CENTRE HISTORIQUE MINIER

Nord/Pas-de-Calais Mining Museum
Archive Centre
Centre for Scientific Energy Culture



Press pack

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THE NORD/PAS-DE-CALAIS MINING BASIN

Three centuries of history

On 21 December 1990, the Nord/Pas-de-Calais Basin Coal Mines closed their last coal mining shaft, ending three centuries of mining history in the region.

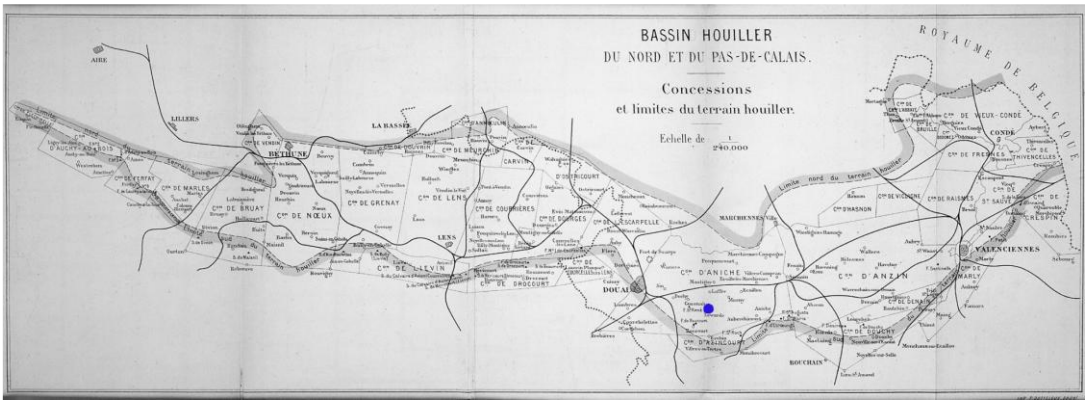


Jacques Desandrouin © Musée Théophile Jouglet, Anzin

The true history of the mining basin begins with **Jacques Desandrouin** who, in 1716, undertook research in the Valenciennes region, a natural extension of the rich coal deposit already in operation at that time in Wallonia, a region that France had just lost with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. After twenty years of laborious drilling, on 24 June 1734, he **found in Anzin a major vein of excellent-quality bituminous coal**.

Throughout its history, this mining basin has moved from east to west, from the Nord to the Pas-de-Calais, where **coal was discovered in Oignies in 1841**. The basin extends from Valenciennes to Bruay, including the regions of Douai (Nord), Lens and Béthune (Pas-de-Calais) over a length of about 120 km but with a narrow width that never exceeds 12 km.
As such, the mining basin covers about 1/12th of the total surface area of the Nord/Pas-de-Calais region.

Its movement from east to west saw increasingly deep mining activity. While the eastern pits do not go down much further than 500 m, the deepest were dug in the Lens region up to 1200 m deep.



© Centre Historique Minier of Lewarde

In total, two billion tonnes of coal were extracted from this mining basin, with highest activity around 1930 to 1960 when an average of 200,000 people were employed in mining about 30 million tonnes per year.

THE HISTORY OF THE DELLOYE PIT AND THE CENTRE HISTORIQUE MINIER



Aerial view of the Delloye pit, circa 1950-60 © collections of the Centre Historique Minier

The Delloye pit, operated by the former Compagnie des Mines d'Aniche, began its activity in 1931. In that year, 18,634 tonnes of coal were extracted. The tonnage record was reached in 1963, with 1,218 tonnes extracted per day. Difficult to mine, **the deposit became unprofitable and operations stopped in 1971**.

At the same time, the management of the Nord/Pas-de-Calais Basin Coal Mines was already convinced of the importance of **creating a historic mining centre that would provide subsequent generations with the story of nearly three centuries of mining, industrial and social activity in the Nord/Pas-de-Calais mining basin**. At the instigation of Alexis Destruys, then Secretary General of the Coal Companies, this project was approved by the Board of Directors on 6 November 1973 and it was the Delloye pit in Lewarde, which was in the process of being dismantled, that was chosen to house the Centre Historique Minier.

This choice is explained by the aesthetic aspect of the industrial buildings built in a green environment, its location close to the motorway network, its position in the heart of the mining basin, and its representative character since this pit was involved in coal production at the height of its activity, in the inter-war period.

Therefore, as the other pits in the mining basin were closed, equipment and documents flowed into the Delloye pit.

In 1982, the Centre Historique Minier Association was created, with the participation of the State (Ministry of Culture), the Nord/Pas-de-Calais Regional Council, the Nord General Council, the Pas-de-Calais General Council and the Nord/Pas-de-Calais Basin Coal Mines, for public opening in May 1984. Finally, **in 2016, the status of the Centre Historique Minier evolved into a Public Establishment for Cultural Cooperation**, whose founding members were the State, the Nord/Pas-de-Calais Regional Council, Douaisis Agglomeration and Cœur d'Ostrevent Agglomeration.

A REMINDER OF THE MAIN STEPS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRE HISTORIQUE MINIER

Created in July 1982, the Centre Historique Minier is made up of three complementary structures: a mining museum, an archive and documentary resources centre, and a centre for scientific energy culture (CSEC). The site, which opened two years later in May 1984, received 17,594 visitors that year.



Aerial view of the Historic Mining Centre © Pierre Cheuva/ Centre Historique Minier

Gradually, the site took on the appearance it has today: and so, **the machine canopy was built in 1986** and **the 450 metres of reconstructed galleries** opened to the public the following year, **in 1987**.

The Centre's fame spread and, **in 1988, the museum exceeded 100,000 visitors per year.** Until 1992, the Centre was further enriched by five permanent exhibitions with the aim of giving an important place to the notion of scientific culture in its programming, using exhibitions, conferences and publications to initiate a reflection on the role of energy in the development of contemporary societies.

Claude Berri's film ***Germinal*** was released **in 1993** and the public showed a strong interest in the world of mining. That year, the Centre welcomed **168,000 visitors**. In the same year, **permanent exhibitions** were created in the **accounting office, the sorting area and the extraction machine of well no. 2**.

In **1994, the Centre welcomed its millionth visitor**. Activities continued to develop with **the launch of a collection of books devoted to the mine under the name *Mémoires de Gaillette*, the first of which in 1995** was entitled *Du coron à la cité, un siècle d'habitat minier dans le Nord/Pas-de-Calais, 1850 - 1950* (*From miner's cottage to city, a century of mining accommodation in the Nord/Pas-de-Calais*). This marked the beginning of a publishing policy. **In 1997**, the **QuoQuiDi** patois-speaking meetings were offered for the first time, which soon became biennial.



Reception building © Historic Mining Centre

In **2002,** the Centre opened **4,000 m² of new or refurbished buildings** as part of an **architectural and museographic restructuring,** which made it possible to welcome the public into a **new building**, to offer a new permanent exhibition entitled *Les trois âges de la mine (The three ages of mining)* and to offer additional services to visitors; it is in these new spaces that **the museum's two millionth visitor was welcomed** during the exhibition *Femmes à la mine, femmes de mineurs (Women in the Mine, Miners' Wives)*, which was awarded the national interest label by the Ministry of Culture. **162,000 visitors visited the Centre Historique Minier in 2002**.

In 2003, the Centre Historique Minier opened **three new permanent exhibitions** on the energy, geology and history of the Delloye pit.

Since 2009, visitors have enjoyed two renewed exhibitions: *À l'origine du charbon, le Carbonifère (The origin of coal, the Carboniferous Period)* and *La vie dans la cité minière (Life in the Mining Town),* as well as new sound and video experiences in the pit stable, sorting yard and galleries.

In **2012**, the Centre Historique Minier celebrated the **30th anniversary of the creation of the association** and **inclusion of the Nord/Pas-de-Calais mining basin in UNESCO's World Heritage List.**

In **2014**, the exhibition ***Le Bassin minier au coeur des conflits (The mining basin at the centre of the conflicts)*** **was awarded the "Centenary" label** as part of the commemorations related to the First World War. The following year, the Centre Historique Minier welcomed its four millionth visitor and offered for the first time a temporary exhibition as part of its centre for scientific energy culture: *Des hommes pleins d'énergie.*(*Men full of energy).*

In **2016**, the Centre Historique Minier would focus **its activities on the "family" audience** and a first major event, *Le grand défi de la fosse Delloye (The great challenge of the Delloye pit)*, welcomed around a hundred family participants competing in both physical and reflective challenges. The crazy *Pokemon Go* game took over the Centre in summer 2016 for an evening, the first in a series of unusual events to attract audiences more removed from culture to the museum.

The exhibition ***Coup de foudre, la merveilleuse histoire de l'électricité (Lightning strike, the wonderful story of electricity)*** **in 2017 marked the rise of the scientific culture centre**.

Each year, in addition to the permanent exhibitions, the Centre Historique Minier offers **a programme of temporary exhibitions** of a historical, scientific or artistic nature, which allows visitors to explore themes directly related to mining culture (the social status of miners, immigration, landscape changes, health, etc.) or to offer another view of the mining world.

In **2020**, the Centre Historique Minier took part in the **tercentenary of the discovery of coal in the North of France** with its exhibition *1720, coal at the heart of revolutions.*

In **2022** and **2023**, the focus was on cinema, with a major **exhibition, *La mine fait son cinéma***, and an **international symposium**.

In **2024**, the Centre Historique Minier celebrated **40 years of public access** with a number of events, including the creation and Republican baptism of its giant, Léon. In this year of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the exhibition ***La mine, c'est du sport!*** was also a great success. To ensure the long-term future of its activities, the Centre Historique Minier has also embarked on a sponsorship programme, enabling local businesses to support its activities.
Finally, thanks to a partnership with ADEME, the Centre Historique Minier has become the first museum in France to become a national demonstrator of the energy transition.

In **2025**, contemporary art took centre stage with the exhibition ***Au charbon, Pour un design post-carbone*** (*Au charbon, For a post-carbon design*), organised in collaboration with the Centre d'Innovation et de Design at Grand Hornu (Belgium) and ***Miners Light***, works by Ukrainian artist Roman Minin: monumental window decals installed as part of 'Lignes de fuite' (Vanishing Lines), a collective and innovative journey involving the five remarkable sites of the Mining Basin, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

THE CENTRE HISTORIQUE MINIER TODAY

Located in Lewarde, 8 km east of Douai in the Nord, the Centre Historique Minier is located in the heart of the mining basin. It stands on the pithead of the former Delloye pit, which contains 8,000 m² of industrial buildings and superstructures on an 8-hectare site. It is classified as a Historic Monument and is one of the remarkable sites of the mining basin listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



View of the site from the walkway © S. Lenne-Terrier/ Centre Historique Minier

A veritable conservatory of the mine's history, it is the most important mining museum in France and one of the most visited museums in the Hauts-de-France region, welcoming around 170,000 visitors each year.

The Mining History Centre regularly receives awards for the quality of its hospitality and tours. It has been awarded the **national Qualité Tourisme™** label for both the museum and **Le Briquet restaurant**. Every year, it receives **TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence**. In 2017, it was awarded the **Euralens label** and then the **EDEN "European Destinations of Excellence"** prize by the European Commission.
The Centre also received awards for its achievements in accessibility for visitors with disabilities: Ministry of Culture **Museum for All** prize and **Positive Accessibility Award** by the National Disability Council.
In other areas, the Centre was awarded the **Coup de Cœur de l'Architecture Prize** and the **Professional Training Trophy**, while the spaces and services offered to companies were awarded the **Performance Seminars label**.
Finally, the Centre has been awarded the **Cafés Rando Nord label** and the **national Accueil Vélo mark**. In 2025, it received the **Grand Prix Innovation Numérique** and the **Prix Travel Tech** for its digital device *Paroles de mineurs*.

The museum

The Delloye pit, a historic monument

The Delloye pit, which was put into operation in 1931, ceased operating in 1971. A thousand miners worked in this mining site and produced, on average, 1,000 tonnes of coal per day. This **8-hectare site** is made up of **industrial buildings with a unique architecture**, **authentic workplaces** open to visitors: the **bathroom** where hanging clothes and period films illustrate the passage of the workers, the **lamp room** where hundreds of lamps are lined up, as well as the **stable** where the neighing of horses and the sound of the iron hammered by the blacksmith welcome the public. Also for you to discover are the imposing **coils of the extraction machine** and the medical equipment in the **infirmary**... Not to mention the administrative offices which show how, in the 1930s, the engineers, surveyors and accountants who prepared the "fortnight", the miners' salaries, or the mining delegate who would write a report for management all worked.

The exhibitions: when coal creates the history of a region

A collection of 15,000 objects illustrates this discovery of the mining world, presented in major exhibitions, where you can experience the core of a unique industrial and human adventure.



© E. Watteau-Centre Historique Minier

À l'origine du charbon, le Carbonifère (The origin of coal, the Carboniferous Period) is dedicated to the process of coal formation, which began 320 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. Alongside posters and advertising items, different types of coal, which you can touch, microscopic representations and an excellent collection of **fossils** illustrate the Nord/Pas-de-Calais in the primary era which gave rise to the coalfields of the mining basin.



© S. Lenne-Terrier-Centre Historique Minier

In ***Les trois âges de la mine (The three ages of mining)***, a chronological **tour** recounts three centuries of the history of mining in Nord/Pas-de-Calais, from the 18th century until the closure of the last pit in 1990. A series of **original models** of mining sites at different times, **numerous archival documents**, **photographs**, **films, items** and **works of art** show the evolution of the industrial landscape and the techniques used during 270 years of coal mining in the Nord/Pas-de-Calais.

Finally, a vast chronological fresco immerses visitors in the major dates in the economic and social history of the mining basin.



© S. Dhote-Centre Historique Minier

La vie dans la cité minière (Life in the mining town) takes you into the daily life of the miner and his family. **Interior, garden and cafe** are reconstructed down to the smallest details. Many items related to **music, sport, pigeon racing and immigration** in particular evoke life in the towns, punctuated by times of friendship but also of action.



What is the purpose of the woodlot? The rail network? What is the storage walkway? Throughout the site, the terminals of the **Histoire de la fosse Delloye (History of the Delloye pit)** exhibition explain the appearance of the pit head, from the 1930s to the 1950s.

A visit to the museum is also an opportunity to discover our temporary exhibitions and events (*European Museum Night, European Heritage Days*, Sainte-Barbe festivities, activities and workshops for families, etc.) organised each year.

The collections



The Centre Historique Minier's collections include 15,000 objects relating to the history of the coalfield. Three areas are particularly well represented: **the history of mining techniques**, which is undoubtedly the strong point of the collections; **ethnology**, with evidence of the daily lives of miners; and **geology**, represented by a large collection of coal fossils and rock samples from prospecting boreholes.
For several years now, the Centre Historique Minier has also been developing a collection of **works of art** (paintings, drawings, watercolours, sculptures and tapestries, advertising and film posters) and decorative objects depicting mines and miners (clocks, furniture and crockery, coins and medals).

Online collections
In 2024, the Centre Historique Minier launched a new virtual portal dedicated to these heritage collections, enabling the public to discover their wealth and delve into the history of the coalfield, thanks to a wide selection of objects.
www.chm-lewarde.com, heading Resources and collections, then Collections

Guided tour of the galleries: trip to the heart of the mine (1 hour)



In the company of a cultural mediator, visitors head down into the bowels of the mine to relive the daily life of the underground miners.
The staff walkway leads visitors to the mill and sorting area where they relive in sound and images the role of women and pit boys assigned to coal sorting. Finally, during the "descent" into the galleries, all the techniques and working conditions at the bottom are available to experience, from the 1860s to the 1990s.
© S. Dhote - Centre Historique Minier
A sensory visit to the roar of the machines and video projections!

☞ For visits to the **permanent exhibitions and galleries**, audioguides are available in English, German, Dutch, Polish, Italian and Spanish.

New digital system *Paroles de mineurs*



When Houillères du Bassin minier du Nord et du Pas-de-Calais decided to create a mining museum on the site of the Delloye pit in the 1970s, former miners were naturally involved in the project and were present from the moment the Centre Historique Minier opened to the public in 1984.
Sixty-eight former miners gave guided tours of the site until 2010. Then, from 2011 to the summer of 2024, a smaller number of former miners continued to talk to the public during testimonial meetings, special moments during which they discussed different aspects of their lives: their first day in the mine, training, wages, dangers, retraining, etc.

In September 2024, 40 years after the site opened to the public, new technologies will enable visitors to continue to share in the lives of former miners, thanks to the experience offered by artificial intelligence. The system is freely accessible in an intimate room. Composed of an interactive tablet and a large screen, it allows visitors to ask questions to the last three former miners who worked at the Centre Historique Minier: the content of their testimonies has been broken down into more than 150 questions, which were the subject of 150 filmed interviews. Artificial intelligence selects the video according to the subject requested by the visitor, and a former miner appears on the screen, in a 2.0 tête-à-tête.
This innovative immersive system, designed for all audiences, brings the words and memories of miners within everyone's reach.
Multi-award-winning device: Grand Prix Innovation Numérique 2025, awarded by Club Innovation & Culture CLIC and SITEM, International Exhibition for Museums, Cultural Venues and Tourism, which highlights and rewards the most remarkable digital innovations implemented in or by a French cultural institution, Travel Tech Award, presented by Hauts-de-France Innovation Tourisme, as a major innovation in the field of digital technology and immersive experiences, France Design Week label.

The Documentary Resource Centre


© Centre Historique Minier

In 1985, the Coalmines of the Nord/Pas-de-Calais Basin received authorisation from the French Archives Department to manage their archives themselves and to entrust their collection, management and valorisation to the Centre Historique Minier. Such is the vocation of the **documentary resource centre**, which currently houses **2,500 linear metres of archives** covering the entire period of coal mining in the Nord/Pas-de-Calais basin (1720-1990).
Accessible not only to researchers but also to writers, scriptwriters, producers, local history societies etc, as well as to individuals, these archival sources are both numerous and varied. With a library of more than **5,700 books**, a film library of about **1,000 films**, a video library of 500 cassettes and 400 sound recordings as well as a photo library with nearly **300,000 slides and negatives**, this impressive documentary collection covers all the themes related to the mining world.
Thanks to these precious documents, the Centre was able to assist director Claude Berri in preparing for the shooting of his film *Germinal*.
From the organisation of the company to economic and social history, including knowledge of underground work, operating techniques and industrial heritage, the documentary resource centre is a special source of ideas and information for carrying out research work. Even today, many subjects related to the mine remain to be explored.

💻 An online archive consultation database
A virtual reading room is available to the public via a web portal, giving access to archive finding aids, digital files of documents, photographs, films and a whole range of documentary resources such as company histories, etc.
www.chm-lewarde.com, under Resources and collections, then Archives

The Centre for Scientific Energy Culture

By placing the specific history of coal mining in the Nord-Pas de Calais region within the broader history of energy in France and the rest of the world, the **Centre de Culture Scientifique de l'Energie** aims to present to the public the issues surrounding mining and all the data concerning the energies of today and tomorrow.

Through **exhibitions**, **conferences** and **publications**, it aims to stimulate reflection on the role of energy in the development of contemporary societies. The notion of scientific culture has always guided the programming of the centre for scientific culture. This was notably the case with the exhibition *La petite histoire du chauffage au charbon* (The short history of coal-fired heating) in 1990, *Silicose et pneumoconiose du houilleur* (Coal miners' silicosis and pneumoconiosis) in 1993 and *Énergies: hier, aujourd'hui et demain?* (Energy: yesterday, today and tomorrow?) presented to the public between 2003 and 2019. The temporary exhibitions *Des hommes pleins d'énergie* (Men full of energy) in 2015 and *Coup de foudre, la merveilleuse histoire de l'électricité* (Love at first sight, the wonderful story of electricity) in 2017 are also fully in line with the centre's scientific culture remit.
The Centre Historique Minier is a member of the Ombelliscience network of science centres in the Hauts-de-France region.

The Centre Historique Minier also takes part in national and regional scientific events such as "Science collège" with the Département du Nord and the Fête de la Science, aimed at both schoolchildren and the general public. It is also behind a number of events, such as Geology Week, created for secondary school pupils, and the "Energy is child's play" festival, launched in 2014.



© Centre Historique Minier

Finally, as part of the National Commitment to the Renewal of the Mining Basin, the Centre Historique Minier has initiated a complete overhaul of the Centre de Culture Scientifique de l'Energie (Centre for Scientific Energy Culture), dedicating a specific area at the heart of the tour route, in the building housing the extraction machine for shaft no. 1, to enable visitors to discover energies in order to gain a better knowledge, understanding and appreciation of them.
This area is currently closed for works.

The Centre Historique Minier makes a commitment to eco-responsibility

Since its creation, the Centre Historique Minier has included a centre for scientific culture on energy, alongside the mine museum and the archive centre, in order to present to the public the issues surrounding mining and energy, past, present and future.
Since 2023, the Centre Historique Minier has made decarbonisation one of the major thrusts of its development strategy. Its ambition is to conserve and enhance the region's mining heritage, while committing itself to combating the excessive use of fossil fuels and promoting low-carbon lifestyles in order to limit global warming. To address this issue, the Centre Historique Minier first commissioned a carbon audit to assess its greenhouse gas emissions and identify areas for action.
Then, in 2024, the Centre Historique Minier became the first museum in France in the region to become a "national demonstrator of ecological transition" under a partnership agreement signed with ADEME Hauts-de-France. The agreement confirms ADEME's support for the Centre Historique Minier's decarbonisation initiative, as well as its commitment to becoming a spokesperson for energy issues and raising awareness of these issues among its visitors and partners.

To this end, the Mining History Centre will incorporate content on the relationship between mining history and climate change into its museum displays and narrative. The aim of this commitment is both to encourage visitors to take action in favour of ecological and energy transition, and to enable the implementation of measures for the site itself with a view to decarbonisation and adaptation to climate change. To this end, a programme of events on the issue of energy has been launched for 2025, including the organisation of several conferences throughout the year..

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Opening days and times

In 2026, the Centre is open every day except 1 January, 5 to 31 January, 1 May and 25 December. Closed every Monday between 15 November and 28 February.

2026	Opening hours of the ticket office	
	From 15 November to 28 February	**From 1 March to 14 November**
INDIVIDUALS	Tuesday to Saturday : 1 pm to 6 pm Sunday, school holidays (zone B) and public holidays : 10 am to 6 pm **Ticket office closes at 5 pm** **Closed from 6 to 31 January** **Closed on Mondays**	Daily : 9 am to 7 pm **Ticket office closes at 5 pm**
GROUPS	From 8 am (reservation by telephone)	

Services

- Car and coach parking.
- Restaurant "Le Briquet" on site (230 place settings)
- Audioguides available in English, German, Dutch, Polish, Italian and Spanish.
- Coffee shop with its bookshop, souvenirs and regional products.
- Auditorium and meeting rooms for groups.
- For school groups:
  - thematic activities supervised by cultural mediators
  - adapted visits, from pre-school to high school
  - online resources
  - a school restaurant that can accommodate 50 students
  - a picnic area.

Tariffs

PRICES 2026	Access to the site and exhibitions + guided visit
Standard rate	€14.50
Reductions*	€8.70
Family Ticket (2 adults + 2 children)	€40
Adult groups (from 20 pers.) **Mini-groups** (from 15 to 19 pers.)	€12.60
School groups	€8.20

* children from 5 to 18 years old, students, disabled people + an accompanying person, those who have retired from the Charbonnages de France... upon presentation of proof

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THE CENTRE HISTORIQUE MINIER IN A FEW FIGURES

- **Site and collections**: • **8,000 m²** of buildings, **8 hectares** of site
  • **450 metres of galleries**, six major permanent exhibitions, two or three temporary exhibitions per year and numerous cultural events
  • collection of 15,000 items
  • 2.5 km of mining archives
  • 5,700 books, 1,000 films, 300,000 photographs
  • restaurant with 230 place settings, museum café, shop
  • **200-seat auditorium** and three meeting rooms

- **Visitors and operations**:
  • **150,000** visitors per year on average
  • website: 184,388 users in 2024
  • social networks: over 26,000 followers
  • about fifty seminars hosted each year
  • 80 to 100 employees
  • a scientific council of 31 researchers and qualified persons in all disciplines related to mining and energy

- **Partnerships:**
  - **cultural**: Louvre-Lens Museum, Mining Basin Mission, Ombelliscience, Historial of the Great War in Péronne, Orchestra of Douai, …
  - **socio-cultural:** France Travail, AFPA, La Vie Active, Mission locale, etc.
  - **sports clubs:** VAFC, ABC Dourges, RC Lens...
  - **tourist**: Gîtes de France, Hauts-de-France Regional Tourism Committee, Nord Tourism and Pas-de-Calais Tourism, Autour du Louvre-Lens, tourist offices
  - **communities**: City of Lens, Hénin-Carvin Agglomeration Community

- **Networks**:
  European Network of Coal Mine Museums, Proscitec, Mem'histo, Ombelliscience, Science Culture, Conservation Association of Hauts-de-France, Publishers' Association of Hauts-de-France, Association des Journalistes de l'Environnement, Association des Journalistes du Patrimoine

- **Some points of reference**:

  - **1931-1971**: Delloye pit in operation, **1,000 people** work on site, extracting an average of **1,000 tonnes of coal** per day

  - **1973**: At the instigation of Alexis Destruys, Secretary General of the Nord/Pas-de-Calais Basin Coal Mines, the Delloye pit in Lewarde was chosen to house the Centre Historique Minier.

  - **1982**: Creation of the Centre Historique Minier Association, which includes three structures: a **mining museum**, an **archive and documentary resources centre**, a **centre for scientific energy culture**.

  - **1984**: The Centre Historique Minier opens its doors to the public.

  - **1990**: Closure of the last mine shaft in the region in Oignies.

  - **1993**: Release of the film *Germinal* and record attendance for the Centre with **167,000 visitors**.

- **1995**: Creation of the **first collection of books** published by the Centre entitled *Mémoires de Gaillette*.

- **1999**: Creation of **workshops for children, the "pit boys' workshops",** during school holidays.
  On average, 40,000 students are welcomed each year during school visits.
  The Centre is a winner of the **EDF National Trophy** for Industrial and Technical Tourism.

- **2002**: Inauguration of the new spaces of the Centre Historique Minier after its first restructuring. Welcoming the **two millionth visitor**.

- **2003**: The Centre Historique Minier now receives the title **Museum of France.**

- **2005**: New work has begun on structures and services for welcoming the public.

- **2006**: National commemoration of the disaster of 10 March 1906 in the Courrières Mining Company.

- **2009**: The Centre Historique Minier is classified as a **Historic Monument.**
  Inauguration of the new permanent exhibitions: *À l'origine du charbon, le Carbonifère (The origin of coal, the Carboniferous Period)* and *La vie dans la cité minière (Life in the Mining Town)*.
  Welcoming the **three millionth visitor**.

- **2010**: The Centre receives the **Museum for All Award**.

- **2012**: Creation of the **European Network of Mine Museums,** of which the Centre Historique Minier is a founding member.
  The Nord/Pas-de-Calais mining basin becomes a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, with the Centre Historique Minier as one of its remarkable sites.

- **2013**: The Centre obtains the national **Qualité Tourisme™ mark**

- **2014**: The Centre obtains the **Positive Accessibility Award.**

- **2015**: The Centre welcomes its **four millionth visitor**.

- **2016**: Le Briquet restaurant obtains the national **Qualité Tourisme™** mark and the meeting spaces the **Performance Seminars label.**
  The Centre Historique Minier becomes an **EPCC-EPIC**. Its founding members are the State, the Hauts-de-France Regional Council, the Douai Agglomeration Community and the Cœur d'Ostrevent Community of Communes.

- **2017**: The Centre obtains the **Euralens label,** the **EDEN "European Destinations of ExcelleNce" prize** created by the European Commission and the national **Qualité Tourisme™** mark for the museum.

- **2018**: The Centre obtains the **European Year of Cultural Heritage** label from the Ministry of Culture.

- **2019**: Commemoration of the centenary of French-Polish agreements for immigration

- **2020**: Tercentenary of coal discovery in Northern France

- **2021**: Opening of *Mine d'énergies*, the new permanent exhibition

- **2022**: The Centre obtains the **Cafés-Rando Nord label** and the **national brand Accueil Vélo**. The Nord-Pas de Calais mining basin is celebrating the tenth anniversary of its listing as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- **2024:** The Centre celebrates 40 years of public access and creates its **giant: Léon**.
  A new digital tool, "Meet the Former Miners", gives visitors the chance to hear what former miners have to say.
  The Centre Historique Minier becomes France's first "National Demonstrator of Ecological Transition" under a memorandum of understanding signed with ADEME.

- **2025:** The Centre receives the Grand Prix for Digital Innovation, awarded by the CLIC - Club Innovation & Culture - and SITEM - Salon international des musées, lieux de culture et de tourisme, for its digital tool *Paroles de mineurs*.

Since opening to the public over 40 years ago, the Centre has organised around 50 temporary exhibitions, a dozen permanent exhibitions, around 100 cultural events, around 40 publications, six international symposiums and offers around 15 travelling exhibitions.

Images available free of charge to illustrate an article about the Centre Historique Minier



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Other illustrations are available on request from the Communication Department of the Centre Historique Minier

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