

## ➤ A bit of history...

Arenberg colliery was devoted to coal extraction for nearly one century. With three headframes still left, this industrial site is unique in France. Protected as a Historical Monument, it is now one of the five major mining sites, each of them acting like a "gateway" in the Coalfield as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Arenberg colliery was built between 1900 and 1902 by the Compagnie des Mines d'Anzin and extraction began in 1903. Today, it demonstrates all the technical progress and evolution of mining industry. **Mining activity stopped in 1989.** In 1993, Arenberg got a second life with the shooting of **the film Germinal** directed by Claude Berri and starring Miou-Miou, Gérard Depardieu et Renaud. Once the shooting over, some passionate former miners who played as extras in the movie decided to create **the Association "Friends of Germinal"**. Protected as a Historical Monument, Arenberg pit exposes all about the coal production as well as the miners' working conditions.

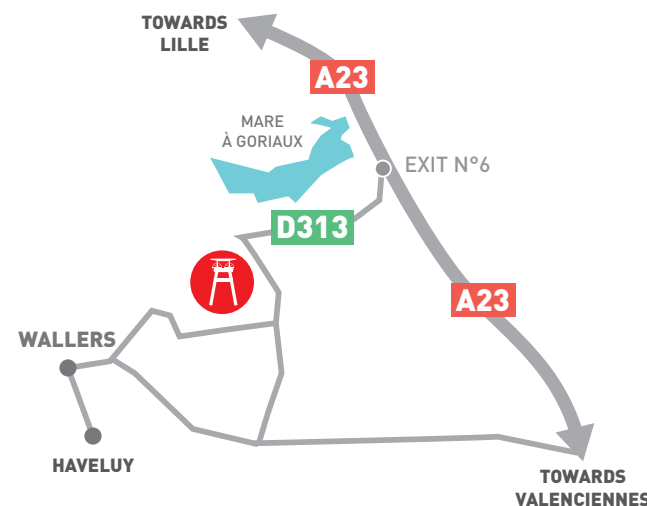
Visitors will walk through an exhibition about mining and Arenberg colliery history and galleries which are the original Germinal film set : at each step, former miners - who are now guides - describe their work with a lot of emotion and many personal stories. Therefore, you will discover underground tunnels with wooden props, made of pine because this specific wood make a cracking sound before collapsing. You will also see the former lamp room as well as the Pit Baths where miners could hang up their clothes and have a shower.



## 📍 HOW TO GET THERE?

### Mining Site of Wallers-Arenberg

Rue Michel Rondet  
59135 Wallers - France



**By car:** from Lille or Valenciennes: take the A23 highway and take exit No. 6 - Raismes. Then, follow the D313 road. Finally, turn right onto Avenue d'Arenberg.

**Using public transport:** take the bus on line 110 - Transvilles service - at bus stop "Valenciennes Sainte-Catherine" to Wallers Hertain and then get off at bus stop "Arenberg Fosse".

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## ➤ Arenberg Creative Mine



Having housed the Council of the Communauté d'Agglomération de La Porte du Hainaut since 2001, this mine site is one of the most ambitious regeneration projects to be undertaken in Hauts-de-France. Now called Arenberg Creative Mine, it has become a centre of excellence for digital media and cinematography. Since 2015 it has made use of assets that are unique in Europe: natural scenery, studios (for filming, sound and post-production), and innovative technical equipment (cycloramas, motion capture, motion control, computer workstations...).

In partnership with the Polytechnic University Hauts-de-France, the research laboratory De Visu, which specialises in audiovisual media, is also based there, and is expanding its offering of basic and further training on site. Professionals working in the media industry can also move in: 1600 m<sup>2</sup> dedicated to economic development, with a number of attractive benefits (technical and financial support, access to equipment, free parking...).

Finally, each year the site hosts a variety of industry-relevant events that are open to the public: The 'Fête de l'anim', live opera broadcasts, the 'fête de la Science'... In the heart of the Scarpe-Escaut Natural Regional Park, Arenberg has become a creative mine focused on innovation, science, economics and culture, enhancing our region's appeal for the media and business tourism industries.

### Arenberg Creative Mine...

**...no longer mines anything, and is the perfect place to host you!**

For more information visit:  
[www.arenberg-creativemine.fr](http://www.arenberg-creativemine.fr)



### LEGEND

- ➊ CARREAU DE FOSSE
- ➋ MINING CITY
- ➌ TROUÉE D'ARENBERG
- ➍ MARE À GORIAUX

## ➤ Guided tours

From June 2019 to March 2020, the buildings that house the historical heritage tour, as well as the pit-head square, will undergo major renovations and upgrades to conform to standards. You are invited to (re-) discover the mine site and its rich heritage in spring 2020. There will also be the opportunity to take topic-specific, guided tours in French and other languages given by Tourist Office guides.

### Guided tours of the site offered until Saturday 8th June 2019

#### INDIVIDUAL TOURS:

- **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30am:**  
'La mine fait son cinéma' (The mine puts on a show) tour, given by an ex-miner.
- **Saturdays and Sundays, in the afternoon:**  
guided tour (according to the schedule), given by a professional guide from the Tourist Office.

For more information, consult our Events' Guide or visit [tourisme-porteduhainaut.com](http://tourisme-porteduhainaut.com) and our Facebook page.

#### GROUP TOURS:

Visit the Tourist Office for information, prices and to make bookings, or call the Association for the Defense and Protection of the Heritage and Ex-miners of Wallers-Arenberg on: +33 (0)6.04.15.05.44 (Mr Cottel).

### Professional Events' Hosting

Trade shows, seminars, plenaries, screenings... The Tourist Office and Arenberg Creative Mine offer their services in organising management meetings, steering committees, brainstorming sessions, etc. on site. You will also have the chance to combine this with a team-building activity, guided tour, cycle ride, Nordic walking taster session on site or in the surrounding area, as well as other activities held regularly at the Creative Mine... For more information, please contact the Tourist Office.

## ➤ UNESCO

Founded in 1945, UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted in 1972.

The World Heritage Convention aims to grow public awareness of the need to protect the world's cultural and natural heritage in its diversity and richness. Registered on the List for their Outstanding Universal Value, all sites are common properties of humankind and must be transmitted to future generations.

The Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin was inscribed on June 30th 2012, which means that its Outstanding Universal Value was recognised by the World Heritage Committee. It is the 38th French site to be registered on the prestigious List. The World Heritage Site encompasses 353 mining elements and 4,000 hectares (40 km<sup>2</sup>) of landscapes. Listed as a "living evolving cultural landscape", it presents highly varied heritage. A real source of pride for inhabitants.

### UNESCO World Heritage

All year long, cultural and festive events a in the Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin.

For more information visit:  
<http://www.bassinminier-patrimoine mondial.org/en/>

