ROUTE
The Water lilies tour crosses the only last farmed and inhabited swamp. In May 2013 it received the « Man and Biosphère » eco-label from the UNESCO. This sanctuary of greenery is crossed by a total of 700 kilometers of streams on a 4000 hectares surface, and shelters around 1700 animal and vegetal species, which offers landscapes of great variety and diversity with woods and bushes hiding grey herons, great crested Grebes, kingfishes... It also runs along market gardens where farming knowledge has been passed down for centuries. Most of these farms can only be reached with small flat-bottomed boats which prove the local ancient farming tradition, since for a long time these boats were the only mean of work and communication. Behind the top of the trees you may glimpse at the tour of St-Omer’s cathedral, main testimony of Nord-Pas-de-Calais’ gothic architecture which well illustrates the local wealthy heritage. This delicately-balanced wetland is a wonderful green haven.

SIGHTSEEING
The Water Lilies tour crosses the swamp with its mosaic of gardens, meadows and woods which are drained by a maze of streams and ditches mixing a diversified fauna and flora. This territory, away from time and tumult resembles no other and needs to be preserved. It offers many possibilities and activities which will please sporty people, nature and history lovers, but also provides a wonderful resting place for visitors seeking peace and quiet.

PRATICAL INFORMATION
- TOUR DURATION
  1 day – May 12, 2019
- TOUR PLACE
  Houlle river and Audomarois swamp
- BOATS
  Recreational four-person sculling boats
- FEES
  33 € : without accommodation, including 1 hot meal served under tent in the swamp
- FOR COMPANIONs
  18 € : without accommodation, 1 meal included
- SEAT RENTAL
  120 seats available, 20 €
- SAFETY
  Supervision : 25 people
  Safety boats: 7

TO ENLIVEN YOUR STAY
- Tourist Office of the region of Saint-Omer
  Phone : 0321980851
  contact@tourisme-saintomer.com
  www.tourisme-saintomer.com
- Pas-De-Calais Tourist Office
  Phone : 0321103460
  accueil@pas-de-calais.com
  www.pas-de-calais.com
- House of the Regional Natural reserve of the cape and swamp of Opal
  Phone : 0321879090
  www.parc-opale.fr

PROVISIONAL PLANNING
- 8am : welcome breakfast. Skipper meeting: safety briefing and distribution of a tour map.
- 9.30am to 1.30pm : 23 km to the discovery of the Saint-Omer moor.
- 1.30pm : drinks, gifts and lunch on the Houlle border.