The old lime tree

For some civilisations the lime tree is a symbol of friendship and loyalty, and the people of Aubers certainly seem to share that view. Indeed, since the XVth century there has been a lime tree on the Joncquoy farm in Aubers. It was planted in 1490 and has survived all wars, even the First World War 1914-1918: it was spared the storm of firepower which rained down on Aubers during those terrible years while the village was itself totally destroyed. In 1721, no doubt because of some freak weather conditions, the tree was split apart in several places, which now form separate major boughs. At the same time the farmer planted a poplar which became a companion to the lime tree. Unfortunately it was blown down in 1970. The lime tree, so vigorous, has a circumference of 8 m at its base, and still has many good years ahead of it. That is why the local authorities, as well as the Aubers History Group, take good care of it.

The Remembrance of Things Past

The aroma of lime-blossom tea, when associated with that of madeleines, stirred childhood memories for Marcel Proust and inspired him in the writing of much of his work. Indeed, lime blossom flowers are small, yellowish-white in colour and have a lovely fragrance. They are dried for use in herbal teas with calming, sedative and soothing properties.

All the practical information featured relates to an area within a radius of 10 km from the trail.

Activities and curiosities

Armentières: Prés du Héem leisure park (+33(0)3.20.44.06.60), bird reserve, tour of belley (+33(0)3.20.44.18.19).

Fromelles: First World War museum – closed during August (+33(0)3.20.50.60.72 or +33(0)3.20.50.26.04).

Hauboutin: Museum of mechanical music (+33(0)3.20.50.05.04).

Houplin Ancoisne: Mosaic – Cultures Garden (end of May to end of October: Deûle Park – (+33(0)3.20.65.35.95).

Marquillies: Horse-drawn carriage and carts museum (+33(0)3.20.29.07.99).

Sainghin-en-Weppes: Leather ecomuseum (+33(0)3.20.58.40.58).

The Weppes district: First World War military cemeteries (+33(0)3.20.50.65.85), the XVth century lime tree at Joncquoy.

Annual events

Armentières: “Fête des Nulleurs” 2nd weekend in September, “Jazz Night” 1st Saturday in October (+33(0)3.20.44.18.19), “Fête de la Lys” in July (+33(0)3.20.50.22.35).

Aubers: Weppes sports festival in August (+33(0)3.20.50.65.85).

Lomme: Summer carnival in June (+33(0)3.20.09.87.05).

RDV Nature et Patrimoine

Discover the Nord’s flora, fauna and heritage treasures on free guided tours organised by the Conseil Général du Nord (brochure available on +33(0)3.20.50.22.35). Accommodation and restaurants

Information and brochures on accommodation and places to eat are available from Tourist Offices and the Nord Tourist Board.

Enquiries

Armentières Tourist Office: (+33(0)3.20.44.18.19)

Weppes district Tourist Office: (+33(0)3.20.50.65.85).

Further information

Nord Tourist Board
6, rue Gustave de Clérambault - B.P 1252 - 59013 Lille Cedex - FRANCE
+33(0)3.20.57.59.59. All our tourist information can be found on the Tourist Board website: www.crt-nord.fr where this booklet and others can be viewed and downloaded free of charge.
Circuit du Tilleul de Joncquoy
(7.5 km - 2 hr 30)
Start: church, Aubers.

1. Leave the church, cross the RD 41 with care – note the Sacred Heart statue – and continue straight ahead along the rue du Bas Pommereau.

2. At the intersection, go down to your right towards Largies. At the bottom of the street, take the chemin des Brieux to your right. After grazing land and market gardens, it runs on along past orchards and ends at a road (RD 41a). Do a quick left/right bend to pick up the chemin du Moulin de Piètre. At its far end, do not go into the private property, but instead turn left alongside the stream called the rivière des Layes which separates the Nord from the Pas-de-Calais.

3. At the blockhouse, take the road to the left, cross the RD 41a further on and then follow the rue Taurelle. At the intersection, continue straight ahead on the rue Taurelle alongside the wood. 500 m further on, turn left onto the path which goes round the edge of the wood (private property). Follow the waymarking carefully.

4. At the bend, turn left into the dead-end and go on down it as far as a road at the end of which stands the Joncquoy lime tree, planted during the XVth century. Over 20 generations have lived and worked in the shade of this tree, which was planted on land originally belonging to the Château du Joncquoy. Take the road to the right and go straight on.

5. At the crossroads go left down the RD 41 for 250 m and then turn into the first street on the right. After the ponds, go up the rue de la Fontaine Roulers back to the church.

Follow the guide!
Arrows, marker posts and paint marks are positioned all along the various circuits.

- Stick to the waymarked route and show consideration for the work of growers, forestry workers and those in charge of the sites you pass through.
- Safeguard the local flora, fauna and environment; take your litter away with you.
- Observe signs and respect the amenities along your route.
- In the event of changes in the route (improvements, diversions, ongoing works etc) follow the revised waymarking, even though it does not correspond to this description.
- To report an error (sign-posting, classification or a similar problem) or to suggest an improvement to the route or to this leaflet, please contact the CONSEIL GÉNÉRAL DU NORD, Direction du Sport, du Tourisme et des Espaces Naturels Hôtel du Département - 59047 LILLE CEDEX - FRANCE (+33 (0)3.20.63.53.89) pdipr@cg59.fr

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