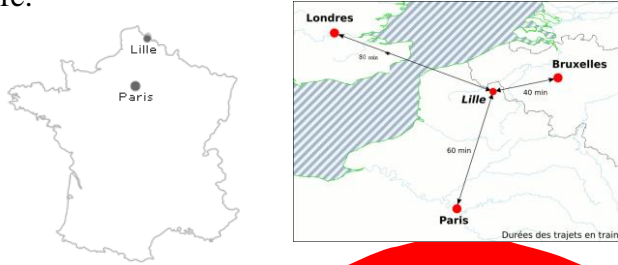


Lille is situated in the north of France, on the Deule River. It is the capital of the Nord-Pas de Calais region and the 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in France.

Its population is about 1.905.000.

This city has a strong industrial background, but after some difficulties, Lille is known for its handsome city centre and its very active cultural life.



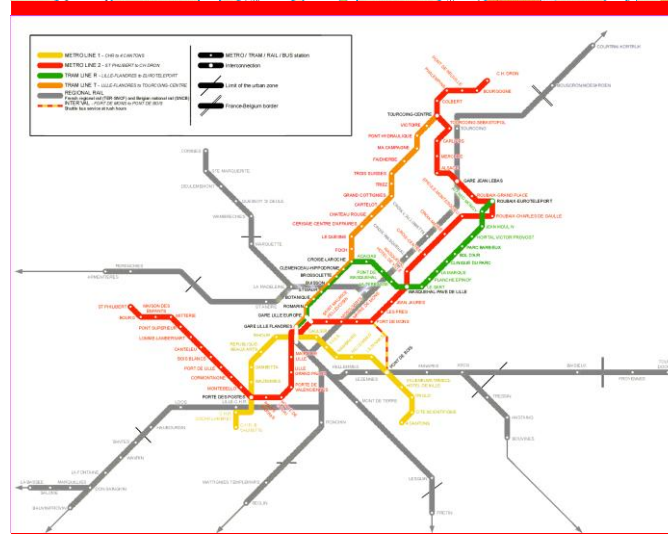
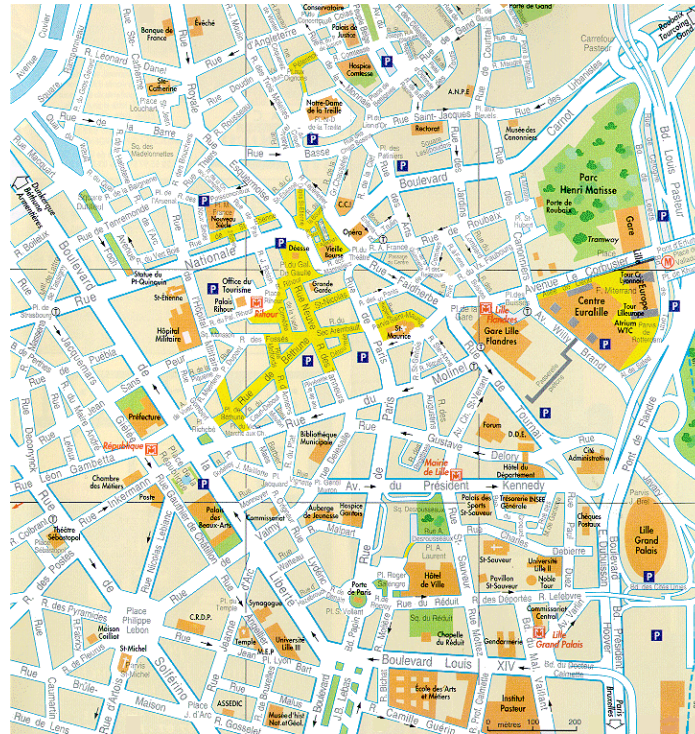
## History

The first written existence of the town of Lille was found in 1066, whose origins were as a port, which preceded its role as a merchant town.

Through a succession of political marriages, Lille was owned by several dynasties.

The city was initially the possession of the Counts of Flanders. After the Battle of Bouvines (1214), Lille was governed by the Duke of Burgundy. In 1477 Lille became part of the Spanish Netherlands. In 1667 Louis XIV conquered Lille, whose look changed into French style. Lille became a great industrial power in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the crisis of 1970s affected every sector of activity. The city could find its re-birth with the development of the service sector. In fact today it is particularly known as an international crossroads and a dynamic financial centre. In 2004 Lille was designated as a European Capital of Culture.

## Map of the city



Created by

Fanton Andrea 471 prica

# Lille

*A surprise  
around every corner,  
in the European  
Capital of Culture*



With over 1 million young people and its warm and funny inhabitants, Lille offers a refreshing panorama. Tradition and innovation mingle. Dense and intense, the city combines luxury tourism and leisure with efficient public transport to connect shopping, culture and nature.

### Lille top 6

#### The Main Square

Lille's favourite meeting place offers an interesting view of the architecture from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



#### The Town Hall's belfry

The belfry is 104 metres high and listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO

#### The old city

The cobbled streets are lined with Flamish houses and crammed with shops, art galleries, cafés and restaurants.



#### The Museum of Fine Arts

The second largest general-interest museum in France, just after the Louvre

The Lille's Musée d'Historie Naturelle collection recounts 400 million years of history.

Not to forget a visit to the Musée d'Art Moderne that will reopen in Late 2010

### Take your time!

Don't worry! You can't get bored thanks to the wide choice the city offers both to young families and elderly.

The countryside is not so far: **Weppes** and **Péveles** offer charming strolls in typical villages and woods, ideal for family outings



The **Braderie** is an annual fair held every September, for which millions of people come to Lille. You will find everything: paintings, antiques, ornaments, furniture. Inhabitants are partying, eating mussels with French fries and drinking in a very fun atmosphere.



The city is also home to a rich cultural life. In little theatres or at the opera house, life is on show every night. Even museums are different in Lille, like **Roubaix's Art Deco swimming pool**.



### Find your style!

The boutiques of all international brands are right in the heart of Lille for hours of window-shopping.

In Lille you will find more than 100 factory outlets that guarantee the best brands at the best prices and Maisons de Mode, which host young fashion designers inspired by French Haute Couture.

The underground or the tram will take you right there!



### Gourmet Lille!

Regional food is to be found in the "estaminets", those small Flemish restaurants where "carbonnade", "waterzoi" and "potjevleesch" are washed down with a locally brewed beer. The Lillois chefs are also renowned for the French gastronomy in their gourmet brasseries and trendy and chic restaurants.

