

Pierre's travel log



||||| Nature Escapades Car-free |||||



The Grands Sites de France Network is made up of emblematic landscapes which have the Grand Site de France sustainable development label, and others working towards achieving it through a quality approach.

With Nature Escapades Car-free, the Network proposes a different way to visit the Grands Sites and discover the different aspects of these outstanding regions, on foot, by bike, by steam train...

Pierre, an visitor immersed



Pierre is an "escapader", a landscape lover.

His challenge: test Nature Escapades car-free, new to the Réseau des Grands Sites de France in 2015 .

So Pierre left his home in Paris with the aim to discover the Grands Sites without using a car.

Now you can discover his escapade in the Grand Site de France The Deux-Caps Blanc-Nez, Gris-Nez...

Map of the journey

The Grand Site

The Grand Site de France in the Pas-de-Calais is a succession of grey and white cliffs, dunes and wide bays surrounded by the capes. The Gris-Nez (literally the grey nose) is the oldest, weighed down by 160 million years. The Blanc-Nez, (literally the white nose) saw the light of day 70 million years later.

Distance : 50 km

Different ways to visit :



Trip : 3 jours





DAY 1

Boulogne-sur-Mer → Wimereux [6km]



On leaving Boulogne's TGV station at 10.00am, I was immediately on the banks of the Liane river with its pedestrian and bike path. I walk past the fish stalls and the port, onto the beach.

My first stop will be Wimereux which I can make out beyond a variety of gulls and mussel-gatherers. I continue along the coast, a lovely path winding through the fields with a broad view of the horizon.





I arrive at 11.30am. I stop for lunch at a hut selling French fries and savour the flavours of the North. I pick up a flyer about a guided architecture-themed walk in Wimereux at the tourist information office. The tour of eighteen villas scattered throughout the town is magnificent. What a shame it's not possible to visit inside - it would be wonderful to feel the atmosphere of the seaside resort at the beginning of the century even more!

Wimereux → Ambleteuse [5,6km]



At 3.00pm I continue along the coast to the Pointe aux Oies (literally geese point) from where I can see Ambleteuse.

From there I leave the coast, taking the Baie Saint Jean path across the dunes de la Slack with its varied vegetation. Walking is harder in the soft sand... Sometimes you can see the sea in the distance through the pines, then you are in a forest with hidden ponds, frogs and blackberry pickers.

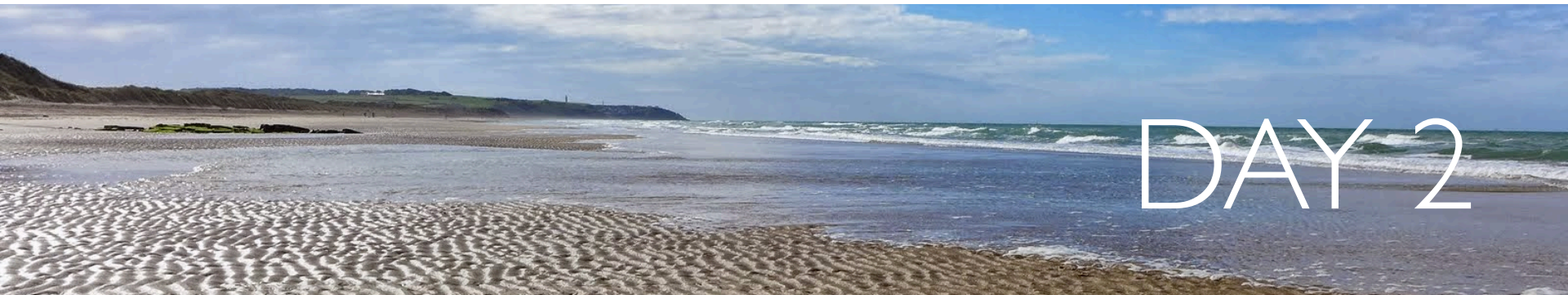


Ambleteuse



I arrive at Ambleteuse at 5.30pm and leave my bag at the hotel. The sea is metallic in the evening light. It is time for the habitual pre-dinner promenade to Fort Vauban and onto the beach. The tide rises over the pebbles and up to the large dike. I take a seat in a pub for a beer and a pile of mussels for dinner.





DAY 2

Ambleteuse → Audresselles [2,4km]



I'm on the beach at 9.30am, heading for Audresselles. All at once, the sun lights up the cliffs of Dover which suddenly appear like a train of icebergs descending from the North Sea.

I arrive after a quick hour's walk and make my way around the village, half fishermen's cottages, half seaside resort. I watch the ballet of the fishermen's tractors dragging the big "flobarts", the region's traditional fishing boat, over the pebbles.



Audresselles → Cap Gris-Nez [6,4km]



I continue along the coast toward Cap Gris-Nez, climbing up and down "crans", inlets dug out by little coastal rivers. ||| |||

Each of them has its own style: touching like the "Cran Poulet" (literally chicken) with its shrine to the Virgin Mary, comical like the "Cran aux Oeufs" or surprising like "Cran de Quette" where 3 seals wait for me before diving back into the water. ||| |||

Cap Gris-Nez



||| I reach the Cap at 1.00pm. There is development here - I walk around the belvederes and meet other tourists who have travelled by car.

The view of Wissant bay and Cap Blanc-Nez is magnificent.

I foray into the countryside to Frametzelle for lunch.



Cap Gris-Nez → Wissant [8,1 km]




I start off through la baie de Wissant, via the dunes to Chatelet, then along the beach. It's a long way and I see
Wissant approaching slowly.

I arrive at 5.00pm and throw myself into the North Sea for a well-deserved swim !



Wissant



|||| Invigorated by the swim, I leave my bag at the bed and breakfast and take the [sentier du Fartz](#)  path which leads me through marshes for a pretty walk behind the dune. There are birds, hairy Highland cows... My day comes to an end in a brasserie in Wissant, then I watch the sunset over the Cap Gris-Nez.





DAY 3

Wissant → Cap Blanc-Nez [7,3km]



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It's misty this morning. I walk on the beach towards Cap Blanc-Nez, and here I am - at the foot of these immense white cliffs. The sun lights up the meadows above, where I can make out a herd of Boulogne sheep. To take advantage of the scenery, I continue walking along the beach to Escalles inlet, at the foot of Cap Blanc-Nez. From there, I climb up some metal stairs to pick up the coastline track.



Cap Blanc-Nez → Calais Fréthun [9,1 km]



The landscape is as beautiful from on high as from the beach. Topped by a grassy moor marked by bomb craters from the Second World War, the Cap Blanc-Nez is more than 130 meters high.

I walk up to the Dover Patrol Tower and climb Mont Hubert where I have lunch in a brasserie.

It's 2.00pm...all I have left to do now is walk to the Calais Fréthun station to take the train back to Paris. »



Summary...




Walking along the beach is the best way to appreciate the beauty of the site.



You can alternate between the dunes and the beaches depending on the tides.

« I was amazed by the view of the cliffs of Dover early in the morning and Wimereux's colourful villas.



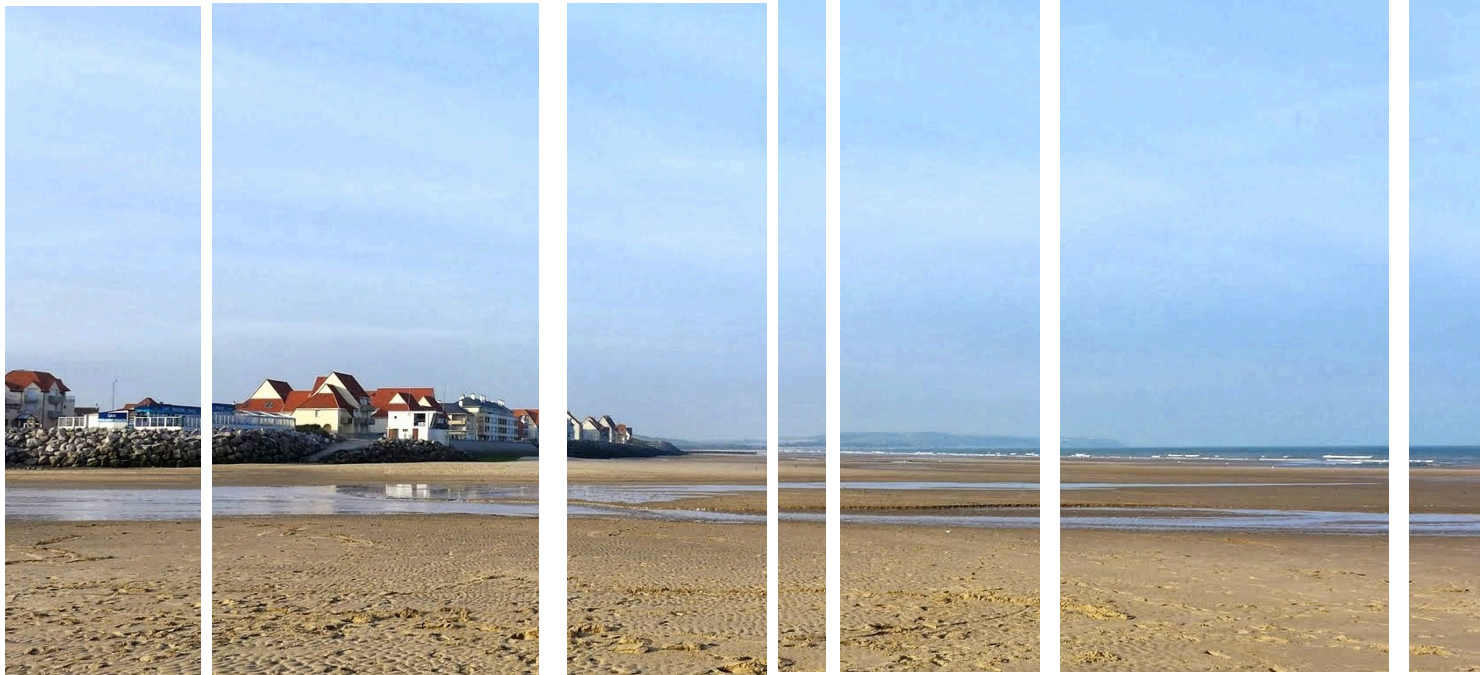
For my next trip, I will go to the [Maison de Site des Deux-Caps](#)  which has opened in Audinghen since I was there, where you can rent electric bikes ! »



The Deux-Caps Blanc-Nez, Gris-Nez : www.lesdeuxcaps.fr

Sentier du Fartz : www.terredes2capstourisme.fr

Maison de Grand Site des Deux-Caps : www.lesdeuxcaps.fr/Visiter-les-Deux-Caps/La-Maison-du-Site-des-Deux-Caps





See our site for other Nature Escapades Car-free
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