

You will of course all know about the Palace of Versailles. So why not accept our invitation to come and discover the other heritage treasures in the Yvelines?

Be prepared for a journey through the story of art and architecture across the ages. Come and allow yourself be bewitched by charming historic residences as well as rather more contemporary attractions. You will doubtless recognise the balcony which served as the setting for Renoir's famous painting "Le Déjeuner des Canotiers" and relive some of the great moments in France's artistic and political life as you visit the country houses of the great and the good who fell under the spell of that special light to be experienced along the bends in the Seine. Come and discover also a different heritage, the object of much good conservation practice and investment: that of our green and wooded countryside on the very edge of Paris, in which you can, without the hassle of airports or changes of time zones, find yourself in the middle of an African-style game park or clinging to ropes as you make your way through the tree-tops.

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Tourism for the disabled
accreditation



Reduced admission
with the Route Nature
Pass'Malin

Reveries of the Royal Past in the Yvelines



Thanks to its remarkable natural heritage, the Yvelines has always attracted a host of sovereigns.

Six towns - Mantes-la-Jolie, Marly-le-Roi, Poissy, Rambouillet, Saint-Germain-en-Laye and Versailles - still retain reminders of the presence of illustrious Kings of France and throw open their gates to visitors interested in the lives of those who built the Kingdom of France. Share with them something of their past history as you savour the peace and tranquillity of parklands or gardens, admire masterpieces of French art and architecture or imagine the turbulent lives of famous courtesans and the frenzy of royal hunts.

For further information:

Mantes-la-Jolie Tourist Office

1, rue Thiers
78200 Mantes-la-Jolie
Tel: 00 33 1 34 77 10 30
Fax: 00 33 1 34 78 86 65

Marly-le-Roi Tourist Office

2, avenue des Combattants
78160 Marly-le-Roi
Tel: 00 33 1 30 61 61 35
Fax: 00 33 1 39 16 16 01
info@marlyleroi-tourisme.fr
www.marlyleroi-tourisme.fr

Poissy Tourist Office

132 rue du Général de Gaulle
78300 Poissy
Tel: 00 33 1 30 74 60 65
Fax: 00 33 1 39 65 07 00
tourisme@ville-poissy.fr
www.ville-poissy.fr

Rambouillet Tourist Office

Place de la Libération
78120 Rambouillet
Tel: 00 33 1 34 83 21 21
Fax: 00 33 1 34 83 21 31
www.rambouillet-tourism.com
rambouillet.tourisme@wanadoo.fr

Saint-Germain-en-Laye Tourist Office

38, rue au Pain
78100 Saint-Germain-en-Laye
Tel: 00 33 1 34 51 05 12
Fax: 00 33 1 34 51 36 01
info@ot-saintgermainenlaye.fr
www.ot-saintgermainenlaye.fr

Versailles Tourist Office

2bis, avenue de Paris
78000 Versailles
Tel: 00 33 1 39 24 88 88
Fax: 00 33 1 39 24 88 89
tourisme@ot-versailles.fr
www.versailles-tourisme.com



To obtain your copy of the Royal Towns Map,
please contact:
Comité Départemental du Tourisme des Yvelines
Tel: 00 33 1 39 07 71 22
tourisme@cg78.fr





*Castles, chateaux, parks
and gardens*

Académie du spectacle équestre

The Académie du Spectacle Equestre under the direction of Bartabas takes you into the Royal Stables of the Château de Versailles. The Académie's spectacle, choreographed by Bartabas and involving the equerries of the Versailles Riding School, stages its Carousel of Lusitanian Horses, its Sorayas with long reins, its fencing on horseback and its orchestrated equestrian improvisation to the music of J. S. Bach (1 hr 20 mins) At the Matinales des Ecuyers, enter the private world of the School's dressage sessions presented to the public against a background of Baroque music. Explore the Royal Stables of the Château de Versailles, completed by Jules Hardouin-Mansart in 1683 and refurbished for the Académie du Spectacle Equestre by Patrick Bouchain in 2003. Today it is home to some forty horses. Each performance is followed by a tour of the stables.



**Grande Écurie
du Château de Versailles**
Avenue Rockefeller
78000 Versailles
Tel. 00 33 8 92 68 18 91
(0,34 €/mn)
Fax 00 33 1 39 02 07 96
www.acadequestre.fr
info@acadequestre.fr

Open
Programme available on
www.acadequestre.fr

Getting there
Road: A12 – A13 – A86
RER: Versailles – Rive Gauche
(line C)
SNCF: Versailles
(from Saint-Lazare or
Montparnasse)

Arboretum de Chèvreloup

Established in the northern part of the Versailles estate in 1924, the arboretum is like a recreational and informative journey around the world. On a circuit dotted with trees from the temperate and cold areas of the globe (Europe, China, Japan, the Himalayas, the Caucasus, the United States and Canada) discover the most important and unusual varieties. An avenue of blue cedars from the Atlas mountains separates the area planted with conifers from the deciduous trees. The ginkgo, the giant sequoia, the weeping ash, the variegated maple, the sycamore, the European and Dahurian larch are all at their most splendid in autumn, whilst in spring the blossom of the prunus, apple trees, hawthorn and paulownias is enchanting. The 200 hectares of the Arboretum have over 2500 species and varieties of trees grouped according to geographical area of origin (Asia, Europe, the Americas).

30, route de Versailles
78150 Rocquencourt
Tel. 00 33 1 39 55 53 80
Fax 00 33 1 39 54 74 97

Open

1st April to 15th November,
Mondays, Wednesdays,
Saturdays and Sundays (incl.
public holidays) 10.00 to 18.00
Groups daily by prior booking
Guided tours for groups by prior
booking

Getting there

Road: A13, Versailles Notre
Dame exit
RER: Versailles – Rive Gauche
(line C) then bus H
SNCF: Versailles Chantier
(from Montparnasse) then bus H
and B
Versailles Rive Droite
(from Saint-Lazare)
then bus H or S



Château de Breteuil



The Marquis de Breteuil, heir to the family home which is now a listed Historic Monument, possesses all the expertise and style to bring over three hundred years of history to life for you. In the completely restored and lavishly decorated château, forty wax figures await: from Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette to Marcel Proust, from Sleeping Beauty to Puss in Boots. Then it is time for the Tales of Perrault, and your children hang on to every word from the lips of the storyteller surrounded by characters dressed in the costumes of a bygone age.



Choisel
78460 Chevreuse
Tel. 00 33 1 30 52 05 02
Fax 00 33 1 30 52 71 10
www.breteuil.fr
contact@breteuil.fr

Open
Daily from 14.30
Sundays, public holidays and
Paris region school holidays
from 11.30

Last visit at 17.30
Groups by prior booking

Getting there
Road: N118 Saclay exit - N306
towards
Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse
RER: Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse
(line B)
Children's play area
Picnic area

Gardens and grounds of the Château de Breteuil

Established on a promontory overlooking the valley of the Chevreuse, the gardens, pools and terraces offer a host of enchanting walks. The gardens which were laid out by Le Nôtre in the XVIIth century were redesigned by the Duchènes around 1895 and redesigned and restored in recent years. In the Princes' Garden the oldest terrace of the fruit and vegetable garden has been reinstated, and around the pool, cordon, fan and espalier fruit trees have been replanted. A walk lined with Japanese flowering cherries and beds of peonies adds the finishing touches to the layout of 300 different species of plants and shrubs. In front of the château, which has been the home of the Marquis de Breteuil for over 300 years, is the formal garden. Below the terrace of the Orangery is the Millennium Labyrinth, made of 1000 box shrubs, a reminder of the enchanted groves of the XVIIIth century. At intervals, entertainment for the children is provided by presentations of the famous Tales of Perrault, while other visitors can explore the trail of remarkable trees.

Style

Remarkable garden
Formal garden, flower garden,
landscaped grounds.

Open

Daily (including public holidays)
from 10.00
Guided tours for groups of
10 to 200 by prior reservation



Château de Dampierre

The Château was built to the plans of the architect Hardouin-Mansart and is surrounded by parkland and gardens designed by the famous Le Nôtre. The Château de Dampierre, which dates from the late XVIIth century, seems to lord it over the surrounding landscape. Inside the château, the dining room and the great salon are adorned with splendidly carved woodwork, and on the first floor visitors come face to face with the superb wall painting by Ingres representing the Golden Age, as well as the quarter-size reproduction of Simart's statue of Minerva. Finally, in the large vestibule you can linger in front of the beautiful statue of the sleeping Penelope.



78720 Dampierre-en-Yvelines
Tel. 00 33 1 30 52 53 24
Fax 00 33 1 30 52 51 21
www.chateau-de-dampierre.fr
chateau.dampierre@orange.fr

Open

1st April to 30th September
Daily 14.00 to 18.00 (11.00
to 12.00 and 14.00 to 18.00
on public holidays)

Getting there

Road: N118 exit Saclay towards
Chevreuse then Rambouillet or
N10 exit Le Mesnils-Saint-Denis
RER: Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse
(line B) then bus to Dampierre

Restaurant

"Les Ecuries du Château"

Gardens and grounds of the Château de Dampierre

The Château de Dampierre in the heart of the Chevreuse Valley was built at the end of the XVIIth century to the plans of d'Hardouin-Mansart, and the gardens and grounds were designed by Le Nôtre. The latter somewhat drastically altered the landscape around the original country manor on the site with its lake, Grand Canal and island with its four canals serving pools; from a horseshoe cut into the slope he carved out drives and star-shaped intersections in the woodlands. The meeting of these two creative spirits has resulted in a masterpiece of the art of château and garden design.

Style

Formal garden,
romantic garden

Open

1st April to 30th September
Daily 11.00 to 19.00

Tours for groups (min.15)
by prior booking





Château de Groussay

The Château de Groussay was built in 1815 for the Duchesse de Charost, daughter of Madame de Tourzel, governess to the children of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette. Purchased in 1938 by the inspired aesthete Charles de Beistegui, Groussay was extended in 1952 with the addition of two wings, one of them leading to the theatre, and by follies designed with the involvement of the artists Emilio Terry and Alexandre Serebriakoff and the architects Desbrosses and Costi. The château's transformation and the installation of its follies continued until the death in 1970 of Charles de Beistegui. The site as a whole was declared a Historic Monument in 1993, and the new owner, who has been restoring the château since 2001, has decided to open it to the public.



Route de Versailles
78490 Montfort l'Amaury
Tel. 00 33 1 34 86 94 79
Fax. 00 33 1 34 86 91 47
www.chateaudegroussay.com
contact@chateaudegroussay.com

Getting there
Road: N12 exit
Montfort-L'Amaury - D76 - D13

Open
Throughout the year, groups
only, by prior booking

Gardens and grounds of the Château de Groussay

To visit the thirty hectares of grounds at Groussay is to embark on a veritable world tour. You will find numerous unusual follies such as a Tartar tent, an outdoor theatre, a Chinese pagoda to mention but a few. In addition to these and other follies, the grounds of the Château de Groussay boast other undeniable attractions, including the pleasure garden in front of the temple of the Labyrinth and the omnipresent animals, of which a host of different species can be seen, from barnacle geese to Poitou pack donkeys and majestic peacocks.

Open
From 1st April to 31st October,
Wednesday to Sunday,
from 10.00 to 19.00



Château de la Madeleine

The Château de la Madeleine, a property belonging to the Yvelines authorities, greets its visitors, not only with echoes of its past but also with messages for the future! Proudly overlooking the Chevreuse valley, it houses the Visitor Centre of the Upper Chevreuse Valley Regional Nature Park and offers an opportunity to combine a visit of historical interest and an important contemporary preoccupation, namely nature conservation. It began life as a medieval keep, and building continued until the XIVth century. Your visit to the exhibition will take you on a journey through its long history, including the age when it witnessed the events of the Hundred Years War, the succession of lords who lived here and the involvement of the famous writer Jean Racine, who oversaw construction works here in 1661. Have fun as a family learning about the Château's history with a free booklet available on request.



78460 Chevreuse
Tel. 00 33 1 30 52 09 09
Fax 00 33 1 30 52 12 43
www.parc-naturel-chevreuse.fr
accueil.pnr.chevreuse@wanadoo.fr

Open
Throughout the year,
Wednesday to Saturday, 14.00
to 17.30
Sunday and public holidays,

March to October
10.00 to 18.00
November to February,
14.00 to 17.30

Getting there
Road: N118 Saclay exit – N306
RER: Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse
(line B)
SNCF: La Verrière
(from Montparnasse)

Château de Maisons

Built by the celebrated architect François Mansart (1598-1666) and completed in 1651, the Château de Maisons is a marvellous embodiment of the spirit of the age. In its symmetry and majesty, in its formal equilibrium and in the elegance of its roofs it is a true model for the classical French style which was to follow and an eloquent precursor of Versailles. Although on the banks of the Seine, it deliberately sets its face towards the forests of Saint-Germain-en-Laye. Indeed the Château de Maisons was originally built to accommodate Louis XIV after his hunting. During your visit you can admire XVIIth century tapestries as well as paintings, engravings and furniture from the XVIIth, XVIIIth and XIXth centuries adorning the King's Apartment, the Comte d'Artois' salons and Maréchal Lannes' bedchamber.

2, avenue Carnot
78600 Maisons-Laffitte
Tel. 00 33 1 39 62 01 49
Fax 00 33 1 39 12 34 37
www.maisons.monuments-nationaux.fr

Open
Daily except Tuesdays,
10.00 to 12.00 and
14.00 to 17.00
(18.00 in summer).
Groups by prior booking.

Getting there
Road: N186
RER: Maisons-Laffitte (line A)
SNCF: Maisons-Laffitte
(from Saint-Lazare)



Château de Saint-Germain-en-Laye

The first defensive castle, in a favourable elevated position at the intersection of waterways and land routes, was built in 1122. In 1238 King Saint Louis added the chapel, which still survives. It is attributed to the same architect as the Sainte Chapelle in Paris, Pierre de Montreuil, but has lost its stained glass windows. The building was radically altered during the 16th century when François I returned from Italy: finding the castle too uncomfortable, he entrusted the construction of a real Renaissance palace to Pierre Chambiges. But this "Château Vieux" retained the appearance of a fortress, so Henri II had built alongside, by Philibert de l'Orme, a "Château Neuf", which Henri IV later extended with pavilions arranged and terraces down to the Seine. Louis XIV lived in his native town during the Fronde wars of 1650, and then again before moving to Versailles in 1682. To accommodate the court and festivities, he had Jules Hardouin-Mansart extend the Château Vieux and entrusted the creation of the parterres and the terraced gardens to Le Nôtre.

The "Château Vieux" was left virtually empty on the departure of Louis XIV and the court for Versailles. In the 18th century, the future Charles X (brother of Louis XVI) demolished the dilapidated "Château Neuf" with a view to building a replacement, but after purchasing the Château de Maisons he abandoned his plans for Saint-Germain-en-Laye. Having been a cavalry school under Napoleon I (1804-1814) and then a military penitentiary during the reign of Louis-Philippe (1830-1848), the "Château Vieux" was in a very poor condition by the time of Napoleon III. The Emperor therefore decided to establish a museum of Celtic and gallo-romaine antiquities on the site, and the buildings underwent restoration between 1862 and 1867. They are now home to the Museum of National Archaeology, in which can be found one of Europe's largest archaeological collections.

78100 Saint-Germain-en-Laye
Tel. 00 33 1 39 10 13 00
Fax 00 33 1 34 51 73 93

Getting there
Road: N13 - N 184
RER: Saint-Germain-en-Laye
(line A)

Open

Daily except Tuesday and
certain public holidays,
9.00 to 17.15
Groups by prior booking

Resource centre
Photo library
Specialist library



Terrace and gardens of the Saint-Germain-en-Laye estate

To walk on the Great Terrace, the flower of Le Nôtre's design at the Château de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, is a sublime experience at any time of the year. 2400 metres long and 30 metres wide, it is bordered by lime trees, with a forest on one side and a magnificent view over western Paris on the other. The abandonment of the site on the death of Louis XIII resulted in the collapse of the two upper terraces planned in the reign of Henri IV for his "garden of wonders". Louis XIV entrusted to Le Nôtre the task of laying out new gardens (1668-1675). He created the Boulingrin, the Grand Parterre and the Jardin de la Dauphine, and the construction of the Great Terrace demanded Herculean terracing works. Le Nôtre conceived the idea of an optical illusion arising from a gentle downward slope over about a third of the area, marked by a half-moon, and then a flat area of ground. The result is that, on leaving the Belvedere the impression is gained that the half-moon is in the centre, but as one progresses the true distance becomes apparent. Conversely, reaching the octagon and turning round, one immediately appreciates the distance one has travelled.

78100 Saint-Germain-en-Laye
Tel. 00 33 1 39 10 13 00
Fax 00 33 1 34 51 73 93

Style

Formal gardens, landscape gardens

Open

Daily

January: 8.00 to 17.00

February: 8.00 to 18.00

March: 8.00 to 19.00

April: 8.00 to 20.00

May to July: 8.00 to 21.30

1st to 15th August:

8.00 to 21.00

16th to 31st August:

8.00-20.30

September: 8.00 to 19.30

October: 8.00 to 18.00

November: 8.00 to 17.30

December: 8.00 to 17.00

Getting there

Road: RN186

RER: Saint-Germain-en-Laye

(line A)



Château de Thoiry



The Château de Thoiry, built in 1559, is a rare example of esoteric Renaissance architecture. It was built over a mere five years and has been handed down through generations of the same family, being still today lived in by the Comte de La Panouse. Whether unaccompanied or on a tour led by a guide in period costume, visitors learn about the incredible history of this four centuries old château and the people who have lived there, such as the beautiful Angélique who lived there for almost 100 years or the story of the love affair of her daughter and Charles, as told in the 6000 pages which they wrote there. Children can enjoy themselves with a booklet of puzzles and games and earn their diploma as Princess or Knight of Thoiry, beautifully calligraphed with a goose-feather pen. At the end of your tour, continue into the grounds where hundreds of animals roam freely.



78770 Thoiry

Tel. 00 33 1 34 87 49 26

Fax 00 33 1 34 87 51 72

www.thoiry.net

chateau@thoiry.net

Getting there

Road: A13 - A12 - N12

Open

February to October

11.00 to 18.00

Groups by prior booking

(00 33 1 34 87 53 76)

Grounds and gardens of the Château de Thoiry

The Parc de Thoiry is famous for its African Game Park and has over many years developed major collections of botanical species. Annabelle Comtesse de La Panouse has created a Garden of Fragrances, a Hill of Roses, a long Gallery of Peonies and Hemerocallis, a hydrangea collection, a flower meadow and more besides. The garden also boasts a collection of ancient trees and rare shrubs from around the world. Visitors can in addition lose themselves in one of Europe's largest yew mazes, designed by Adrian Fischer. The garden was voted "Remarkable Garden" in 2007.

Tel. 00 33 1 34 87 40 67

(recorded message)

Fax 00 33 1 34 87 54 12

www.thoiry.net

resa@thoiry.net

Style

Remarkable garden

Formal garden, landscaped garden

Open

Daily throughout the year

(including public holidays)

1st September to 30th June,

10.00 to 17.00

1st July to 31st August,

10.00 to 18.00

Tours for groups

(10 persons minimum)

by prior reservation



Château de Versailles

Surrounded by its 850 hectares of parkland, the Palace de Versailles is a masterpiece of XVIIth century French art and architecture created at the behest of Louis XIV. Out of the former hunting lodge of his father Louis XIII, the Sun King created a veritable palace of gigantic proportions. He made it the abode of the court and the seat of the government of France, which stayed there until the Revolution. Under Louis XV and Louis XVI, the château was further embellished and new apartments were added (Royal Opera House scheduled to re-open September 2009 after restoration works). Apart from tours of the Royal Apartments and the Hall of Mirrors visitors must be sure not to miss the Grand Trianon, a place of relaxation designed for Louis XIV and the royal family by Jules Hardoin-Mansart and Marie-Antoinette's Estate. Designed for the private use of Louis XV and Madame de Pompadour, the fully restored Petit Trianon and its grounds are indissolubly linked to the memory of Marie-Antoinette, the only queen to have imposed her personal taste on Versailles, taking on the old Court and its traditions.. it was in her Trianon, given to her in 1774, that she was able to find the haven of privacy which enabled her to escape the restrictions of courtly etiquette.

**Etablissement public du musée
et du domaine National de Versailles**
RP 834
78008 Versailles cedex
Tel. 00 33 1 30 83 78 00
www.chateauversailles.fr

Open

Château: daily except Mondays and certain public holidays, 9.00 to 18.30
High season: 9.00 to 18.30
Low season from 2nd November to 31st March 9.00 to 17.30).
Last admission: 30 minutes before closing time

The Marie-Antoinette Estate : daily
High season : 12.00 to 19.00
last admission 18.00
Low season from 2nd November to 31st March 12.00 to 17.30 (last admission at 17.00)
The Grand Trianon:
High season: 12.00 to 18.30

(last admission at 18.00)
Low season: 12.00 to 17.30
(last admission at 17.00)
Unaccompanied visits or guided tours for groups: booking compulsory,
00 33 1 30 83 78 00
Guided tours for any forms of handicap:
booking compulsory, 00 33 1 30 83 75 05
Children's workshop-tours: booking in writing compulsory for groups.

Bookshops
Restaurants
Electric vehicles and tourist train shuttle in the park
Bicycles and rowing boats to hire

Getting there

Road: A12 – A13 – A86
RER: Versailles – Rive Gauche (line C)
SNCF: Versailles (from Saint-Lazare or Montparnasse)



Gardens and grounds of the Versailles Estate

In addition to the heritage treasures of the buildings themselves, visitors will wonder at the grounds and gardens laid out by Le Nôtre between 1661 and 1700. The very apotheosis of the regular "French-style" formal garden, with its Grand Canal and its ornamental pools with their fountains, its formal gardens and its secret groves, its marble, bronze and lead statues, the grounds are a guaranteed source of delight and enchantment. The estate, like the Palace itself, was meant to reflect Louis XIV's glory and the monarch followed closely all the work performed by his designer Le Nôtre. Take time out to stroll in the Grand Parc, even perhaps enjoy a ramble.



Open

Daily all the year round
Opening hours variable

Château de Versailles Spectacles

Château de Versailles Spectacles shares with you the wealth of artistic achievement represented by Versailles' gardens and fountains with the continuation of the Grandes Eaux Musicales and the newly instituted Grandes Eaux Nocturnes. For the Fêtes de Versailles, leading performers from around the world reconnect with the tradition of creativity and innovation dear to Louis XIV to turn the Palace of Versailles into a venue for truly exceptional events, both outdoors and in the Estate's most surprising places, with firework displays, equestrian events, dance and operas.

Pavillon des Roulettes
78000 Versailles
Tél. : 01 30 83 78 89
Fax : 01 30 83 78 90
www.chateauversailles-spectacles.fr

Les Grandes Eaux Musicales

Les Grandes Eaux Nocturnes

Les Fêtes de Versailles sur le Bassin de Neptune

Les Grands Concerts de Versailles



The Marly-le-Roi Estate

As in the days of the Sun King, visitors should use the Grille Royale, the Main Gate, to enter the Marly estate, where Louis XIV loved to go to enjoy a more private life than was possible at Versailles.

The name of Marly summons up a picture of the sumptuous royal retreat, built to an unusual design by Jules Hardouin-Mansart, and of the famous Machine, “the eighth wonder of the world”, which supplied water to the ornamental pools. As both machine and residence have gone, you will learn of their thrilling history through your tour of the Musée-Promenade. The magnificent royal estate was destroyed in the early XIXth century, and only the grounds remain. A remarkable site in the edge of the Marly Forest, it still holds reminders of its past splendour: great avenues and lines of trees bear witness to the original layout. The pools and many copies of statues are still there, and remains of the buildings and their outlines on the ground remind visitors of its structure. The recently restored Abreuvoir or drinking trough is at the lower end of the park, with its two pools surmounted by the famous masterpieces by Guillaume Coustou, the Marly Horses. The originals are in the Louvre.

La Grille Royale
78430 Louveciennes

Avenue des combattants
78160 Marly-le-Roi

Marly-le-Roi Tourist Office
Tél. 01 30 61 61 35
Fax 01 39 16 16 01
www.marlyleroi-tourisme.fr
info@marlyleroi-tourisme.fr

Style

Formal garden (XVIIIth century)

Open

Daily, opening times variable.

Getting there

Road: A13 exit
Saint-Germain-en-Laye - N186
RER: Saint-Germain-en-Laye
(line A) and bus 1
SNCF: Marly-le-Roi
(from Saint-Lazare)

Free admission



Château de Rambouillet

At Rambouillet you embark on a visit to a Château whose royal destiny has been superseded by its republican career! It was here that François I died, that Charles X abdicated, that the XVIIth century "Précieuses" held literary court and that Louis XVI and Napoleon lived before it became a presidential residence under the Republic. You will notice that the Château has retained the bastions and the keep that reflects its XIVth century origins as a military fortress, and all around you over 20,000 hectares of woodland still remain a witness to the ancient forest of Yvelines, the much favoured hunting grounds of the kings of France. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunities the grounds offer for stroll among its canals, ponds and lakes!



78120 Rambouillet
Tel. 00 33 1 34 83 00 25
Fax 00 33 1 34 94 28 58
www.monuments-nationaux.fr

Open
Daily except Tuesdays or when
the President is in residence
10.00 to 11.40 and 14.00
to 16.30
(17.30 from 1st April to 30th
September)
Groups by prior booking

Closed 1st January, 1st May,
1st November, 11th November
and 25th December

Getting there
Road: A13 - A12 - N10
SNCF: Rambouillet
(from Montparnasse)

The Shell Cottage

As unusual as it is unexpected, the Shell Cottage (Pavillon des Coquillages) takes visitors by surprise with the refined decor of its interior. It was built in the English-style landscaped parkland around the year 1775 by the Duc de Penthièvre. The walls and ceilings of the small salon are totally covered in shells arranged to form flowers and patterns in lattice-work or mesh designs. The mirror over the fireplace is made up of iridescent mother-of-pearl. The Shell Cottage seems to have come straight out of the wonderful world of fairy tales! In the next room your eyes are greeted by woodwork painted in the style of Pompei...

**The Shell Cottage and the
Queen's Diary**
Tel. 00 33 1 34 83 29 09



The Queen's Dairy

Were you aware that playing the farmer's wife was one of Marie- Antoinette's favourite pastimes? Louis XVI gave into this whim of hers by building the Queen's Dairy in the grounds of the Château de Rambouillet. It rapidly becomes clear that kings and queens of the time had decidedly luxurious ideas about what constituted country life. In the heart of the English-style landscaped parkland you will come across a sumptuous sandstone and marble construction with a domed room richly decorated with seven tiers of rose windows... The Queen's Dairy even boasts a man-made grotto with a fine sculpture by Pierre Julien, winner of the first Grand Prix de Rome. Far from being merely inconsequential trivia, the dairy is an eloquent illustration of the extremely privileged life-style enjoyed by the monarchy.



The Shell Cottage and the Queen's Dairy
Tel: 00 33 1 34 83 29 09
78120 Rambouillet
Fax 00 33 1 34 94 28 58
www.monuments-nationaux.fr

Open
Daily except Tuesdays or when the President is in residence
10.00 to 11.40 and 14.00 to 16.30

(17.30 from 1st April to 30th September)
Groups by prior booking
Closed 1st January, 1st May, 1st November, 11th November and 25th December

Getting there
Road: A13 - A12 - N10
SNCF: Rambouillet (from Montparnasse)

Grounds of the Rambouillet Estate

Quite apart from its formal garden with its terraces and staggered rows of parterres, the grounds of Rambouillet owe their magical appeal to the river and the follies; the river spreads out in a multiplicity of intersecting channels which form six islands. In 1779 the Duc de Penthièvre followed the fashion of the times and created a picturesque landscape garden in which he had the Shell Cottage built. Further on is a small neo-classical temple, the Queen's Dairy, erected on the order of Louis XVI to amuse the queen during her stays at Rambouillet.

Tel. 00 33 1 34 94 28 79
Fax 00 33 1 34 94 28 58

16th October to 30th April
8.00 to 17.00

Style
Rustic parkland, formal gardens, landscape gardens

Free admission

Open
Daily
Free admission
1st May to 15th October
8.00 to 19.30



Palace of the king of Rome

The Palais du roi de Rome is so called because the Emperor had decided to hand it over, after the completion of work by the architect Auguste Famin, to his son, born in 1811. Unfortunately the latter was unable to reside there... The present building consists of the two initial wings built between 1783 and 1787 by Thévenin for the Comte d'Angiviller, governor of Rambouillet, but the central pavilion was demolished during the reign of Louis-Philippe. The listed monument is a fine example of Neo-Classical architecture, in spite of a number of Italianate characteristics by Famin. The property is now owned by the Rambouillet authorities and houses municipal exhibitions and the Musée du Jeu de l'Oie. The adjacent garden is a pleasing additional feature of the building itself.



Place du roi de Rome

78120 Rambouillet
Tél. 00 33 1 34 83 10 31
or 00 33 1 30 88 77 77
Fax 00 33 1 34 83 10 31

Getting there

Road: A13 - A12 - N10.
SNCF: Rambouillet
(from Montparnasse)

Free admission

Open

Wednesdays to Sundays, 14.00
to 18.00 except 25th December,
1st January.

Garden of the Palace of the king of Rome

Walking through this garden of "remembrance" one senses strange emotions: the place reflects the hours of glory and of tragedy of the first Napoleonic Empire. On the other side of the low wall enclosing the 5300 square metres of the garden are the grounds of the Château.

Open

Daily 14.00 to 19.00



The royal kitchen garden

At the request of Louis XIV, Jean-Baptiste de La Quintinie, director of fruit and vegetable gardens for the royal residences, designed the Royal Kitchen Garden in the years 1678 to 1683. The 3 hectares of the great central square is divided into 16 smaller squares radiating out from a pond. At the centre of each of these, and surrounded by espalier-trained fruit trees, are rings of vegetables. From the two terraces, visitors have a theatrical view of the site where the gardeners tend the arrangements of fruits and vegetables. Strolling around you will discover twelve walled gardens and their collections of fruit trees on which the gardeners apply their unsparing their expertise. With their remarkable skills in the art of pruning, they train the climbing branches of the trees to grow on espaliers or without support. Whilst the garden's fruits and vegetables no longer supply the king's table, they continue to delight those who regularly consume the delicious and often rare varieties of produce grown there. Courses in gardening are offered by the "école nationale supérieure du paysage" which manages the historic site.

10, rue du Maréchal Joffre
78000 Versailles
Tél. 00 33 1 39 24 62 62
Fax 00 33 1 39 24 63 38
www.potager-du-roi.fr

Open

From 1st April to 31st October,
 daily except Mondays, 10.00 to
 18.00

From 1st November to 31st
 March, Tuesdays and Thursdays,
 10.00 to 13.00

Guided tours

For individuals: 11.00, 14.30,
 16.00 April to October, week-
 ends and public holidays
 Groups max. 30 persons by prior
 booking

Getting there

Road: A12 - A13 - A86
 RER: Versailles - Rive Gauche
 (line C)
 SNCF: Versailles
 (from Saint-Lazare or
 Montparnasse)





Homes of the famous

André Derain's studio

André Derain, who with Vlaminck and Matisse was the founder of Fauvism, lived for twenty years in this fine XVIIIth century house. On entering the studio, you have the feeling that the painter has simply popped out for a stroll in the grounds. All around you, nothing has changed since his death. Tables and easels, paints and brushes that he used, sketches, casts and everyday items reveal all the spheres of artistic endeavour in which André Derain found his inspiration.



La Roseraie
64, Grande Rue
78240 Chambourcy
Tél. 01 30 74 70 04
ou 06 23 73 03 78
during local holidays
<http://maisonderain.free.fr>
abadault@free.fr

Open
4th Sunday of month at
15.00 by prior booking
Groups weekly by prior booking

Getting there
Road: A13 or A14
RER: Saint-Germain-en-Laye
(line A) then bus line BC or
Poissy (line A) then bus 8

Château de Médan Maeterlinck's House

On the historic Writers' Homes trail

This former hunting lodge was built in the late XVth century on ancient foundations dating back to the IXth century. During the Renaissance the breeze of literary creativity was blowing on the banks of the Seine, and the château was a haunt of Ronsard and the poets of the "Pléiade". Three and a half centuries later, Paul Cézanne found it seductive and inspiring. In 1924, Maurice Maeterlinck, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, made it his new home. Here he wrote "The Life of Termites", "The Glass Spider" and had "The Bluebird" performed. It was abandoned during the war and in 1966 became the place where the newspaper "Combat" was printed until the famous "Silence on coule" (Quiet, we're sinking) of 30 August 1974. Sold at auction in 1977 and then restored by its present owners over a ten-year period, it has now regained its XVth century appearance.

78670 Médan
Tél. 01 39 75 86 59
Fax : 01 39 75 59 73
chateaudemedan@orange.fr

Tourist Office
Tel : 01 30 61 61 35
Fax: 01 39 16 16 01
info@marlyleroi-tourisme.fr

Open
All year round by prior booking
Guided tours for groups
(min. 12 persons) by prior
booking
Tel. 01 39 75 86 59

Guided tours for individuals:
booking through Marly-le-Roi

Getting there
Road: A13 or A14,
Poissy-Villennes exit
RER: Poissy (line A)
then SNCF Poissy-Villennes
SNCF: Villennes
(from Saint-Lazare)



Château de Monte-Cristo, Home of Alexandre Dumas

On the historic Writers' Homes trail

The mere mention of the name of the Château de Monte-Cristo is a reminder of the creative imagination of Alexandre Dumas, and your visit has some wonderful surprises in store for you. At the heart of landscaped grounds with caves, ornamental pools and rocks you will find yourself confronted by a house in Renaissance style with sculpted façades covered in floral bouquets, medallion portraits of writers and strange animals. Inside you will be overcome with wonder on seeing the Moorish salon, an architectural gem restored with the support of King Hassan II of Morocco. Facing the Château de Monte-Cristo is the Château d'If, a neo-Gothic pavilion overhanging the hill, in which Dumas had set up his study.

78560 Port-Marly
Pavillon d'accueil
Tél. 01 39 16 49 49
Tél. 01 30 61 61 35
www.chateau-monte-cristo.com

Open

1st April to 1st November, daily
except Mondays 10.00 to 12.30
and 14.00 to 18.00, Saturdays
and Sundays 10.00 to 18.00
2nd November to 31st March,

Sundays 14.00 to 17.00
Guided tours Sundays
afternoons except during July,
August and December
Groups on weekdays by prior
booking

Getting there

Road: A13 - N186 or N13 - D7
RER: Saint-Germain-en-Laye
(line A) and bus 10
to "Les Lampes"
SNCF: Marly-le-Roi
(from Saint-Lazare) and bus 10



House of Elsa Triolet and Aragon

On the historic Writers' Homes trail

Set in 5 hectares of parkland, the Villeneuve mill takes its visitors into the private world of Elsa Triolet and Louis d'Aragon. The XIIth century mill was frequently the setting and the source of inspiration for the couple's writings. Reminders of the time when this was a working mill, a collection of the couple's personal effects and a number of works by artist friends create a warm and unique atmosphere. It was here that some of the most beautiful pages in French literature were written. Nowadays, this home of the two writers has adopted a triple role: as a place of remembrance with the tomb of the two authors and the apartment serving as museum; as a research centre with a library of 30,000 volumes; and as a centre of support for contemporary artistic creativity. Seven or eight exhibitions (paintings, sculpture, photographs and more), artistic gatherings and musical performances are held annually.

Moulin de Villeneuve
78730 Saint-Arnoult-en-Yvelines
Tél. 01 30 41 20 15
Fax 01 30 41 43 92
www.maison-triolet-aragon.com
info@maison-triolet-aragon.com

Open

Apartment-museum
Individuals: Saturdays, Sundays
and public holidays 14.00 to
18.00. Daily at 16.00 during
school holidays

Grounds and exhibitions: daily
14.00 to 18.00

Groups (15 persons min.): daily
by prior booking

Getting there

Road: N10 or A10 / A11
RER: Dourdan (line C) and taxi
SNCF: Rambouillet
(from Montparnasse)
then taxi



Emile Zola's house

On the historic Writers' Homes trail

Come on a visit to this house in which Emile Zola spent his last 24 years from 1878 to 1902. Ever faithful to his motto of "Never a day without a line", it was here that he wrote *Nana*, *Germinal* and *La Bête Humaine*. In several rooms of the house, time seems to have stood still and the decor is as it was, typical of the XIXth century. Much of the writer's furniture is also still here. So take a look in the dining room, the linen room with its lovely original stained-glass windows and the study dominated by an imposing fireplace. Then examine the collection of photographs taken by Zola himself with one of his 8 cameras, caricatures published in newspapers, posters for films based on his works and more...

78670 Médan
Tél. 01 39 75 35 65
Fax 01 39 75 35 34
www.maisonzola-museedreyfus.com
museedreyfus@cegetel.net

Open
Guided tours only
Saturdays and public holidays
15.00 and 16.30
Sundays 14.30, 15.30, 16.30.

17.00 (from 15th November to end of February 15.00 and 16.30)
Groups on weekdays by prior booking

Getting there
Road: A13 or A14,
Poissy-Villennes exit
RER: Poissy (line A)
then SNCF Poissy Villennes
SNCF: Villennes
(from Saint-Lazare)



Ivan Tourgueniev Museum

On the Hill of the Impressionists in Bougival is a magical place with the Palladian Villa of singer Pauline Viardot and the dacha of Ivan Tourgueniev, one of the giants of Russian literature.



16, rue Ivan Tourgueniev
78380 Bougival
Tél. 01 45 77 87 12
www.tourgueniev.fr
musee.tourgueniev@wanadoo.fr

Getting there

Road: N13 - N186 - A86 - A13
Metro 1 La Défense (Grande Arche), then bus 258 to "La Chaussée-Musée Tourguéniev"

Open

1st Sunday in April to last
Sunday in October,
10.00 to 18.00
Guided tours for groups on
weekdays by prior arrangement

Jean Monnet's house

Would you really have suspected that this old house with its thatched roof had witnessed the birth in 1950 of the European Community and that it had welcomed Europe's founding fathers: Robert Schuman, Paul-Henri Spaak, Konrad Adenauer, René Pleven and Helmut Schmidt, Willy Brandt and Dwight Eisenhower. Behind its modest exterior, the home of Jean Monnet is a place of historic significance. From 1945 to 1979, he lived here and worked on the building of Europe. You can visit his lounge, office and dining room and the bedroom where he died on 16th March 1979. You will see his personal effects as well as historic and private documents. Now the property of the European Parliament, Jean Monnet's house has around 15,000 visitors a year and is a living reminder of the history and present-day reality of the building of Europe.

Houjarray

78490 Bazoches-sur-Guyonne
Tél. 01 34 86 12 43
www.jean-monnet.net
www.cahiersuropeens.net

Getting there

Road: A13 - A12 - RN12
Jouars-Pontchartrain exit
SNCF: Montfort-Méré
(from Montparnasse)

Open

Daily 10.00 to 17.00,
Saturdays 14.00 to 18.00
Groups by prior booking:
Tel 00 33 1 56 33 71 00



Maison Ravel's house and Museum

"Le Belvédère" is the house where the composer Maurice Ravel lived from 1921 until his death in 1937. You will enter a succession of small rooms meticulously decorated according to his own taste, and a garden that he himself designed. His personal possessions and his furniture can still be seen there. For Léon Paul Fargue, it was "like a surprise toy... A little house which he had furnished and divided up like a sewing box full of precious and neat little items just like things in a work box." In this peaceful and quiet haven, Maurice Ravel sought the solitude he needed for composing works such as l'Enfant et les Sortilèges, Bolero and many more...

« Le Belvédère »
5, rue Maurice Ravel
78490 Montfort l'Amaury
Tél. 01 34 86 00 89

Information and booking
Tourist Office
Tel. 00 33 1 34 86 87 96
www.ville-montfort-l-amaury.fr
tourisme.ville-montfort-l-amaury@wanadoo.fr

Open
Guided tours by prior arrangement only.
Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 14.30, 15.30 and 16.30; Saturdays and Sundays 10.00, 11.00, 14.30, 15.30 and 16.30
Groups by prior booking

Getting there
Road: A13 - A12 - N12
SNCF: Montfort l'Amaury-Méré (from Montparnasse)



Claude Debussy Museum

It was in this XVIIIth century house, now a listed Historic Monument, that Claude Debussy (1862-1918) was born. Its inner courtyard boasts a staircase with balustrade. The house has been a museum since 1990 and its hushed and intimate interior is testimony to the life and work of the composer, with iconographic documents, scores and personal effects. Among other items the visitor will find the manuscript of the "Five Poems by Charles Baudelaire", the lacquer-work with goldfish which inspired one of the "Images for Piano" and "Arkel", his toad mascot. With their origins in a fertile and innovative period of artistic creativity, the composer's key friendships are also featured here, as are movements in the world of literature, the visual arts and musical theatre. A rich and varied programme of musical events is presented throughout the year.

38, rue au Pain
78100 Saint-Germain-en-Laye
Fax 01 39 10 09 86
www.saintgermainenlaye.fr
musee.claudedebussy@ville-saintgermainenlaye.fr

Tourist Office

Tel: 00 33 1 34 51 05 12
www.ot-saintgermainenlaye.fr
info@ot-saintgermainenlaye.fr

Open

March to October, Tuesday to Friday 14.00 to 18.00, Saturdays 10.00 to 12.30 and 14.00 to 18.00
November to February, Tuesday to Friday, 14.00 to 17.30, Saturdays 10.00 to 12.30 and 14.00 to 17.30
Closed on public holidays
Groups by prior booking

Getting there

Road: N13 - N184
RER: Saint-Germain-en-Laye (line A)





Monuments

Abbaye des Vaux de Cernay

Set in a small valley and on the edge of 1000 hectares of legendary woodlands once used as royal hunting grounds, the XIIIth century Cistercian Abbey rises to the skies, an extraordinary group of buildings, a Gregorian chant in stone with all the mighty mystery of a monastery.

In 1988 Philippe Savry, the founder of the group "Les Hôtels Particuliers" acquired the 65 hectare estate and converted it into a charming privately-run hotel. Sundays at 15.00, there are guided tours of the estate, the abbey church, the monks' quarters, the pigeon-house and the Saint-Thibault fountain.

78720 Cernay-la-Ville
Tel. 00 33 1 34 85 23 00
Fax 00 33 1 34 85 11 60
www.abbayedecernay.com
reception.cernay@leshotelsparticuliers.com

Getting there
Road: A13 - A12 - N10

Hotel

Open

Daily
Saturdays, Sundays and public
holidays 10.00 to 19.00
Guided tours on Sundays
at 15.00



Abbaye Notre-Dame de la Roche

According to popular tradition, the Abbey of Notre-Dame de la Roche was built at the end of the XIIIth century to house a statue of the virgin Mary miraculously unearthed by a bull. It was Guy de Lévis who, following a victory over the Albigensians, had the buildings erected in the XIIIth century. The former Augustinian abbey was spared during the Revolution, sold as state property, purchased by the de Lévis-Mirepoix family. It is now home to a horticultural training centre. The abbey has retained its original pews, which date from the XIIIth century and are among the oldest in France.

Route de Lévis-Saint-Nom
78320 Le Mesnil-Saint-Denis

Tourist Information Bureau
Tel/Fax 00 33 1 34 61 49 79
[http://
simesnilsaintdenis.e-monsite.com](http://simesnilsaintdenis.e-monsite.com)

Getting there
Road: A13 - A12 - N10
SNCF: La Verrière or Coignières
(from Montparnasse)

Open
Guided tour only
Opening times variable
Groups by prior booking



“Je sers” boat-chapel

Among the boats moored at the quayside in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, you will not be able to help noticing this white painted concrete barge on which are written the simple words “Je sers” (“I serve”). This is the church of the boatmen and all those involved with waterways and boatbuilding. Designed in 1935 by abbé Bellanger, as well as being a Catholic chaplaincy, it fulfils the wider role of meeting-place and mutual assistance centre for penniless people. In addition to the chapel with its light glass dome, the boat has a multi-purpose hall which for four days a week throughout the year serves as a foodstore and changing-rooms.



Promenade
François Mitterrand
78700
Conflans-Sainte-Honorine
Tel. 00 33 1 39 72 62 83
Fax 00 33 1 39 72 62 12

Getting there
Road: N13 - N184
RER: Conflans-Sainte-Honorine
(line A)
SNCF: Conflans-Sainte-
Honorine (from Saint-Lazare)

Open
Daily 8.00 to 21.00

Skit du Saint-Esprit

Nestling among it surrounding trees, the Skit du Saint-Esprit will take you by surprise. Constructed in pure Byzantine style, this splendid architectural site also includes several cells each of which is home to a Russian Orthodox monk. Built in 1938, it is the oldest skit still in use. On entering the church you will see the interior walls covered in the murals to which the site owes its worldwide reputation. They are the work of the iconographer, Father Gregory Krug, who lived here for twenty years. At his death in 1969 he left behind, in addition to these murals, a considerable collection of icons of the very greatest interest.

Avenue des Bruyères
78320 Le Mesnil-Saint-Denis

Tourist Information Bureau
Tel./Fax 00 33 1 34 61 49 79
[http://](http://simesnilsaintdenis.e-monsite.com)
simesnilsaintdenis.e-monsite.com

Open
Guided tour only
Opening hours variable
Groups by prior booking

Getting there
Road: A13 - A12 - N10
SNCF: La Verrière or Coignières
(from Montparnasse)



Louis Carré house

The Villa Louis Carré was designed by the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto for the French art dealer and collector Louis Carré. The house was completed in 1959 and the swimming pool in 1963. This masterpiece of modern architecture combining buildings, garden, furniture and interior design in a total work of art, is Aalto's only building in France and one of his most remarkable private villas.

2, chemin du Saint-Sacrement
78490 Bazoches-sur-Guyonne
Tel. 00 33 1 34 86 79 63
www.maisonlouiscarre.fr
info@maisonlouiscarre.fr

Open

Saturdays and Sundays
From March to April and from
October to November, 13.00 to
18.00

From May to September,
11.00 to 18.00
Guided tours every hour by
prior booking.
Visits outside normal opening
days on arrangement

Getting there

Road: A13-A12 and
N12 Jouars-Pontchartrain exit
SNCF: Montfort L'Amaury-Méré
(from Montparnasse)



Villa Savoye

Lovers of architecture should not fail to visit " Les Heures Claires ", a villa built by Le Corbusier (1887-1965), one of the most outstanding architects of the XXth century. Listed as a Historic Monument in 1965, the villa was built for M. and Mme Savoye between the years 1929 and 1931. With its great purity of composition and its rare symmetry, the house is a perfect example of Le Corbusier's " five points toward a new architecture ": The piles, the independent structural framework, the open plan, the roof garden and the window stretching all around the house make it a veritable architectural manifesto set in grounds of one hectare.

82, rue de Villiers
78300 Poissy
Tel. 00 33 1 39 65 01 06
Fax 00 33 1 39 65 19 33
<http://villa-savoye.monuments-nationaux.fr>
villa-savoye@monuments-nationaux.fr

Open

2/11 to 28/02: 10.00 to 13.00
and 14.00 to 17.00,

1/03 to 30/04 and 1/09
to 31/10: 10.00 to 17.00,
2/05 to 31/08: 10.00 to 18.00
Closed on Mondays,
1st January, 1st May, 1st and
11th November, from 25th
to 31st December

Getting there

Road: A13 - A14
RER: Poissy (line A)
SNCF: Poissy (from Saint-Lazare)





Museums and collections

Centre National de l'Estampe et de l'art imprimé (cneai) National Centre for Printed Art

This centre for contemporary art on Chatou, the Island of the Impressionists, is housed in what was, in the early years of the XXth century, the studio of André Derain and Maurice de Vlaminck and was opened in March 1997. The cneai is home to artists and creative activities and serves as a base for disseminating their work and exploring notions of published artwork and media in the present-day art world. It is designed to be a platform offering facilities for the public and for artists, and stages programmes of exhibitions, art events, the production and dissemination of works, publications and books by artists, residential facilities in the floating accommodation and workshops for the general public. These activities take place within the centre itself, extramurally in collaboration with other organisations in France and abroad and also in the context of other events.

Maison Levanneur
Ile des Impressionnistes
78400 Chatou
Tel. 00 33 1 39 52 45 35
Fax 00 33 1 39 52 43 78
www.cneai.com
cneai@cneai.com

Groups daily by prior booking

Getting there
Road: A14 - A86 exit 35
RER: Rueil-Malmaison (line A)

Open
Wednesday to Friday,
10.00 to 18.00
Saturdays & Sundays,
12.00 to 18.00



Equestrian Collections of the Château de Maisons

During your visit, experience all the thrills and excitement of the turf! Logically, it has to be Maisons-Laffitte, the historic centre for horseracing and breeding, since the château and Mansart's splendid stables are the very cradle of horseracing in France. A permanent exhibition of models, paintings, engravings, sculptures, objets d'art, photographs and films record the history of racing and the work of men dedicated to the lives of thoroughbreds from their birth at the nation's stud farms to their victories on the track.

Château de Maisons
78600 Maisons-Laffitte
Tel. 00 33 1 39 62 01 49
Fax 00 33 1 39 12 34 37
www.maisons.monuments-
nationaux.fr

Getting there
Road: A86 - N192 - N308
RER: Maisons-Laffitte (line A)
SNCF: Maisons-Laffitte
(from Saint-Lazare)

Open
Daily except Tuesdays,
10.00 to 12.00 and
14.00 to 17.00
(18.00 from 1st April to
15th October)

Port-Royal des Champs National Estate



Recently, the estate and the ruins of the abbey of Port-Royal des Champs and the Granges de Port-Royal estate have been combined to form the Port-Royal des Champs national estate. Port-Royal was a major centre of Jansenism in the XVIIth century, and today the visitor can see the ruins of the abbey destroyed on the orders of Louis XIV and the museum in the "Petites Écoles" building. It was there that the "Solitaires" taught a number of their students, among them the celebrated writer Jean Racine. Today it contains a rich collection of engravings, old books, portraits and other works testifying to the history and the drama of conscience played out here a few centuries ago. Canvasses on religious themes by Philippe de Champaigne who lived at Port-Royal and portraits and drawings dating from the XVIIIth century round off your visit.

Route des Granges

78114 Magny-les-Hameaux

Tel. 00 33 1 39 30 72 72

(museum)

Tel. 00 33 1 30 43 74 93

(abbey)

Fax 00 33 1 30 64 79 55

www.port-royal-des-champs.eu

[musee.port-royal@](mailto:musee.port-royal@culture.gouv.fr)

[culture.gouv.fr](mailto:musee.port-royal@culture.gouv.fr)

Open

Closed on Tuesdays

Museum

1st April to 31st October: 10.30

to 12.30 and 14.00 to 18.00.

Saturdays and Sundays 10.30

to 18.30

1st November to 31st March,

weekdays 10.00 to 12.00 and

14.00 to 17.30, Saturdays and

Sundays 10.30 to 18.00

Abbey

1st April to 31st October:

Saturday and Sunday 13.00

to 18.00

1st November to 31st March

Saturdays and Sundays

13.00 to 17.00

Documents room
(by arrangement), bookshop,
gift shop, parking

Getting there

Road: A13 - A12 exit Saint-

Quentin-en-Yvelines to Voisins-

le-Bretonneux or D91

RER C: Saint-Quentin-en-

Yvelines (line C) or Saint-Rémy-

lès-Chevreuse (line B) then

Savac bus or bus 464 - Buloyer

station



Manoir de Sainte Mesme Museum of Military Costumes

There are several reasons for visiting this country manor. Firstly as an opportunity for military history enthusiasts to see 90 life-size models equipped from head to toe in French, British, German and American uniforms, a comprehensive survey of military uniforms from 1870 to the present day. Secondly, the Manoir de Sainte-Mesme is one of the few remaining examples of XVth century civil architecture in the Ile-de-France region. Its octagonal tower, spiral staircase, half-timbered construction, French-style ceilings and interior decor are a source of admiration. Finally, you will see pottery artefacts and ex-voto offerings dating from Gallo-Roman times and prehistoric flints unearthed during archaeological digs on the site.



Manoir de Sainte Mesme
1, rue Legaigneur
78730 Sainte Mesme
Tel. 00 33 1 30 59 42 71

Getting there
Road: A10 - D116
RER: Dourdan (line C)

Open
Daily by prior booking
Guided tours

Museum of National Archaeology

Established in 1862 on the instigation of Napoleon III, the Museum of National Archaeology is housed in one of the most important sites in French history, the prestigious château of Saint-Germain-en-Laye. Built in 1124 by Louis VI (Louis the Fat), it was the main residence of Louis XIV before he settled in Versailles in 1682. Here you will discover one of the world's greatest collections of prehistoric art as well as one of the richest archaeological collections in Europe. Almost 29,000 items are on display, bearing witness to the life of our ancestors from the mists of earliest prehistory to the age of Charlemagne! Recently renovated, the paleolithic gallery and the devoted to the later Bronze Age and early Iron Age provides improved viewing of the exhibits.

Château
de Saint-Germain-en-Laye
78100 Saint-Germain-en-Laye
Tel. 00 33 1 39 10 13 00
Fax 00 33 1 34 51 73 93
www.musee-antiquitesnationales.fr

Open
Daily except Tuesdays and some public holidays 9.00 to 17.15
Groups by prior booking:
Tel 00 33 1 34 51 65 36

Getting there
Road: N186 - N13
RER: Saint-Germain-en-Laye (line A)

Resource centre
Photo library
Specialist library



Musée de la batellerie River and Canal Craft Museum

At Conflans-Saint-Honorine, major centre of traditional inland water transport, the Musée de la batellerie is unlike any other museum in France. With its eight rooms devoted to displays it traces the story of river and canal transport in all its forms. You will learn everything there is to know on the subject from its 200 models of river and canal boats, hundreds of objects to do with navigation, several hundred pictures, drawings and engravings, thousands of photographs and postcards... A note to researchers and students with a particular interest in the subject: the Museum's resource centre is available for their use.



Place Jules Gévelot
78700 Conflans-Sainte-Honorine
Tel. 00 33 1 34 90 39 50
Fax 00 33 1 34 90 39 65

Open
Mondays, Wednesdays,
Thursdays and Fridays 9.00 to
12.00 and 13.30 to 18.00,
Tuesdays 13.30 to 18.00,

Saturdays and Sundays 15.00,
to 18.00 in summer (14.00
to 17.00 in winter)
Groups by prior booking

Getting there
Road: N13 - N184
RER: Conflans-Sainte-Honorine
(line A)
SNCF: Conflans-Sainte-Honorine (from Saint-Lazare)

La Grenouillère Museum

Imagine for a moment the crowds of Parisians thronging to get into the Grenouillère, the great floating dance-café moored on the Ile de Croissy! In several of his short stories, Guy de Maupassant mentions this "guinguette" and the boatmen who frequented it during the second half of the XIXth century. Were you aware that the Grenouillère's "cold baths" were the setting used by Claude Monet and Auguste Renoir in five paintings now known all over the world... The Impressionist school was born! The Musée de la Grenouillère is in the house where Joséphine de Beauharnais lived during the Terror. Thanks to its unique collection of engravings, posters, paintings and other items you can immerse yourself in the atmosphere of the XIXth century.

Maison Joséphine
6 bis, Grande Rue
78290 Croissy-sur-Seine
Tel. 00 33 1 30 15 18 69 or
00 33 1 30 53 61 02
http://
pagesperso-orange.fr/
grenouillere
grenouillere@wanadoo.fr

Open
Tuesdays, Thursdays and
Sundays, 14.00 to 18.00

Closed 15th December to 15th
January
Groups by prior booking

Getting there
Road: A86 or N13
RER: Chatou-Croissy (line A).



