked after, and an impressive collection of species for a zoo of such compact size is represented.

Address: Avenue Mathias Delobel, Lille

Phone: +33 3 28 52 07 00

Website: [www.lille.fr/Zoo-de-Lille](http://www.lille.fr/Zoo-de-Lille)

## Quiet days

### Lille Old Town

Start your stay in Lille by exploring the old part of town and wandering along Vieux-Lille's cobbled streets. Apart from fine examples of old Flemish architecture, the area contains a plethora of small boutiques and cosy cafes. Do not miss the charming little Place aux Oignons.

### Palais des Beaux Arts

Second only to Parisian Louvre in the calibre of its collection, Lille's Fine Arts Museum (Palais des Beaux Arts) contains works by assorted great masters, the likes of Rubens and Manet. The basement level holds archaeological finds and miniature representations of the region's 18th-century fortified settlements.

Address: 18bis Rue de Valmy, Lille

### La Piscine Museum

The building of what once was an Art Deco swimming pool has now been turned into a fine/applied arts museum (La Piscine Musée d'Art et d'Industrie), classical sculptures and busts lining the filled-up pool in a bizarre yet curious presentation.

Address: 23 Rue de l'Espérance, Roubaix

Email : [lapiscine.musee@ville-roubaix.fr](mailto:lapiscine.musee@ville-roubaix.fr)

Phone : +33 3 20 69 23 60

Public Transport : Gare Jean Lebas / Grand Place (underground)

Website: [www.roubaix-lapiscine.com](http://www.roubaix-lapiscine.com)





European  
Joint  
Support Unit

## **Lille Métropole Museum of Modern, Contemporary and Outsider Art**

The Lille suburb of Villeneuve-d'Ascq is worth the trip if only for its singular Modern Art Museum (Musée d'Art Moderne, d'Art Contemporain et d'Art Brut – LaM), which showcases works by celebrated modernists (such as Picasso and Modigliani, to name a couple), along with a noteworthy collection of outsider art.

Address: 1 Allée du Musée, Villeneuve-d'Ascq

Email: [info@musee-lam.fr](mailto:info@musee-lam.fr)

Opening hours: 10:00-18:00 (Tuesday to Sunday)

Phone: +33 3 20 19 68 68

Website: [www.musee-lam.fr](http://www.musee-lam.fr)

## **The Old Stock Exchange**

The building of La Vieille Bourse, as it is known locally, consists of a couple dozen separate buildings and a beautiful courtyard containing a book flea market. It is a fine example of 17th century ornamental Flemish Renaissance.

Address: Place Charles de Gaulle, Lille

Opening hours: 13:00-17:00 (Tuesday to Sunday)

Phone: +33 891 56 20 04

## **Lille Belfry**

The belfry of Lille's Hôtel de Ville shoots up a hundred metres into the sky, and is accessible via both stairs and an elevator (the latter means of reaching the top is recommended). From up top, a splendid view unfolds over the entire city, including a few local landmarks (although admittedly little of the old town).

Address: Place Roger Salengro, Lille

Phone: +33 891 56 20 04

## **Hospice Comtesse Museum**

The Hospice Comtesse Museum, or Musée de l'Hospice Comtesse, is a century-old once-hospital now open to visitors. The complex consists of a former hospital hall and an adjacent chapel. The English audio guide is informative and essential for those who do not speak French.

Address: 32 Rue de la Monnaie, Lille

Phone: +33 3 28 36 84 00



## Public Holidays

### French National holidays

- 1 January: New Year's Day (jour de l'an)
- Friday 2 April: Good Friday
- Monday 5 April: Easter Monday (Lundi de Pâques)
- 1st May: Labor Day (Fête du travail)
- 8th May: World War II Victory Day (Jour de la Victoire 45)
- 21st May: Ascension Day (Jour de l'Ascension)
- 1 June: Whit Monday (lundi de Pentecôte)
- 14 July: National Day
- 15 August: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 1st November: All Saint's Day
- 25th December: Christmas Day
- 26 December: Boxing Day

### Important dates in France:

- 29th March: Clocks go forward one hour as daylight saving time (DST) starts
- 1 April: April's fool Day (Poisson d'Avril)
- 7th June: mother's day
- 21st June: father's day
- 25 October: Clocks go back one hour as daylight saving time (DST) ends.

### Pharmacy

Pharmacies are marked with a green cross and are relatively easy to locate.

One 24-hour pharmacy is Grande Pharmacie des Halles:

Address: 99 Rue Solférino, Lille

Phone: +33 3 20 54 02 74

### Post

Stamps may be purchased at post offices (most close for lunch) and tobacco shops. Post boxes are yellow in colour.

Address: 8 Place de la République, Lille

Website: [www.laposte.fr](http://www.laposte.fr)

### Telephone

+33 (country code)

ex : 3 (city code)

### Electricity

230 V, 50 Hz