



# VISITOR'S GUIDE



# WAMIN



## WELCOME

Dear visitors,

The inhabitants of Wamin, known as “waminois”, welcome you to our village !

Some way from the nearest towns, Wamin nestles on the edge of a beautiful beech forest. As you walk through the village you will come across charming cob built farmhouses, paths and lanes bordered by high hedges and green meadows. As you stroll you'll hear birdsong, cows mooing and horses neighing as a musical accompaniment

We are proud that our village was designated a “Village Patrimoine” /Historic Heritage Village in 2017 and we are delighted to offer you this guide to assist your exploration. This guide has been created by Wamin residents and the Association.

Our aim is to help you explore Wamin and to encourage you to return and, perhaps, even to settle here.

We wish you a very pleasant visit!

François Déprez, President ,  
Association Patrimoine et Environnement Wamin  
Wamin Heritage and Environment Association

<https://associationpatrimoineetenvironnementwamin.com>



## HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE

As early as 1070, the village was mentioned in the foundation charter of the Abbey of Auchy les Moines (now Auchy-lès-Hesdin). Enguerrand, Count of Hesdin, gave it to the monks in 1214.

Wamin is a small, rural and wooded village of 250 inhabitants, covering an area of 720 hectares (7.2 km<sup>2</sup>), nestling on the edge of Hesdin forest.

The village lies at the heart of an area steeped in history which includes:

- Fressin and its feudal castle;
- Azincourt and its battlefield (1415);
- Le Parcq, which was the park of Vieil Hesdin chateau in the Middle Ages, also known as the park of the Dukes of Burgundy, which was famous for its automata and menagerie.

There are several possible explanations as to the origin of the name "Wamin":

- The name may come from the Latin – Wal from vallis (valley) and Minor :

smaller than the deep valley (or Wail, neighbouring commune).

- It could also be "Wamen", to cart mud or "Wamhen", the hamlet of mud.

Its spelling has evolved: Walmin, Wammin, then Wamin or Wamain in Old French.



Today, you can still admire the magnificent Abbey in Auchy, which is listed as a historic monument.

*\*Abbatial: church of an abbey (community of monks)*

The village spreads out around the chateau and the church, towards the hamlets of Rhumenville, Bois Saint-Jean and Petit Wamin, as well as including a few houses along the D928 road from Hesdin to Fruges. The hamlet of Petit Wamin extends as far as the church of La Loge, and is now known as "Petit Wamin", with houses built from around 1975 onwards.





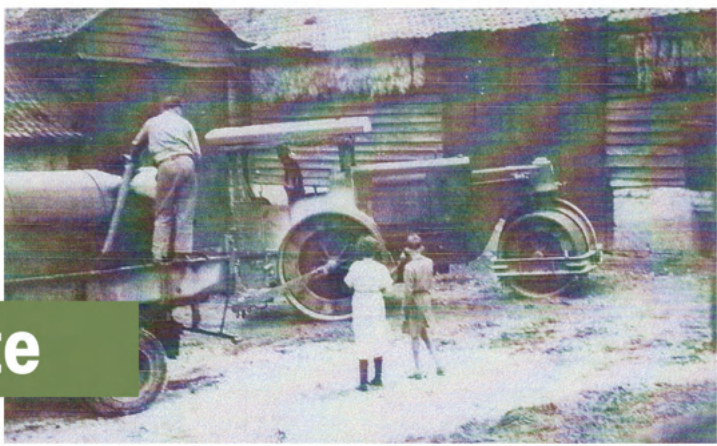
Agriculture is the main activity in the village with 6 mixed crop and livestock farms currently. In 1970, there were 17 farms and smallholdings employing a large permanent and seasonal workforce. Many seasonal workers came from far and wide, notably from Belgium and Poland.

Today, there are also 3 large hen sheds with organic accreditation housing a total of 63,000 hens and 1,000 roosters !

This activity inspired the creation of the "Egg Festival", which takes place every year on Easter Monday.

The village is also home to a number of craft and other businesses including an electrician and heating engineer, firewood supply, piano repair and tuning, dog grooming. In addition there are several gîtes and chambres d'hôtes, a restaurant "Au Chant du grill" and a café/takeaway "Au grand air" (both on the D928).

The village is very popular with tourists (particularly foreigners) for its peace and tranquility and its environment: some have set up second homes here.

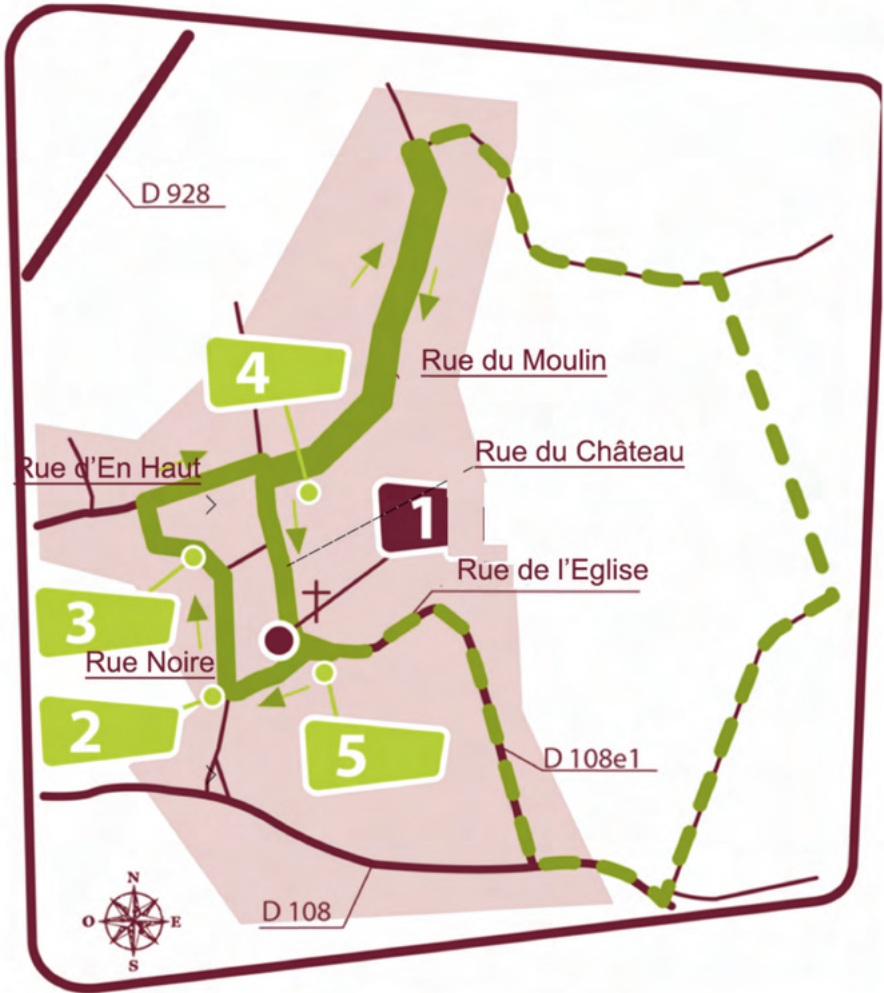


## Anecdote

In the 18th century, the inhabitants of Wamin were known for hosiery. At the time, Hesdin was a centre for the production of stockings (obviously not the kind we know today!).

This activity continued into the 19th century and brought additional income to the people of Hesdin many of whom were farm labourers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights and café owners.





## WALKING TOUR



# 1-THE VILLAGE

The starting point for our walking tour is the village square where, next to the entrance to the chateau, you will find a display board marked 1 on the plan.

This used to be a grassy village square with small paths linking the adjacent houses. It had a well in the centre and you can still see the remains of the structure in the flower bed, near display board 5.

Two other wells supplied the village with water: one was situated in the "carré vert" under the lime trees (now the start of the hiking trails). A second well, constructed in concrete and equipped with an electric pump, is still visible located in front of no. 18 rue d'En-Bas.



The village square was home to a bakery, a grocery store and a café, as well as a public phone box and, unusually, a ballroom that later became a discotheque, « La Louche, » which existed until around 1990.

Wamin has been, and remains, a source of inspiration for many painters, both professional and amateur.

As in all villages, there were footpaths known as "voyettes"\*. From the village square opposite the chateau, a little path leads down to the rue d'En Bas, and, further, to the Commanderie du Bois Saint-Jean. Another path, in the rue sainte-Barbe, near the Brivart chapel, leads to the present day friterie (café /takeaway) Au Grand Air on the D928 Hesdin to Fruges.

*\*Voyette: small footpath within a village.*





# THE CHURCH

The church of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption was gifted to the abbey of Auchy-lès-Moines in 1214 by Enguerrand, Count of Hesdin.

It was a place of pilgrimage. Pilgrims came to invoke Saint Roch and Saint Laurent, the latter being the protector of the village, to cure skin disease.

There are no remains from the medieval period. Supported by two impressive buttresses, the bell tower sits above the porch and bell ringing chamber. It was rebuilt in 1781.



The nave and side chapels built of bricks and chalk date from the 16th century. The triumphal arch is dated 1664 and was restored in 1762.

The original bell, dating from 1400, is now in Nesle-lez-Verlincourt, 40km from Wamin. It bears the name of Antoinette de Créquy, a descendant of the Seigneurie de Wamin.

The bell currently in situ was dedicated in 1838 with the names of names of Alfred de Gouy and his sister Cécile.

The bell tower, west facade and gallery have been restored in recent years.

A new statue of Notre-Dame de La Sagesse was installed above the porch in 2015, replacing the previous one dating from 1902 which had become badly damaged.



## THE INTERIOR

### THE BAPTISMAL FONT



The baptismal font on the left-hand side at the entrance to the church, is formed from black marble and is in the Roman style.



### THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There are a series of 13 images on the walls of the church. These were acquired by Abbé Fiquet in 1933 and are made of majolica (ceramic) from Desvres (Maison Fourmaintraux), a town renowned for its majolica



### THE PULPIT

The pulpit on the right of the nave is made of oak and in Regency style. The priest used it to deliver his sermon in the days when the church had no sound system

### SAINT LAURENT ALTAR



In the left transept, on the north side, is an altar dedicated to Saint Lawrence. This has been restored by a local a carpenter in his spare time, who also made a beautiful piece of sacristy furniture.

### THE STATUE OF SEATED CHRIST



This statue is known by several names: Christ of Pity, Bound Christ, Ecce Homo\*, Christ aux outrages.

Dating from the 15th century and made of carved oak, it stood at the side of the road in the rue d'En Bas before the Revolution. During the Revolution it was hidden in a house.

\*Ecce homo: "Here is the man" is the expression used by Pontius Pilate to describe Jesus when he was being flagellated and crowned with thorns.

### THE RELIGIOUS PAINTINGS

These represent Saint Mary Magdalene and Saint Peter (portrait of General Daullé). They were painted by Mlle Marie Daullé and donated by the General to the parish in 1870 (see Commanderie du Bois-Saint-Jean).

"The Agony of Our Lord in the Garden of Olives" and "The Blessed Virgin at the Foot of the Cross" were given by Abbé Noël, the parish priest of Wamin from 1898 to 1922.

A beautiful blue tombstone, dating from before the reconstruction of the church, covers the vault of the Fléchin family, former lords of Wamin. Twelve people are buried here.





# THE CHÂTEAU

The chateau was built in 1660 by the de Fléchin family after Hesdin became part of France (1641). The land of Wamin had belonged to them from 1409, when Marie de Créquy gave it as a dowery on her marriage to Guilbert de Fléchin, known as Le Haze, squire to the King.

Having become national property in 1794 after the Revolution, it was bought back by the de Fléchin family who sold it in 1811 to the family of the current owner, Mme de Gouy, who still lives there.

Made of brick and stone (typical of the region), the chateau consists of a central main building with a pediment and sundial, and two projecting wings.



The two pavilions at the entrance, both pigeon lofts, add a special touch to the estate.

The outbuildings to the left of the main courtyard date from 1668. Those on the right date from 1782.

During the Second World War, the property was occupied by the German army, as was a large part of the village.

A large park, with groves of rare species and unusual trees, adjoins the château.

The château and its estate were listed as an Historic Monument in 2009.





## 2 -THE LOURDES' GROTTTO

A grotto dedicated to Notre-Dame de Lourdes was built by the villagers at the beginning of the 20th century. It has since been replaced by a more refined version.

Opposite the grotto is the Mairie (village hall and office).

The adjoining village school was built in 1955 on the site of the old boys' school. Since 1979, it has been the école maternelle or nursery school for children from Wamin and neighbouring communes.

The slopes bordering the narrow sunken roads are planted with hedges to provide shelter in bad weather and to keep troops out of sight in times of war.





These lanes and roads offer rural views and the typical regional housing, with traditional cob longhouses or longères, are lime-plastered.

From the grotto by the Mairie follow the narrow lane known as "Rue Noire". This narrow, stony lane was drenched by the rain and bordered by untrimmed hedges, forming a dark canopy for passers-by, hence its name.

Along this lane a display board (no. 3) indicates a beautiful viewpoint over the Hesdin regional forest.

You can walk back down Rue Noire, and, below the Mairie and school, to find the "Carré Vert" or green square (which is triangular!) with its espaliered lime trees.

This is the starting point for the hiking trails signposted there. A table and benches are provided for you to relax and picnic.



## RUE NOIRE DISPLAY BOARD

Wamin's heritage is enriched by its rural landscape and agriculture.

Situated to the north of the Hesdin regional forest, the village of Wamin is at the centre of a rural area of plateaux and valleys that give it its special charm.

The landscape is diverse with fields and meadows lined with hedgerows.

The hedgerows in the village are made up of a wide range of species including hawthorn, holly, hollyhock, wild privet and honeysuckle. Trees protect people and animals from the rain and wind and also provide shade in summer.

The main crops are wheat, sugarbeet, barley, rape, flax, maize and, depending on the year, peas for human consumption or protein peas for animal feed.



In the past, Warrin was known for growing tobacco, and you can still admire the airy wooden sheds where the manoques (sheaves of tobacco leaves) were hung for curing.

## ANECDOTES

Near the display board marked as 3 on the plan, pause to look to the left-hand side, where the pasture once had a pond for grazing cows and horses.



Every farm had a pond to collect water for the garden and animals. In each one they reared cows and pigs to provide for their own needs.

These ponds were also used to prevent flooding, by holding back water.



# AGRICULTURE



## LIVESTOCK REARING

Livestock rearing in Wamin is mainly cattle.


Dairy cows (Holstein breed) or cows which feed their calves (Blonde d'Aquitaine and Limousine breeds).

There are also cattle reared for meat production (Charolais, Blonde d'Aquitaine, etc.).



In Wamin Boulonnaise plough horses were once numerous. The area ploughed by a team of horses in a day was just over 4,000m<sup>2</sup> and was known as a "journal" or "mesure".

A Boulonnaise farm was recently set up on rue du Moulin.



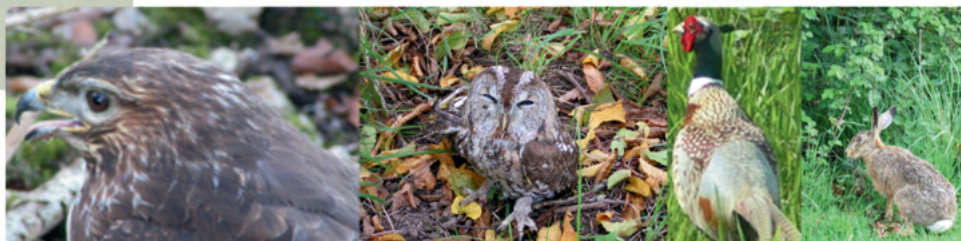
## THE NATURAL HABITAT

Wamin is an ideal natural habitat for many species of wildlife which feel protected here.

On your walk you may spot blackbirds, thrushes, jays, wood pigeons, finches, wrens, meadowlarks, goldfinches, wagtails, green woodpeckers, great spotted woodpeckers, grey partridges, pheasants, sparrow hawks, falcons and buzzards.



If you tread quietly near a hedgerow you may be lucky enough to see a roe deer or a hare or rabbit leaping out of the undergrowth. You may even surprise a wild boar...





## 4- RUE DU CHATEAU/ RUE DU MOULIN DISPLAY BOARD

The Brivart chapel is a private "votive" chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

It was built as a thanksgiving memorial to honour Octave Brivard, who was wounded at Verdun in 1917.

Beside it, at the junction of rue du Château, rue du Moulin, and rue Sainte-Barbe, is a calvary erected by Madame Romain Vauchel on 8 July 1860. It was restored in 1885 and replaced by a cast-iron statue of Christ based on the Bouchardon model.

Very popular at the time, this same style of statue of Christ can also be seen at the Commanderie du Bois Saint-Jean.

*\*votive from Latin votivus, votum ("vow").*



The château is a listed Historic Monument and its parkland contains a variety of tree species, including plane trees, ginkgo biloba, larches, yews, redwoods, cedars and other conifers. It is an example of typical landscaping from recent centuries.

Below the low wall inside the park two ponds can be seen. Designed as fish stock ponds, they also serve as a water reservoir for the garden and animals.

From here, you can continue your walk along Rue du Moulin towards the fields to enjoy the wide open spaces. For more details, see the alternative route.



At no. 14, rue du Moulin, a very old farm entrance porch and doorway once served to enclose the farmyard and keep the animals from roaming around and to protect the farm from unwelcome visitors. The history of this farm is described on the association's website under the heading "From yesterday to today".



Retracing your steps, you can admire the cob or alternating chalk and brick buildings known as "red bars" on either side.

On the way back down to the village square, you will pass the white stone wall of the chateau grounds made of sandstone and flint and capped with a course of bricks.

Note also the barn roofs with their ridge tiles and overhanging coyaux\*.

\*Coyau: an architectural term for a type of roof which slopes and overhangs the building allowing the rain to drain away from the wall.





On the right, at no. 9 rue du Chateau, you can admire a house built by its owner following traditional building methods including wooden beams, cob and bricks.

For more information about this house and some photos of the construction stages, visit the Association's website.





## A NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE

**There is an alternative route around the village to the east.**

Walk along rue du Moulin and, after the last farmhouse, take the first path on the right which takes you around the edge of the village.

This alternative route takes you to one of the most beautiful viewpoints in the village at the top of the fields and offering a 360° panorama.

This magnificent view takes in the field sweeping across the landscape from Fressin to Auchy-les-Hesdin, through Azincourt, Bucamps, Béalencourt, Rollancourt, Le Parcq and beyond.

You can also spot Rhumenville, a hamlet near Wamin, and the old farmsteads of Auchy Abbey and the roofs of the Bois Saint-Jean Commanderie further to the west.

We can also see Rhumenville, hamlet of Wamin, with the old farms of Auchy Abbey and the roofs of the Bois Saint-Jean commandery, further to the west.



## 5 - THE COMMANDERIE DU BOIS SAINT-JEAN

The Commanderie du Bois Saint-Jean was built in 1182 by Philippe d'Alsace, Count of Flanders and Vermandois, "for the redemption of his soul and that of his ancestors" and was handed over to the Knights Templar of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. The Knights Templar from the neighbouring dioceses of Th rouanne, Arras, Tournai, Cambrai and Noyon met there once a year.

The Commanderie was transferred to the Order of Malta in 1336 and remained in its hands until the French Revolution.

Strong links were maintained with Auchy Abbey. Wounded soldiers from the fierce battles of the Middle Ages, including Azincourt, were treated in the Commanderie.

Jean-Marie Daullé, a local farmer, acquired the estate from the French State Property (“Biens Nationaux”) in 1793, and began construction of the main building, but he never completed it.

The estate was sold to Martin Capet d’Arras in 1826, then in turn to François Anselme Lefebvre in 1856, ancestor of the current owners, who undertook its restoration in 2009.



After a long and beautiful avenue of plane trees,

An ancient calvary at the entrance to the courtyard reinforces the religious origins of the site.





The buildings surrounding the central courtyard include several farm buildings, stables, barns and a sheepfold, as well as a main building dating from the 17th and 18th centuries,. There is an octagonal dovecote in the centre of the courtyard. All of the buildings were declared as Historic Monuments in 2009.

The surrounding estate, of which the contours have remained unchanged since the Middle Ages, is remarkable for its biodiversity.

In view of its heritage interest, registration as a historic site is underway for all the land and buildings.

To the west, the Commanderie abuts the Hesdin regional forest and an ancient Roman road that linked Vieil-Hesdin to Boulogne, and, to the south, the Parc des Ducs de Bourgogne and the surrounding wall. This park, which covered almost 1,000 hectares, was one of the finest in Europe in the Middle Ages.



## AND MORE ...

### GUIDED TOURS

#### **Visit the Commanderie du Bois Saint-Jean**

For groups, by appointment : tel +33 6 83 85 16 67.

In July-August, information at the 7 Vallées Tourist Office.

### HIKING

From the "Green Square", at the bottom of rue du Maréchal.

Information: 7 Valleys Tourist Office.

Distance: 9.8km - Ascent 191m.

### FESTIVALS

#### **Fête de l'Oeuf - Easter Monday**

A day of games, entertainment and an egg hunt for young and old. Catering on site.

Facebook

#### **European Heritage Days**

##### **3rd weekend of September**

An opportunity for cultural and gastronomic discovery

©

#### **Guided tour as part off Heritage Villages**

During the summer.

Information from the Hesdin Tourist Office :

+33 3 21 86 19 19 - <http://www.7vallees.fr/>

## BED AND BREAKFAST

### Le Collet vert

12, rue d'en Haut, Wamin

+33 6 80 05 34 08 - jeanlouis.saelens@free.fr

<https://www.facebook.com/colletvert/>

Latitude : 50.414841 | Longitude : 2.051685

### History of O

5 bis, route départementale, Wamin

+33 7 77 93 54 87 - <https://histoiredo62.fr/>

Latitude : 50.4210840 / Longitude : 2.0556549

### L'Etable de Wamin

1, rue du Château, Wamin

+33 6 95 53 69 64- [ginny.humphrey13@googlemail.com](mailto:ginny.humphrey13@googlemail.com)

Latitude: 50.413709 / Longitude: 2.058596

## RESTAURANTS

### Au Chant du Grill, restaurant

1, rue de la Loge, Wamin

+33 7 50 07 63 47 closed Wednesday and Thursday

[auchantdugrill@gmail.com](mailto:auchantdugrill@gmail.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/>

### Au Grand Air, restaurant and chip shop

5, route départementale, Wamin

open from April to October

+33 3 21 41 75 78 / +33 6 81 10 61 62



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*Layout Cécile Déprez*