

Sarthe TOURISME

PRESS KIT
- 2022 -



Sillé-le-Guillaume Forest © P. Beltrami

www.sarthe-tourism.co.uk

Sarthe
Tourisme



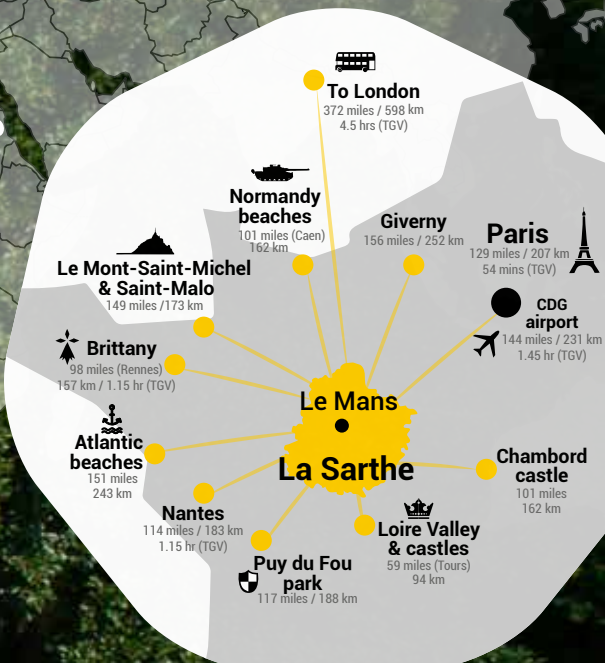
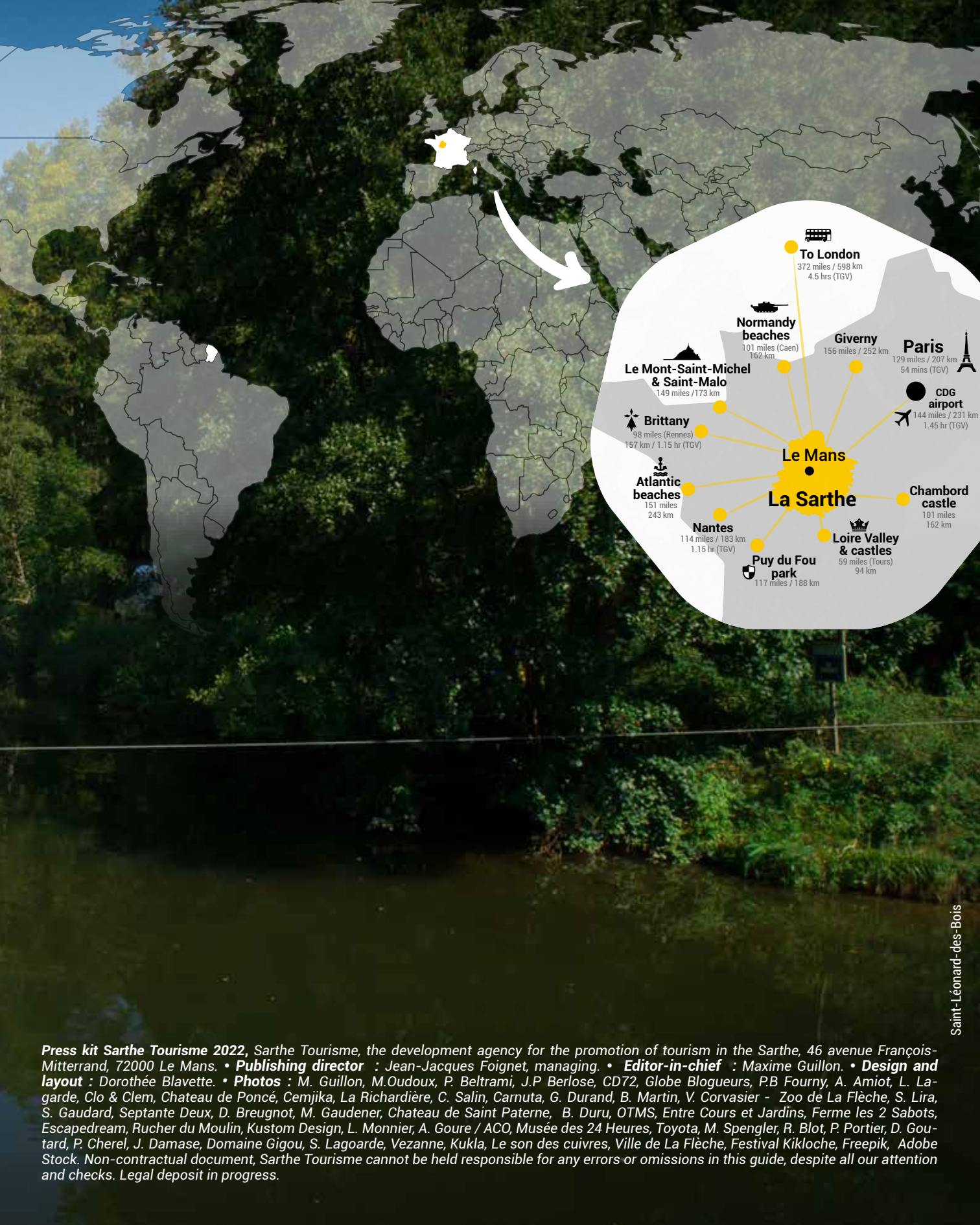


Explore the Sarthe

*A department with a wealth of heritage sites and exceptional natural beauty.
Surprising landscapes, original activities, thousand-year-old monuments and atypical events.
All the treasures of the Sarthe in this press kit.*



www.sarhetourisme.com
#sarhetourisme



Press kit Sarthe Tourisme 2022, Sarthe Tourisme, the development agency for the promotion of tourism in the Sarthe, 46 avenue François-Mitterrand, 72000 Le Mans. • **Publishing director** : Jean-Jacques Foignet, managing. • **Editor-in-chief** : Maxime Guillon. • **Design and layout** : Dorothée Blavette. • **Photos** : M. Guillon, M.Oudoux, P. Beltrami, J.P Berlose, CD72, Globe Blogueurs, P.B Fourny, A. Amiot, L. Lagarde, Clo & Clem, Chateau de Poncé, Cemjika, La Richardière, C. Salin, Carnuta, G. Durand, B. Martin, V. Corvasier - Zoo de La Flèche, S. Lira, S. Gaudard, Septante Deux, D. Breugnot, M. Gaudener, Chateau de Saint Paterne, B. Duru, OTMS, Entre Cours et Jardins, Ferme les 2 Sabots, Escapedream, Rucher du Moulin, Kustom Design, L. Monnier, A. Goure / ACO, Musée des 24 Heures, Toyota, M. Spengler, R. Blot, P. Portier, D. Goutard, P. Chereil, J. Damase, Domaine Gigou, S. Lagoarde, Vezanne, Kukla, Le son des cuivres, Ville de La Flèche, Festival Kikloche, Freepik, Adobe Stock. Non-contractual document, Sarthe Tourisme cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions in this guide, despite all our attention and checks. Legal deposit in progress.

Summary

Cultural
Heritage



8

Essential
Sarthe



6



20

Expériences
in nature



30

The Sarthe
by bike



38

Tourism
at the farm

Terroir &
*gastro*nomy



46

Sarthe
Accommodation



The 24 Hours
Experience



Cultural
Agenda



Sarthe
shopping

Essential Sarthe



THE ALPES MANCELLES



THE CHÂTEAU DU LUDE



THE 24 HOURS OF LE MANS



ROYAL EPAU ABBEY



LA FLÈCHE ZOO



THE VÉLOBUISSONNIÈRE®



THE WESTERN RIVERS®



PLANTAGENET CITY AND THE GALLO-ROMAN WALL OF LE MANS





Cultural Heritage

*Almost two millennia of history separate the origins of the Roman Wall from the Le Mans 24 Hours.
The Sarthe enjoyed great influence during mediaeval times and a history of innovation
during the 19th and 20th centuries leaving it with a very rich legacy.*

In the footsteps of the Plantagenets

The Plantagenet dynasty left its mark on the Sarthe department. Walk in the footsteps of this French-English dynasty as you discover the old historic centre of Le Mans called Plantagenet City and the castle of Montmirail, the scene of an important historic encounter.

PLANTAGENET CITY : A PLUNGE INTO THE PAST

The size and beautiful design of the historic centre of Le Mans will fill you with awe. It stretches out over an area of 37 acres and boasts around one hundred half-timbered houses, the oldest of which date back to the 15th century. Several sculpted pillars and engraved lintels tell the story of the town's trading activity and confirm certain legends. The Cathedral of Saint-Julian, whose bell tower stands out against the skyline like a lighthouse is the perfect example of the era that spanned the Romanesque and Gothic architectural styles. It is home to two particularly beautiful treasures: a magnificent chapel decorated with 47 painted angel musicians and the 12th century stained glass window depicting the Ascension - the oldest stained glass window in the world still in place in a cathedral.

www.sarthetourisme.com/visites-citadines-du-mans



Hanging house, Plantagenet City



SPOTLIGHT ON...

The 12th century enamel plaque of **Geoffroy Plantagenet** is one of the most beautiful examples of its kind. Geoffrey Plantagenet was the founder of the dynasty and here you can see him dressed in ceremonial costume with sword and shield. The exceptional colours were much admired at its first showing in New York, after which they travelled to the Louvre Abu Dhabi in 2020 for an exhibition dedicated to enamels. You can see it at the Musée Carré Plantagenêt in Le Mans.



ROYAL EPAU ABBE, THE ABBEY OF QUEEN BERENGARIA

In 1229, Berengaria of Navarre, wife of Richard the Lionheart, decided to found a large Cistercian abbey - the Royal Epau Abbey. The Gothic architecture of the building was designed to ensure that the values of the order, namely austerity and simplicity, were observed to the letter. The abbey, which was taken over by the Department of the Sarthe in 1958, is now one of the most important cultural centres in the Sarthe. Each year, a major exhibition is held in the abbey (Anima (Ex) Musica in 2021 - 2022), a photographic exhibition in the gardens (Vincent Munier, Hans-Sylvestre, Robert Doisneau...), music festivals (classical, jazz and contemporary) and son et lumière shows at the end of the year.

<https://epau.sarthe.fr>



SPOTLIGHT ON



Anima (Ex) Musica (until 13 March) is an exhibition of XXL woodlice, beetles, spiders and other small animals made out of old musical instruments. 12 different species are mechanically animated and accompanied by some strange sound effects!

PERMACULTURE GARDEN : REINSTATING THE ABBEY'S MISSION OF PRODUCING FOOD

The Royal Epau Abbey is committed to its Cistercian heritage. In 2019, a vegetable garden was built in the form of the rose window and the lancet arches of the choir of the abbey. Like the former Cistercian monks who were self-supporting, the aim is to be able to supply 100% of the vegetables for the estate's consumption. The choice of permaculture was obvious thus bringing the site into the 21st century. Transmission is the key word at the heart of the project and a wide range of events and workshops are organised to this end for visitors and schools.

<https://chateaudemontmirail.com>





CHÂTEAU DE MONTMIRAIL AT THE HEART OF A HISTORIC ENCOUNTER

In 1169, the King of England, Henry II Plantagenet, accompanied by two of his sons, Richard the Lionheart and John Lackland, met the King of France, Louis VII the Younger, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Beckett in the grounds of the Château de Montmirail. The reason: to reconcile Thomas Beckett with Henry II. The attempt failed and the archbishop was murdered less than a year later by knights close to the King of England!

A CASTLE WITH ACTIVITIES ALL YEAR ROUND

The castle with its medieval foundations was rebuilt in the 15th century and is open all year round.

It has five comfortable and attractive guest rooms. It is open during the day for visits and puts on a large number of (picnic) concerts in the gardens in the summer. It also has a shop dedicated to local producers and arts and crafts revealing the local skills and specialities. The restored stables house a tea room, reception and seminar rooms.



<https://chateaudemontmirail.com>



THE ASTELLE MONTMIRAIL : HISTORIC KNIVES !

The Astelle Montmirail workshop came about following an encounter between Pascal Turpin, one of the last edge-tool makers in France, and the Herbelin family, owners of the castle. The "Astelle Montmirail" workshop produces handcrafted knives, some of which are made using wood from the castle's old beams. The workshop even offers classes so that you can produce your own knives.



An exceptional Gallo-Roman wall

Built between the 3rd and 4th centuries, this city walls more than one kilometre long, protected the ancient city of Vindinum, capital of the Gallic people of the Auleri Cenoman tribe. Today, 500 metres of polychrome walls with geometric patterns remain in place, interspersed with 11 towers and 3 posterns. The walls of Le Mans share the description best preserved walls in the entire ancient Roman Empire with the two imperial capitals of Rome and Constantinople (Istanbul).

A PRESTIGIOUS CITY WALL

The predominantly red city wall that is visible from the river, was designed to impress and thus demonstrate the might and wealth of the city. The refined motifs (rhombus, triangle and hourglass) and the quality of the structure with alternating layers of brick, rows of pale limestone and dark russet sandstone held together with pink-coloured mortar - reinforce this hypothesis.

+ SPOTLIGHT ON....

The Carré Plantagenêt Museum. The archaeology museum of Le Mans will be holding a major exhibition that looks back at the history of the city wall featuring an immersive 3D experience and interactive media. Opens 14 May 2022.



? Did you know?

The city of Le Mans has applied for the Gallo-Roman wall to appear in UNESCO World Heritage listing.

The most charming villages and gardens

LES PETITES CITÉS DE CARACTÈRE

The "Petites Cités de Caractère" brand promotes atypical, rural and dynamic towns with a rich and preserved heritage. Here are the principal attractions you will find there.

Asnières-sur-Vègre

The Manoir de la Cour (13th century), the murals of the Saint-Hilaire church (11th and 12th centuries) and the artists' studios.

Brûlon

The Haussmannian quarter, the Pissot tower and the Claude Chappe museum (inventor of the semaphore and native of Brûlon).

Fresnay-sur-Sarthe (2nd in the Most Beautiful Villages of France)

The Hairdressing Museum, the remains of the castle and its ram-parts, the Creusot districts and the weavers' houses.

Luché-Pringé

The Mervé fortified mill, the churches of Saint-Martin de Luché and Notre-Dame de Pringé and the Priory of Saint-Martin.

Le Lude

The castle and its gardens, the 16th century architects' house and the Recollets Convent

Mamers

The Italian-style theatre, the covered market, the church of Saint-Nicolas and the former Convent of the Visitation.



Montmirail

The castle, the church of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption, the fortifications and the Saint-Servais Chapel.

Parcé-sur-Sarthe

The Saint-Pierre tower, the former stables, the houses with turrets and the mill.

Saint-Calais

The Corn Exchange, the banks of the Anille River, the wash houses, the gazebos and the museum-library.

Saint-Léonard-des-Bois

The listed site of the Alpes Mancelles, the slate quarries, the leisure centre, the Domaine du Gasseau.

Sillé-le-Guillaume

The castle, Sillé beach, the forest and its protected natural site, the canonry and art deco houses.



<https://www.sarhetourisme.com/petites-cites-de-caractere>



Asnières-sur-Vègre

+ SPOTLIGHT ON...



The frescoes of Asnières-sur-Vègre. The church of Saint-Hilaire in this village is home to some impressive frescoes that date back to the 12th and 13th centuries. One of them, representing hell, is quite scary. Another, depicting the Adoration of the Magi with Virgin and Child, is incredibly well preserved.



Parcé-sur-Sarthe



LE VILLAGE PRÉFÉRÉ DES FRANÇAIS (sélection 2021)

Fresnay-sur-Sarthe



Sillé-le-Guillaume

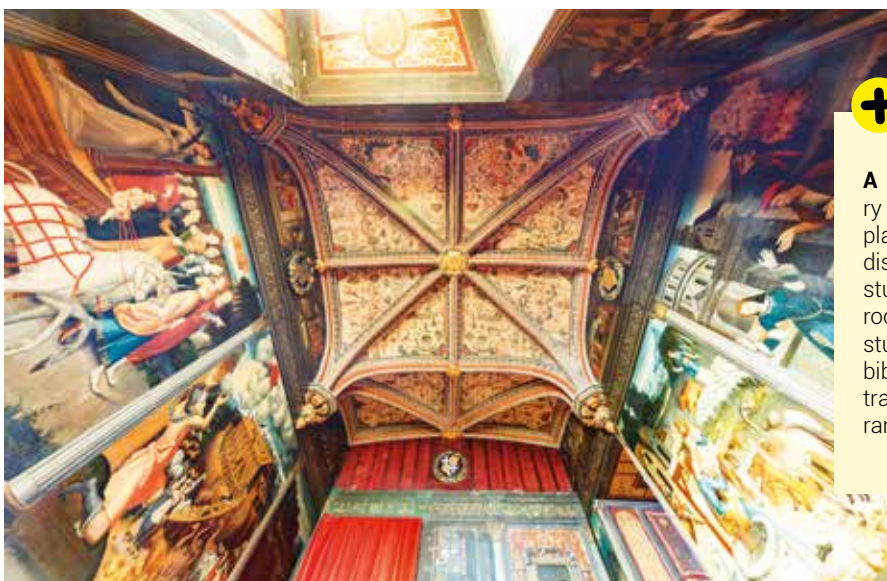


A LOIRE CHÂTEAU IN THE SARTHE : THE CHÂTEAU DU LUDE

A great number of important figures in French history have stayed here, including Henri IV, Louis XIII and the Marquise de Sevigné. The Middle Ages comes together here with the Renaissance and the 19th century. Surprises await you when you cross the threshold: the remarkable studiolo adorned with extraordinary 16th century wall paintings and the collection of ceremonial costumes from the era of Louis XVI in the main gallery.

The castle, which is still inhabited, buzzes with activity all year round: workshops in the medieval kitchens, escape games in the era of Jules Verne or the Musketeers, the 'Fête des Jardiniers', etc.

<https://www.lerule.com/>



+ SPOTLIGHT ON...

A forgotten studiolo. The 16th century studiolo had remained hidden behind plasterwork and a false ceiling until its discovery in 1850! Every surface of the studiolo had been painted and it was a room reserved for meditation or spiritual study. The decorative paintings depict biblical scenes and allegories from Petrarch's Triumphs. This type of room is a rarity in French castles.



The garden of the Prieuré de Vauboin



The Renaissance garden of the Château de Poncé-sur-le-Loir



The garden of the Château de Villaines

REMARKABLE GARDENS

The garden of the Prieuré de Vauboin in Beaumont-sur-Dême is an ode to boxwood. The gardener, who is passionate about boxwood, sculpts, models and prunes it every day until it the characters almost come to life.

The jardin du Petit Bordeaux in Saint-Biez-en-Belin is an intimate garden with over 4,000 species and varieties of trees, shrubs, old roses, grasses and perennials.

The garden of château du Lude is a formal garden with a vegetable garden against the backdrop of the River Loir flowing languidly by.

The garden of the Château de Villaines in Louplandes is a walled kitchen garden featuring a classical section with a symmetrical layout..

The garden of the Château du Mirail in Crannes-en-Champagne is a combination of French and English traditional styles.

The garden of the Donjon de Ballon is inspired by medieval and renaissance gardens with impressive walls of roses and a mysterious alley of lime trees.

The Renaissance garden of the Château de Poncé-sur-le-Loir looks like a theatre set nestling at the foot of a limestone cliff.

www.sarhetourisme.com/voyage-poetique-au-coeur-des-jardins



+ SPOTLIGHT ON...

Entre Cours et Jardins, hidden gardens in Le Mans - last weekend in September

A chance for everyone to discover the horticultural wealth of the Plantagenet City. Horticulturists, nurserymen, florists and artists take over 40 gardens in the city that are open to the public. A poetic journey through blooming enclosures, the courtyards of mansions, terrace gardens or secret passageways in full bloom

www.entrecoursetjardins.com

Art in the countryside

PIACÉ-LE-RADIEUX BÉZARD - LE CORBUSIER, A DIALOGUE BETWEEN ARCHITECTURE AND NATURE

Piacé was at the heart of the utopian La Ferme Radieuse project designed to enhance rural districts and initiated in the 1930s by Le Corbusier and Norbert Bézard. A permanent exhibition in the art centre revisits this venture and includes a tour of contemporary art, design and architecture consisting thirty works installed throughout the village.

<https://www.piaceleradieux.com/>



Lilian Bourgeat



Lilian Bourgeat

LES MOULINS DE PAILLARD : A CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE ON THE BANKS OF THE LOIR

It is both a residency for artists and a contemporary art scene. Numerous international artists from all horizons meet here to create, exchange and produce works that are then shown throughout the world. Temporary exhibitions from April to November.

<https://moulinsdepaillard.wordpress.com/>



MOULINSART, EXHIBITIONS ON THE WATER

MoulinSart Island is a contemporary art centre and an operating watermill! All year round, residencies and exhibitions are held in the former grain barn as well as outside. In 2021, visual artists, illustrators and photographers were able to exhibit and meet visitors on the island.

www.ile-moulinsart.fr



Vincent Godeau



Shop "le temps retrouvé"

LA CHARTRE-SUR-LE-LOIR, ANTIQUE DEALERS, DESIGNERS AND ARTISTS

La Chartre is a hive of antique dealers, designers and artists. With its 15 shops, it is a true paradise for bargain hunters. Discover the curios and knicks and knacks of the antique dealer Grégoire Courtin who has a special gift for displaying his objects. Find the rare treasure at Kustom Design or Armel Labbé. And admire the disturbing and surprising works of the artist Philut.

<https://abap72blog.wordpress.com/les-boutiques-du-village/>

RENÉ, THE VILLAGE OF ARTS AND ARTISTS

This small village of 300 souls has dedicated itself entirely to art. Dozens of frescoes, graffiti and sculptures (Titi from Paris, Thérèse Launay, Pierre Zanni (sculptor), La Rouille, Jorge Castronovo) are dotted throughout the village and adorn street corners, lurk behind gates or at the foot of the church. Every first Sunday of October, the "resident-artists" invite about 30 artists from all over France to come and exhibit in the village during the Pictiores.



Jul' Haricot

Shhh...creativity is afoot

LA RICHARDIÈRE : SILENCE FOR THE ARTISTS

This former wine-producing farm that nestles in the hollow of a valley, welcomes painters and poets in search of inspiration or a moment of tranquillity. The estate is made up of three studios/bedrooms and a small house. The décor is minimalist and modern allowing artists a blank space in which their creativity can blossom.

<https://domainelarichardiere.com/>







Expériences *in nature*

Forests, deep hedgerows, rivers and small mountains are typical of the Sarthe landscape. This diversity guarantees the perfect opportunity for nature lovers to get away from it all.

- Sarthe Tourisme -

Close up with nature

EXCEPTIONAL AND PROTECTED NATURE

The Sarthe department protects its different areas of natural beauty. 15 sites are listed as Sensitive Natural Areas (ENS in French) and come under the permanent management and 12 are Natura 2000 listed sites. The Sensitive Natural Areas allow the observation of fauna and flora of various ecosystems (marshes, peat bogs, hedged farmland, lakes, limestone slopes, forests, etc.). Otters, yellow-bellied toads, peregrine falcons and plum pox beetles are among the species that can be discovered in the Sarthe.

www.sarthetourisme.com/la-sarthe-si-proche-si-nature



Otters



Yellow-bellied toads



Peregrine falcons



Great Tit

? Did you know ?

The Sarthe is the most densely wooded department of the Pays de la Loire



*Bercé,
an exceptional
forest!*

The Bercé forest is a veritable treasure of the Sarthe region and is reputed to have one of the most beautiful collections of centuries-old oaks in France.

THE OAKS, KINGS OF BERCÉ

The forest is home to several oak groves, including the Futaie des Clos, one of the most beautiful in France. Covering 8 hectares, it contains hundreds of oak trees whose average age is over 300 years and that are as tall as 50 metres. The Boppe oak, for example, known as the King of Bercé, is 44 metres tall.

THE OAKS OF THE SARTHE TO THE RESCUE OF NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS

The know-how of successive generations of foresters has enabled these trees to develop straight, slender trunks. This quality has made the reputation of Bercé. Previously used for shipbuilding, the large oaks are now sought after for barrel-making. Eight exceptional oaks were even selected for the reconstruction of the spire of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Beautiful walks



A FOREST WITH WALKS TO TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY

Bercé Forest is a natural cathedral where the trunks and crowns create the impression of pillars and vaults making it a wonderful place for walking, observing nature and simple contemplation.

The ruddy forest paths are connected at junctions, departure points for hikers, horse riders and cyclists. Towards the end of the summer, the echo of the stag's bellow can be heard in the undergrowth. At the edge of the forest at Carnuta, la Maison de l'Homme et de la Forêt with its entertaining and interactive museography teaches visitors about the forest ecosystem and the professions related to wood cutting.

Les Alpes Mancelles, des montagnes à 2 h de Paris !



The Alpes Mancelles are remnants of the Armorican Massif in the heart of the Normandy-Maine Regional Nature Park. The unique screes of Saint-Léonard-des-Bois and the steep hills and forests form a unique landscape. The Sarthe River that winds its way between the rocky outlines of sandstone and granite, unveils a fascinating heritage of mills and locks.

SAINT-LÉONARD-DES-BOIS, SPORT AND NATURE

A central location in the Alpes Mancelles, 'Saint-Léo' is the starting point for a wide range of hikes that lead to the tops of the two steep hills that enclose it on both sides. The Domaine du Gasseau, the village's leisure centre offers activities such as horse-riding, canoeing, climbing and tree-top adventures.

FRESNAY-SUR-SARTHE, VOTED SECOND MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE BY FRENCH PEOPLE IN 2021

Perched on a rocky outcrop, this medieval town grew considerably thanks to its textile industry. Fresnay was renowned for its very fine cloth. The weavers' district on the banks of the Sarthe is now a delight for walkers. The narrow streets, the remains of the castle destroyed during the Hundred Years' War and the listed church in rousard stone make Fresnay one of the most beautiful villages in the Sarthe.



? Did you know?

The Normandie-Maine Regional National Park has applied for the UNESCO Global Geopark Label. The geological formation of the scree that is typical of the Alpes Mancelles is a strong argument for this application.

+ SPOTLIGHT ON...

Screes. The screes made up of sharp edged sandstone scree from the American Massif, were formed during the Ice Age 2.6 million years ago. The alternating freezing and thawing during this era caused the rock to break up.



PAINTERS OF THE ALPES MANCELLES

In the 19th century, landscape painting was in vogue. Painters, looking for natural forms to paint, found inspiration in the landscape, fauna and flora of the Alpes Mancelles. Being so close to Paris it soon became very fashionable!

A new river destination

THE WESTERN RIVERS, NEW PATHS TO FREEDOM.

The Sarthe, Maine-et-Loire and Mayenne joined forces to create the leading river destination in the west of the country. With 283 km of navigable waterways, it is the largest navigable basin west of Paris and the largest network of navigable rivers in France! It is very popular for the tranquillity and wealth of landscapes traversed by the rivers. They have retained all their natural charm, transporting travellers and strollers through a remarkable world of natural beauty and historical heritage.

www.sarthetourisme.com/rivieres-de-louest



+ **SPOTLIGHT ON...**
Wake Paradise is dedicated to wakeboard enthusiasts. The leisure centre will be extended in 2022 with the addition of a restaurant and new jump modules.



Activities around the river



GLIDE ON THE RIVER IN SILENCE

The efoil allows you to glide over the water at high speed without impacting the environment! It is an electrically powered form of transport that does not create waves. Perfect for observing nature while getting a thrill!

www.aventurenautique.fr



PICNIC ON A TRADITIONAL BOAT

La Rêveuse de Saint-Nicolas is a replica of a 17th century sand-dredging barge that is typical of the Pays de la Loire. You can take a trip on her throughout the summer while you enjoy the views of the Sarthe River and a historical tour of Le Mans that includes the Gallo-Roman wall, one of the most beautiful in Europe, Plantagenet City and the old tobacco factory that was built at the turn of the 19th century. Come and discover the exceptional heritage of the city.

Micro-adventures in the Sarthe

An increasing number of local people from the Sarthe want to share their passion for nature through unique experiences: cani-kart in the forest (dog-sled on wheels), canoeing holidays, nature photography or even night hikes.



Juigné-sur-Sarthe, Terre Activ'



Petite Charmie, Sleg Dog Ride



Saint-Léonard-des-Bois, Alpes Mancelles Aventures

THE SARTHE, CROSS-COUNTRY TRAIL TERRITORY!



Accompanied by Nathalie Mauclair, double world champion in the discipline in 2013 and 2015, the Sarthe department has created a cross-country trail station, the first of its kind in France.

The champion, who set up the trails herself, describes them as "varied and easy to run. You will certainly be surprised by the nature along the trails as well as the wildlife".

The Sarthe cross-country trail station boasts two trails:

- Le bocage du Narais** - 20 km - *medium difficulty*,
- Le Loudon** - 40 km - *rather difficult*.

Other stations supported by the Department will soon open in the Alpes Mancelles, the forests of Sillé-le-Guillaume and Bercé and in La Ferté-Bernard.

WHAT IS A CROSS-COUNTRY TRAIL RESORT?

Like ski resorts, the trail resorts offer a series of marked and protected trails, with different levels of difficulty depending on the distance and the difference in altitude. As with skiing, the levels of difficulty are indicated by a colour code: green, blue, red and black.

To discover the trails in detail, go to :

<https://stationdetrail.com/fr/stations/la-sarthe-terre-de-trail>

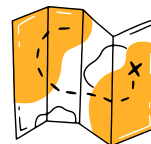


La championne Nathalie Mauclair

the

THE SARTHE ON FOOT!

Forest paths, sunken paths, towpaths... the Sarthe is criss-crossed by 7 GR and 3,600 km of hiking trails. Thanks to this very dense network, it is possible to discover all of the Sarthe on foot! The variety of natural environments in the Sarthe promises beautiful walks.



3 hiking suggestions

La Vallée de la Misère to Saint-Léonard-des-Bois

6 km - Difficult. View of the screes of the Alpes Mancelles.

Circuit from Roche Brune to Sillé-le-Guillaume

13,5 km - Easy. Rocky promontories in the heart of the forest.

Marais de Cré-sur-le-Loir

3 km - Easy. Lots of different species of birds, insects and amphibians to discover.





The Sarthe *by bike*

The Sarthe is investing in cyclotourism.

This year two new routes namely La Petite Reine (130 km) and the Ronde des Vallées et Forêts (185 km, have been added to the existing national routes - La Vélobuissonnière (250 km) and the Vallée du Loir à Vélo (320 km)

- Sarthe Tourisme -

La Vélobuissonnière



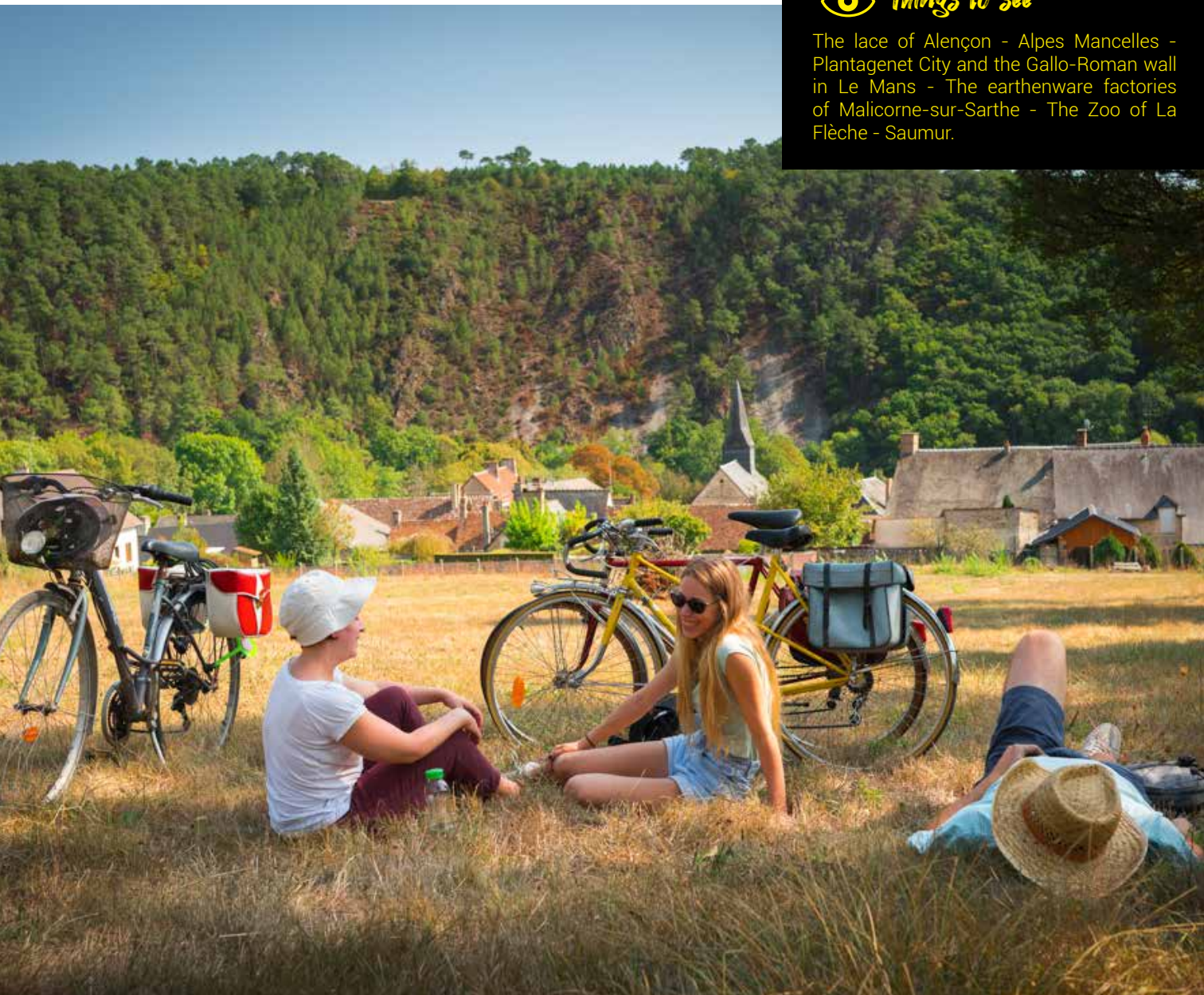
LA VÉLOBUISSONNIÈRE, 250 KM OF ESCAPADES AMID NATURE AND LOCAL HERITAGE

Inaugurated at the end of 2020, La Vélobuissonnière will appeal to cycling tourists. Starting in Alençon, which is renowned for its lace and also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the route is centred mainly in the Sarthe. It crosses the Alpes Mancelles, which has applied for the UNESCO Geopark label, and Le Mans with its Gallo-Roman wall that is unique in the world, before coming to a beautiful end at Saumur in the Loire Valley, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site!

www.sarthetourisme.com/la-velobuissonniere-v44

Things to see

The lace of Alençon - Alpes Mancelles - Plantagenet City and the Gallo-Roman wall in Le Mans - The earthenware factories of Malicorne-sur-Sarthe - The Zoo of La Flèche - Saumur.





Fillé-sur-Sarthe



Le Mans



La Flèche

? Did you know?

In November 2020, Géo magazine ranked La Vélobuissonnière among the 11 best cycle routes in France.

La Vallée du Loir by Bike

BETWEEN RIVER AND VINEYARDS - 320 KM

The Vallée du Loir à Vélo follows the Loir for 320 kilometres from its source in the Eure-et-Loir to the Maine-et-Loire. Along the route you will discover picturesque villages and vineyards that are so typical of this valley.



The Château du Lude - the vineyards of Jasnières - the village of antique dealers in La Chartre-sur-le-Loir - the banks of the Loir - the castle of the Dukes of Anjou.

<https://www.sarhetourisme.com/la-sarthe-velo>

New bike loop trails



LA PETITE REINE - 130 KM

This 130-km bike trail will take you along picturesque villages, across fields, from the Alpes Mancelles to the Perseigne national forest, the highest point of the Sarthe!



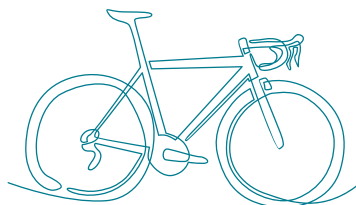
The Saosnois green route - the "La Belle Échappée" cycling museum, a unique collection of bicycles and objects that tell the story of cycle races in France - the Perseigne Belvedere - rillettes tasting in Mamers.

LA RONDE DES VALLÉES ET FORÊTS - 185 KM

As you cycle along the forest-covered hills and valleys, you will discover some of the most emblematic natural and cultural sites of the Sarthe! After departing from the cathedral of Le Mans, you head for the south of the Sarthe taking in the Bercé forest, the tuffeau houses and the magnificent 19th century Railway Roundhouse.



The Royal Abbey of Epau - the exceptional Bercé forest - the Montabon Railway Roundhouse - La Flèche Zoo



MORE GREEN ROUTES IN THE SARTHE

The Sarthe department continues to extend its slow travel itineraries with the construction of four new green routes between 2022 and 2024: from Montval-sur-Loir to Bessé-sur-Braye (33 km) with a link to Saint-Calais (10km) from 2022. This will be followed by two other green routes from La Flèche to La Suze-sur-Sarthe (29km) and from Fresnay-sur-Sarthe to Sillé-le-Guillaume (19km).



TO LA VÉLOSCÉNIE

Orne

Eure-et-Loir

Mayenne

TO LA VÉLO FRANCETTE

Loir-et-Cher

TO LA LOIRE À VÉLO ANGERS

TO VENDÔME

Maine-et-Loire

TO LA LOIRE À VÉLO SAUMUR

Indre-et-Loire

Alençon
Saint-Paterne-le-Chevain

Saint-Léonard-des-Bois
Mamers

Fresnay-sur-Sarthe

Beaumont-sur-Sarthe

Le Mans

Parigné-l'Évêque

Sablé-sur-Sarthe

Noyen-sur-Sarthe

La Suze-sur-Sarthe

Malicorne-sur-Sarthe

La Flèche

Le Lude

Montval-sur-Loir

La Chartre-sur-Loir

La Ferté-Bernard

Bonnétable

Tuffé

Savigné-l'Évêque

Montfort-le-Gesnois

Connerre

Bouloire

Le Grand-Lucé

Jupilles

Loir-en-Vallée

La Chartre-sur-Loir

Montval-sur-Loir

Le Lude

n° 16 51 km

n° 14 50 km

n° 13 55 km

n° 12 37 km

n° 11 39 km

n° 10 45 km

n° 9 44 km

n° 8 60 km

n° 7 50 km

n° 6 22 km

n° 5 16 km

n° 4 18 km

n° 3 33 km

n° 2 30 km

n° 1 20 km

n° 18 36 km

n° 17 49 km

La Vélobuissonnière (V44)

La Vallée du Loir à Vélo (V47)

Green Routes

Regional Trail
Noyen/Sarthe - Sablé/Sarthe

Bike Loop Trails:

- La Petite Reine (130 km)

- La Ronde des Vallées et Forêts (185 km)

Local Bike Loop Trails

Cycling adventures...



Les Insolites de JSK, Saint-Léonard-des-Bois



Yohan Joneau, à gauche

LE VÉLO DE DIONYSOS, EPICUREAN WEEKEND IN THE SARTHE



This new travel agency specializes in offering clients epicurean cycling trips. The creator of these cycling breaks, Yohan Joneau, offers two trails in the Sarthe. A more energetic or advanced trail in the Alpes Mancelles and a wine tasting trail around the Jasnières vineyards in the south of the Sarthe.

<https://www.wine-cycling-tour.com/>



Bruno Ricordeau



SARTHE BIKE TOUR, IN SEARCH OF THE HIDDEN TREASURES OF THE SARTHE ! 14 & 15 MAY 2022

This new event, created by Bruno Ricordeau, offers a unique challenge for all cycling enthusiasts. It comprises three challenges - 30, 80 or 160 km. The participants are allocated compulsory spots they have to go through (heritage site, activities, landscapes, etc.) and have to create a route that joins up these points. The objective is to finish the race with a selfie at each point.

Activities will feature all along the route including guided tours, theatrical visits, etc. The event ends in the evening at the base camp in Rouez-en-Champagne with a concert and a meal made with local products.

<https://www.sarthe-biketour.fr>

+ SPOTLIGHT ON...

The 24 Hours Cycling 27 & 28 August

2,500 cyclists organised in teams will tackle a portion of the legendary 24 Hours Le Mans race track. Live classifications, pit stops, entertainment along the circuit - all the usual features of this famous endurance race will be replicated.







Tourism at the farm

*The farmers of the Sarthe with their wealth of know-how offer you a warm welcome!
They are more than happy to share and promote their territory.
With vineyard visits and overnight stays at the farm, you will be spoilt for choice.*

- Sarthe Tourisme -

A bucolic break...

ATELIER AND COW: STUDIO-BOUTIQUE WITH CHIC AND COSY ACCOMMODATION

In the Bocage de Louplande, the Levilain family of dairy cattle farmers offer an original concept that combines gîtes, décor studio and boutique with local products. They organize regular practical DIY workshops.

<https://www.latelierandcow.fr/>



Loué Poultry

365 DAYS IN LOUÉ: THE BREEDERS OF LOUÉ POULTRY OPEN THEIR DOORS

For more than 60 years, united under the umbrella of the Loué Farmers' Cooperative, farmers have promoted a unique method of breeding their Label Rouge or Organic free-range chickens and hens. In order to educate people about this, around 100 of these poultry farmers, mainly in the Sarthe region, have decided to offer free tours of their poultry farms to the public. You can book your visit via a specially created platform. One click and you're there!!

<https://365joursa.loue.fr>





LA FERME LES DEUX SABOTS PAMPERS ITS COWS

This dairy farm is unlike any other. It opens its cowsheds to visitors and does everything possible to make them accessible to everyone. Access ramp, raised floor for people with reduced mobility, etc. Visitors can even enjoy a comforting hug with the animals!

<http://lesdeuxsabots.com/>

PARADIS DE LA CHARNIE, THE KINGDOM OF THE ALPACA

Géraldine Caplain set up her farm, the Paradis de la Charnie, on the edge of the Petite Charnie forest, tucked between hills and meadows. The farm specializes in raising alpacas and processing their wool. Today, her farm is open to the public so that she can share her passion and sell the products she makes from the wool: hats, scarves, gloves and baby outfits. "It's a very warm, very soft, very resistant and hypoallergenic wool – and above all, it doesn't itch," she explains.

<https://paradischarnie.com/>



LEARN TO BECOME A BEEKEEPER AT THE RUCHER DU MOULIN

Pascal Foucher is part of the 4th successive generation of beekeepers at the Rucher du Moulin. At his premises in Saint-Germain-sur-Sarthe, he offers guests the chance to discover the beekeeping profession via one-day or multiple-day courses. The Rucher du Moulin also houses a museum that looks back at the thousand-year-old history of beekeeping covering everything from the first Egyptian hives to the very latest techniques.

<https://rucherdumoulin.com>



Pascal Foucher

LA FERME DES BLEUETS, A TRANQUIL AND GOURMET BREAK IN THE HEART OF NATURE

Fabienne Hagneaux's equestrian farm in the heart of the Loir Valley is surrounded by forest. Fabienne is passionate about blueberries and horses, Fabienne offers cookery workshops (turning the farm's fruits into coulis, jams, juices and sorbets) and horse riding or trekking.

<https://fermedesbleuets72.fr>





LE VERGER DES QUANTIÈRES- A PASSION FOR ECO-FRIENDLY APPLES

Eric Martineau is a fascinating apple grower who shares his environmentally responsible methods. Specialising in the Bertanne apple, the best for making tarte tatin according to him, Eric uses everything nature has to offer to combat certain pests. By attracting blue-tits for instance, which are great consumers of insects. Or by diffusing the natural pheromones of the codling moth, thus preventing it from reproducing and spreading the well-known apple maggot.

<https://quantieres.blogspot.com/>

AN ESCAPE GAME AT THE FARM

Created by three farmers who are mad about escape games, Escapedream plunges players into three worlds of games of around 90 minutes right in the heart of a dairy farm. In the first scenario, The Agricultural Show, you have to help your boss, who is a farmer, with his participation in the agricultural show. In the second scenario, Grandpa's Attic, you are commissioned by a notary to find the treasure of your recently deceased grandfather. In the last scenario, you have to escape from a 16th century jail.

www.escapedream.fr



Walks through the vineyards



Domaine Lelais

JASNIÈRES AND CÔTEAUX-DU-LOIR, WONDERFUL WINES TO DISCOVER!

The south of the Sarthe is very favourable for wine growing. Two Appellations d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC), Jasnières and Coteaux-du-Loir, are produced here and have been awarded the Vignobles et Découvertes label. The winegrowers offer a number of different experiences: learning the basics of oenology at the Domaine de Cézin, spending the night with the winegrowers at the Domaine Gigou or visiting the "decorated" cellars of the Domaine Lelais.





Véronique Blanchard, Oeno Auto Rétro



“OENOCULTURAL” TRAILS FOR LOVERS OF CLASSIC CARS

Oeno Auto Rétro is a new activity created by Véronique Blanchard, a wine and classic car enthusiast. Over a period of three days, Véronique takes visitors on a 220 km trip along winding, bucolic roads between Le Mans and the Vallée du Loir in the south of the Sarthe. They are able to visit Le Mans and the 24 Hours racetrack, discover troglodyte wine cellars, meet winegrowers, discover exceptional artists and craftsmen and participate in events around Jasnieres and Coteaux-du-Loir wines.

<https://www.oenoautoretro.com/>



PARTEZ À LA DÉCOUVERTE DE LA VALLÉE DU LOIR et de son vignoble

circuit œnologique en terre decompétition automobile

3 JOURS | 220 KM au départ du Mans

WWW.OENOAUTORETRO.COM





Terroir & gastronomy

*The Sarthe is blessed with exceptional agricultural products at its fingertips.
A detail that has not escaped the attention of the local chefs of the Sarthe.
Make your way to their restaurants and discover a host of local flavours in your plate.*

The Seven Wonders of Sarthe

This is the new gastronomic dish of the Sarthe. It combines seven regional ingredients to delight your taste buds!

7 INGREDIENTS AND 2 COURSES THAT MAKE UP THE NEW DISH NAMED AFTER THE NUMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SARTHE - 72!

Your promise of an unforgettable culinary experience:

1st course. Consommé of local chicken infused with buckwheat and Le Mans dry sausage made with chicken served on a buckwheat pancake.

2nd course. Chicken thigh croustade in a crushed buckwheat mantle.

Roast chicken breast stuffed with Cénomans pork rillettes. Potato mousseline with chicken gravy and Jerusalem artichoke crisps. Fondant shallots cooked in beef dripping. Buckwheat risotto with Refrain cheese. Watercress coulis. Échalote confite au saindoux. Risotto de sarrasin lié au refrain. Coulis de cresson.



of the Sarthe

NEW
2022

The seven basic ingredients

Le Mans Black-feathered chicken, Jasnières wine, Sarthe rillettes, Refrain cheese, watercress, Jerusalem artichokes and buckwheat – all blended together by the expertise of eight great Sarthe chefs to offer a gourmet, gastronomic dish that will delight the most delicate of palates.

Yummy

REGIONAL SARTHE SPECIALITIES



We start with Gwenaël Lhuisier, the breeder of the Poule Noire du Mans. This chicken that appeared in certain cooking treatises as long ago as 1550 (it even has its own Fable de la Fontaine: Le Faucon et le Chapon!), disappeared after the war. It took Gwenaël almost 10 years to recover the original quality of the Poule Noire du Mans.

Then we have Jasnières wine, which adorned on the table of Henri IV back in the 16th century; Sarthe rillettes that was brought to the masses at the end of the 19th century by pork butchers from Conneré on the Paris-Brest railway line.

And why buckwheat and Jerusalem artichokes? "Buckwheat is used to feed the hens on the farm and an increasing number of producers are now farming this cereal in the Sarthe" explains the farmer. "Jerusalem artichokes, which were derided for a long time after WWII, were used to feed the local pigs, the Cénomans. And what about watercress? "The 'poulards' or fattened hens were traditionally presented on a bed of watercress" concludes Gwenaël.

The result is the Seven Wonder of the Sarthe, which can be sampled already at the Le Ricordeau restaurant in Loué and will soon be on the menus of other premium restaurants in the Sarthe region.



Local products

LE MANS AND SARTHE RILLETTES

Sarthe rillettes that are made with pork cooked in fat for a long time at a low temperature and seasoned with salt and pepper are deliciously melting and tasty.

? Did you know?

Every year rillettes are given place of honour in Sarthe during the Printemps des Rillettes. From 19 to 27 March this year.

+ SPOTLIGHT ON

The Ribot, Tradition Sarthoise, Cosme and Neuville butchers' shops were all awarded a gold medal at the last Salon de l'Agriculture. With 7 awards in total to its name (4 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze) the Sarthe has more awards than any other department!



LE SABLÉ

First introduced at the court of Louis XIV by the Marquise de Sablé, Le Sablé is a small shortbread biscuit made with flour, butter and sometimes egg yolk.

<http://www.sablesienne.com/fr/>
<https://www.maisondrans.com/>



THE MICROBREWERIES OF THE SARTHE ARE HEADING FOR THE STARS

Are you a beer lover? Then you will be spoilt for choice with the 12 microbreweries in the department. Check them out: Sarth'Voise, Saint Pavin, Milessoise, Corde Raide, Jolicoeur, Mage Malte, Chevillette, Velue, Éo, Montrocheux, Planète 9 and Septante-Deux.

The Septante-Deux offers guided tours, tastings and also operates as a bar all year round!

<https://brasserieseptantedeux.com>

CÉNOMANS PORK

Cénomans Farmhouse Pork bears the PGI quality label (Protected Geographical Indication). Among the specific characteristics : bedding on straw and allowed to roam in the open air, in keeping with traditional Maine pig farming and with 100% plant-based non-GMO feed.

<http://www.cenomans.fr/>



LA POULARDE DU PATIS

La Poularde du Patis is the creation of the Pascal Cosnet family, poultry breeders in Coulans-sur-Gée. 5,000 to 6,000 poulardes (fattened hens) and guinea fowl are bred all year round on his farm. These fattened hens appear on the tables of two great chefs: Alain Passard (l'Arpège in Paris) and Olivier Boussard (Le Beaulieu in Le Mans). The hens are fed with corn and wheat grown on the farm in an integrated agricultural process, mixed with a cocktail of bramble, nettle, dandelion, horsetail... in all, some 25 wild plants harvested from certified organic sites.



Pascal Cosnet

Gourmet experiences



Fabien Degoulet



FROMAGE ET SES AMIS, THE NEW GOURMET EXPERIENCE

After travelling the world, the 2015 World Champion Cheesemaker, Fabien Degoulet, has returned to his native Sarthe and opened up an original kind of cheese shop in Le Mans called Fromage et ses Amis. In the evening, Fabien teaches clients how to taste cheese with wine and sake, how to cut it and the history of certain cheeses.

<https://www.facebook.com/fromager72/>



GOURMET STUDIO, CULINARY EXPERIENCES

The sommelier, Franck Bernard, is opening a new venue in Le Mans, dedicated entirely to culinary events. Chefs, sommeliers and tasting professionals will facilitate tasting workshops on wines and spirits, as well as masterclasses in cookery, patisserie, cheese and chocolate. Michelin-star chefs, Meilleurs Ouvriers de France and Maitres Restaurateurs will put on live gourmet cooking demonstrations for guests.

Opening spring 2022



Louise Fourmont

LOUISE CUISINE, CONVIVIALITY AND GOURMET DELIGHTS

Louise Fourmont offers you a warm welcome in Viré-en-Champagne. Prepare for a good dose of laughter when you take part in Louise's pâtisserie, ice cream, chocolate and confectionery cookery classes.

www.sejoursauxforges.fr

DISTILLERIE DU SONNEUR, TASTING AND DISCOVERY

Emmanuel Viton always wanted to be a farmer. When he opened his distillery in Le Mans, it was a dream come true as he uses the fruit from his own orchard to create top-of-the-range liqueurs and spirits. The Distillerie du Sonneur is a boutique, a tasting venue and a fruit preparation unit with a still. The venue is open to the public for delicious and fascinating guided tours!

<http://distillerie-dusonneur.com/>





L'AUBERGE DE BAGATELLE, LE MANS

After working in some high-flying establishments (Les Crayères, La Chèvre d'Or, Kaiseki, etc.), Jean-Sébastien Monné settled in Le Mans. His cuisine is a case of East meets the West, where local flavours are enhanced with flavours from further afield. Animal Mineral Vegetable - the Auberge de Bagatelle trilogy has become a unique signature and surprising dishes (roast monkfish with coconut and saffron from Vaulogé in the Sarthe, roast venison with cocoa nibs from Ikori).

www.aubergedebagatelle.fr

The best restaurants in the Sarthe

L'AUBERGE DES MATFEUX, ARNAGE

The Maître-Restaurateur Xavier Souffront comes from a family of four generations of chefs. He specialises in gourmet and refined cuisine made with fresh seasonal products: ravioli with crayfish in shellfish sauce, fresh stuffed morels, fillet of wild boar, etc. All washed down with wine from his own cellar - one of the finest in France!

<https://www.aubergedesmatfeux.fr/>



LE LUCÉ, AT THE CHÂTEAU DU GRAND-LUCÉ

In the exceptional setting of the luxury Hotel Château du Grand-Lucé, the chef Maxime Thomas delights guests with typically French cuisine with an international twist made with local produce, sometimes harvested directly from the château's vegetable garden. The menu includes some key dishes such as Le Sablé with Touraine truffles accompanied by Jerusalem artichokes and seasonal vegetables, or the fillet of Sarthe veal with roast carrots and Tonka-flavoured gravy.

<https://chateaugrandluce.com>

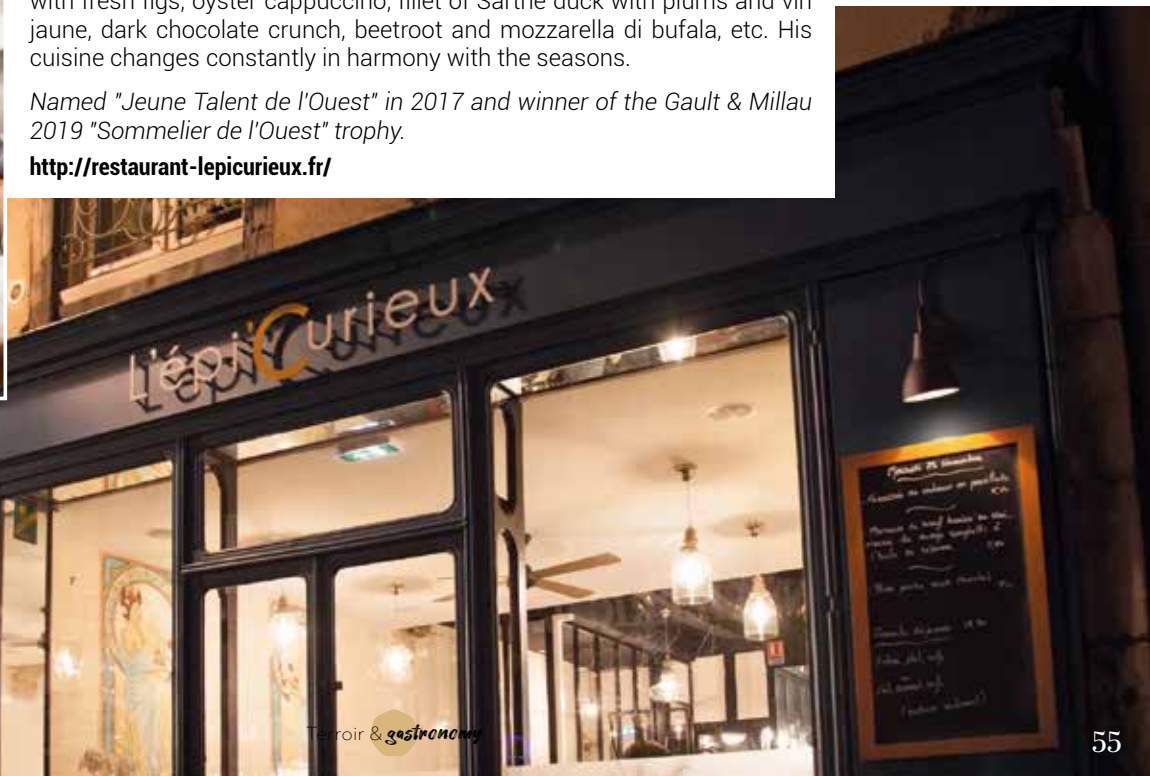


L'ÉPICURIEUX, IN THE OLD TOWN OF LE MANS

At the entrance to the old town of Le Mans, François Ricordeau conjures up dishes with exceptional flare using local seasonal products: shortbread with fresh figs, oyster cappuccino, fillet of Sarthe duck with plums and vin jaune, dark chocolate crunch, beetroot and mozzarella di bufala, etc. His cuisine changes constantly in harmony with the seasons.

Named "Jeune Talent de l'Ouest" in 2017 and winner of the Gault & Millau 2019 "Sommelier de l'Ouest" trophy.

<http://restaurant-lepicurieux.fr/>





Sarthe Accommodation

*Eco-friendly tiny house, original seventies gîte or romantic castle...
Great locations to discover in the Sarthe in 2022.*

- Sarthe Tourisme -

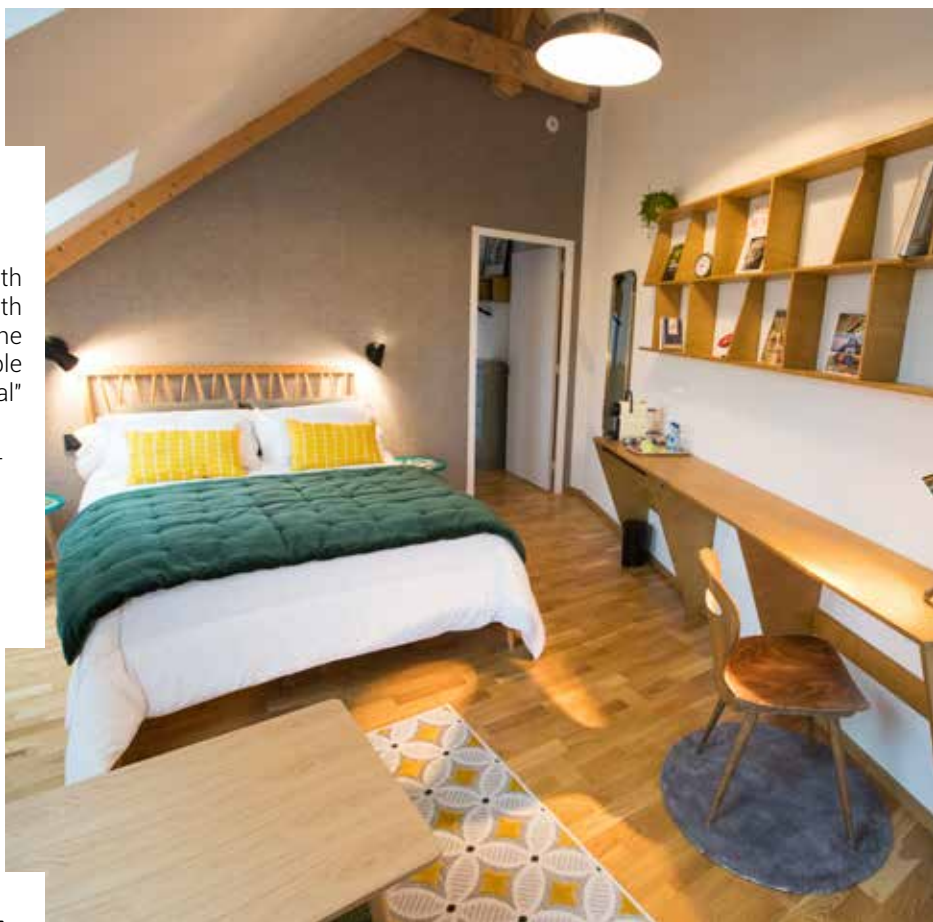
Eco-friendly accommodation

JARDIN DES 4 SAISONS, GOAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY!!

Five guest rooms and two gîtes designed with the environment in mind and decorated with care for a warm welcome for guests. In the grounds, an orchard, an apiary, a vegetable garden and a henhouse guarantee "ultra-local" products every day for the guests.

THE LITTLE ADDED EXTRA: the unique decoration of each of the rooms and the very cosy common areas.

<https://lejardindes4saisons.com/>

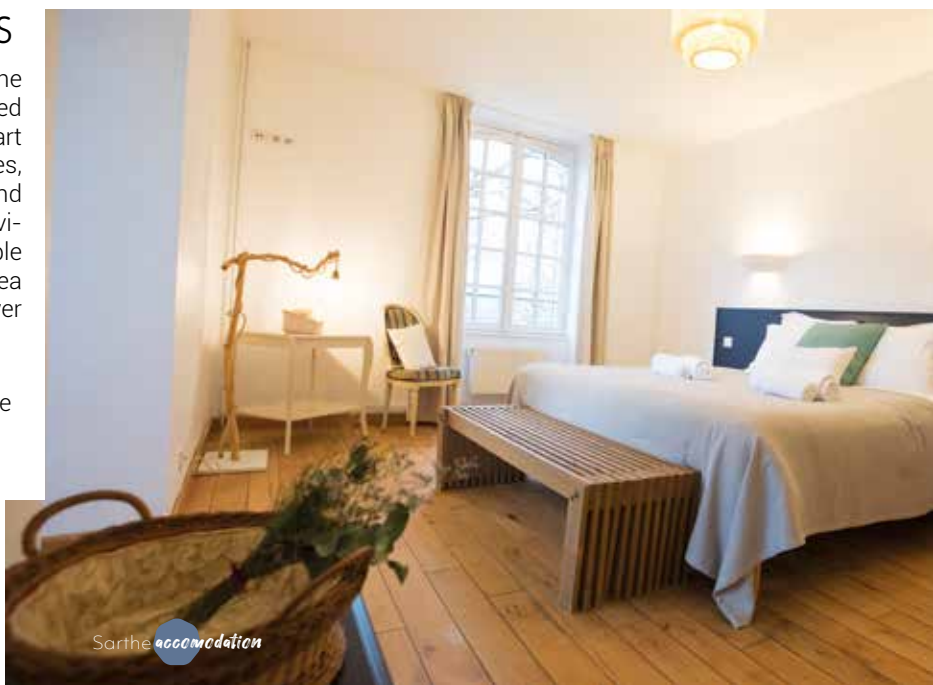


MAISON GASSEAU, A TRANQUIL BREAK IN THE ALPES MANCELLES

The chic and bohemian guest rooms and the restaurant of the Domaine de Gasseau housed in a beautiful building and located in the heart of the unique setting of the Alpes Mancelles, offer visitors a unique moment of nature and beauty. Between hikes on the steep slopes, visitors can enjoy a 100% local and sustainable cuisine as well as a soothing wellness area (foot reflexology, massages, etc.) to recover from their efforts.

THE LITTLE ADDED EXTRA: the wide range of activities in nature (canoeing, climbing, horse riding, etc.) nearby.

<http://legasseau.fr>





ECO-LODGES AT THE GATEWAY TO LE MANS

From the entrance to the Domaine de l'Épau, you can hardly see the six semi-immersed structures, which house 12 lodges, each with a large wooden terrace overlooking the Arche de la Nature, a 450-hectare area of natural beauty at the gateway to the city. The energy-efficient eco-lodges on the estate are ideal for a serene night's sleep after the hustle and bustle of the city.

THE LITTLE ADDED EXTRA: the Domaine de l'Épau also has a restaurant and a seminar room resolutely committed to the environment.

www.domainedelepau.com



SACRÉE CABANE, A TINY HOUSE IN AN ORCHARD

Théo and Quentin are two childhood friends who built their first tiny house in the heart of an orchard. This house posed on a trailer has a large wooden terrace, a Nordic bath and a panoramic view of the Sarthe landscape. The evocative smell of the wood and the local products guarantee you a perfect stay.

THE LITTLE ADDED EXTRA: the chance to sample freshly picked apples from the orchard.

www.sacreecabane.com

Atypical

AMBIANCE FAR WEST IN THE HEART OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

Unpack your suitcase and take a trip back in time to the days of the pioneers and the conquest of the West, in a setting worthy of a Sergio Leone western. Guests can play poker in the saloon, sleep in the sheriff's jail or the trapper's cabin.

THE LITTLE ADDED EXTRA: throw a lasso, kick up your heels in a country dance or learn to shoot a rifle and become a real cowboy.

www.lavaliseacheval.fr



PSYCHEDELIC TRIP IN THE SARTHE

The Misfon gîte (6 independent rooms) plunges guests into the heart of the seventies with its teak enfilades, armchairs upholstered in bright furry fabric, black and white tiles, shag-pile carpets and vinyl records.

THE LITTLE ADDED EXTRA: sipping an aperitif in front of the (heated) swimming pool around a huge table with a psychedelic tablecloth!

<https://gite-du-misfon.fr/>



LES INSOLITES DE JSK, WOOD AND STONE IN THE ALPES MANCELLES

Les Insolites de JSK is the ideal and original accommodation for a relaxing break. A bubble tent, a barrel and a dome perched on a platform in the treetops, etc. They all have one thing in common: breathtaking views of the stunning and unique geological feature the northern Sarthe.

THE LITTLE ADDED EXTRA: the outdoor Nordic bath with views over the Alpes Mancelles.

<https://www.insolites-jsk.fr>



SAFARI LODGE, SLEEP WITH POLAR BEARS

Enjoy panoramic views of the polar bears in their world from your cosy armchair by the open hearth or from the private garden. And with large bay windows in your room, you can even watch the polar bears from your bed!

www.safari-lodge.fr

stunning views!

L'HÔTEL DU GRAND-LUCÉ, ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HOTELS IN THE WORLD

The Château du Grand-Lucé has impressive 18th century tuffeau facades and stunning gardens. In the beautifully designed rooms guests get a feel of what life was like for the French nobility at the time. Jean-Paul Gaultier's designs are a perfect fit for the decorative paintings of Jean-Baptiste Pillement, famous for his work commissioned by Marie-Antoinette. Condé Nast Traveller magazine named Le Grand-Lucé one of the 86 most beautiful hotels in the world in 2020. The hotel is part of the Leading Hotels of the World network.

<https://chateaugrandlucé.com>

CHÂTEAU DE SAINT-PATERNE, A HAVEN FOR LOVERS OF BEAUTY

It is said that the Château de Saint-Paterne was once a hideout Henry IV's lovers' trysts. Charles-Henry and Ségolène de Valbray offer you a warm welcome to their family château that has been converted into a luxury hotel with 10 charmingly decorated rooms, beautiful grounds and heated outdoor swimming pool.

THE LITTLE ADDED EXTRA: dinner by the light of dozens of silver candelabras – absolute magic!

www.chateau-saintpaterne.com





The 24 Hours of Le Mans *Experiences*

The Sarthe and the automobile have been inextricably linked since the 19th century when a family of inventors, the Bollées, created one of the first French cars, the Obéissante. The first Grand Prix of the Automobile Club de France in 1906 and the creation of the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1923 made the Sarthe the Mecca of automobile passion in France and in the world.



24 Hours of adrenalin

11 & 12 JUNE 2022

It is impossible to describe the Sarthe without mentioning the legendary 24 Hours of Le Mans race, which attracts more than 260,000 spectators every year. Visitors will see major changes to this legendary race this year.

A NEW CATEGORY:

LE MANS HYPERCAR (LMH)

The premier class, LMP1 (Le Mans Prototype 1), will gradually give way to the Hypercar class (LMH). The aim is to attract new manufacturers with cars that are less expensive to produce but that are just as impressive: Alpine (from 2021), Peugeot (in 2022 or 2023) Audi and Porsche (in 2023) have already announced their return! Other manufacturers are also considering the possibility of joining the new category in the years ahead: Ferrari, McLaren and Lamborghini.

2025 : TARGET - ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS!

The objective of the 24H Mission launched by the Automobile Club de l'Ouest is to create a 100% clean car that emits only water. A first LMPH2G was produced to this end in 2020 and boasts some interesting performances: 0 to 100 km/h in 3.4 seconds and a top speed of over 300 km/h! It is currently still in development but should appear in its maiden 24 Hours of Le Mans in 2025.

This car represents the future of motor racing: competition with zero greenhouse gas emissions.



? Did you know?

In 2023, the race celebrates its 100th anniversary !

www.24h-lemans.com



24 HOURS OF LE MANS IN VINTAGE MODE

30 JUNE - 3 JULY 2022

Four days of festivities in vintage mode, almost 600 cars from 1923 to 1993, 1,000 drivers competing on a legendary circuit revive the story of the most famous endurance race in the world.

While the engines roar on the race track, nearly 8,500 vintage cars of 60 different marques showcase their exceptional features in the different "villages" set up around the circuit. Lots of different activities animate the event: American-style drive-ins, vintage bus tour, concerts, dance floors straight out of the sixties, auction of vintage cars, etc.

<https://www.lemansclassic.com>



24 Hours Immersion



BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE RACE AT THE 24 HOURS LE MANS MUSEUM

Almost 140 vehicles, some of them legendary, are on display in this large museum. Visitors will be able to get a flavour of the fervour that is present each year during the famous race. The museum will also hold a number of temporary exhibitions: Toyota, the Time of Victory looks back at the history of the Japanese brand in Le Mans while Le Mans 66 takes us back in time to the Ford/Ferrari duel with sets and costumes from the film of the same name that was released in 2019.

www.lemans-musee24h.com



RACING DRIVER FOR A DAY AT THE PORSCHE EXPERIENCE CENTER

The Porsche Experience Center invites visitors to step into the shoes of a driver and experience the full effect of adrenalin on the race track behind the wheel of one of the cars from its own fleet (911, GT 718 Cayman, GT4 Clubsport, GT3 RS, or the latest electric Taycan). Different types of classes are available on different race tracks and a daily rental service is available. You can also bring your own Porsche to try out on one of the different race tracks.

Every year, the Porsche Experience Centre in Le Mans offers holidays on the move for all Porsche fans.

<https://porsche-experience-center.fr/accueil>

DANS LA PEAU D'UN PILOTE





Sarthe shopping

CHOCOLATE CARS, BELLANGER

The artisan chocolatier Bellanger has created this original gift box called the Tertre Rouge, named after the famous bend on the 24 Hours of Le Mans. How long from box to mouth for these chocolates?

www.chocolats-bellanger.com



CERAMIC JEWELLERY, ATELIER VEZANNE

NEW
2022

After discovering pieces of Malicorne earthenware in her garden, Clélia Chotard decided to use shards, broken or chipped plates and to transform them into original creations: earrings, pendants or cufflinks. When you wear the jewellery created in the Vézanne workshop you are showcasing the history of the earthenware factories of Malicorne-sur-Sarthe.

Facebook : [ateliervezanne](https://www.facebook.com/ateliervezanne)

ARTISAN CREATIONS, BOUTIQUE DES MÉTIERS D'ART

Looking for some ideas for gifts? You will certainly find what you are looking for at the Boutique des Métiers d'Art in Malicorne. Leather bags, candles, ceramics, lights, hats, glass, objects in metal or wood, etc. Everything you see here is made by hand, locally and with love. Gifts that you won't find anywhere else! Hats, decorative objects, bags, etc. all the result of unbridled creativity.

www.4a-de-malicorne.fr



POETIC AND MINIMALIST LIGHTING, BRUT D'ACIER

Discover the authentic lighting creations with their minimalist and poetic designs by Laurent Guibert.

www.brutdacier.com



LOCAL DELICACIES, ATELIER JEANTAINÉ

Lovers of fine food simply cannot resist the Atelier Jeantainé - the specialist in the production and sales of local products. There's always something to please all palates. When you taste the Pavé de Roussard, you are absorbing a piece of the history of the Sarthe as 'roussard' refers to the Roussard stone that is a particular colour of brown that you can see all around the department.

www.jeantaine.fr



WOODEN TOYS AND DECORATIVE ITEMS, BIDULE

The Bidule Boutique that is close to Bercé Forest, sells rocking horses, racing cars, fire engine and lots more, all made from beech wood. They are designed by four craftsmen, each with their own specialisation (carpentry, silk-screen printing, wood turning, drawing, glass engraving, etc.). For objects that are 100% hand-made! You will also find a host of decorative objects made from noble wood (walnut, elm, cherry, oak).

<https://jouetboisbidule.pagesperso-orange.fr>



Cultural Agenda 2022

13 - 15 MAY

Grand Prix de France motorcycle
*International motorcycle race,
Le Mans.*

14 & 15 MAY

**Les Journées Mans'Art -
10th anniversary**
*Arts and crafts in the spotlight,
Le Mans*

17 - 24 MAY

Festival de l'Épau
*Classical music festival at the
Royal Epau Abbey.*

4 & 5 JUNE

Fête des jardiniers
*Meeting with professional gardeners
and lovers of gardens at the Château
du Lude.*

11 & 12 JUNE

24 Hour of Le Mans
Legendary car race.

30 JUNE - 3 JULY

Le Mans Classic
*One of the greatest meetings of old
cars in the world.*

1 - 3 JULY

Festival Plein Champ
*Festival Street Art,
Le Mans.*

2 & 3 JULY

Festival Kikloche
*Puppet, theatre, concerts for children,
North Sarthe.*

8 - 10 JULY

Festival Le Son des cuivres
*Music festival around brass
instruments,
Mamers.*

9 & 10 JULY

24 Hours Rollers
*Roller blade race in teams on the Le
Mans race track.*

JULY & AUGUST

La Nuit des chimères
*Plantagenet City illuminations
Le Mans..*

24 - 27 AUGUST

Festival of baroque music
Sablé-sur-Sarthe.

24 & 25 SEPTEMBER

24 Hours - lorries
*Bugatti Circuit,
Le Mans.*

24 & 25 SEPTEMBRE

Entre cours et jardins
*The gardens of Plantagenet City open
their gates.*

OCTOBER

Faites lire !
*Book fair,,
Le Mans.*

NOVEMBER

Bebop festival
*Festival of modern music,
throughout the Sarthe.*

NOV - JANUARY

Voyage lumineux et sonore
*à l'Abbaye Royale de l'Épau
Yvré-l'Évêque.*

*List of events available at the time of writing
this press file. For latest information, please
refer to the agenda by scanning
this QR code.*





Fête des jardiniers, château du Lude



The Royal Epau Abbe



Festival Le Son des cuivres



Festival Les Affranchis, La Flèche



24 Hours of Le Mans



Festival Kikloche



#SartheTourisme

www.sarthe-tourism.co.uk

Follow us on :



- PRESS CONTACT -

Maxime Guillon
Tél : 02 72 88 18 85 - 06 99 91 83 58
m.guillon@sarthetourisme.com

