

A close-up photograph of a grey stone wall with irregular blocks and mortar joints, serving as the background for the top half of the cover.

FOUR ABBÉYS

in the Seine Valley

A large, stylized white graphic of a fan or wheel with multiple curved segments, overlaid with semi-transparent colored rectangles in shades of red, orange, yellow, and teal.

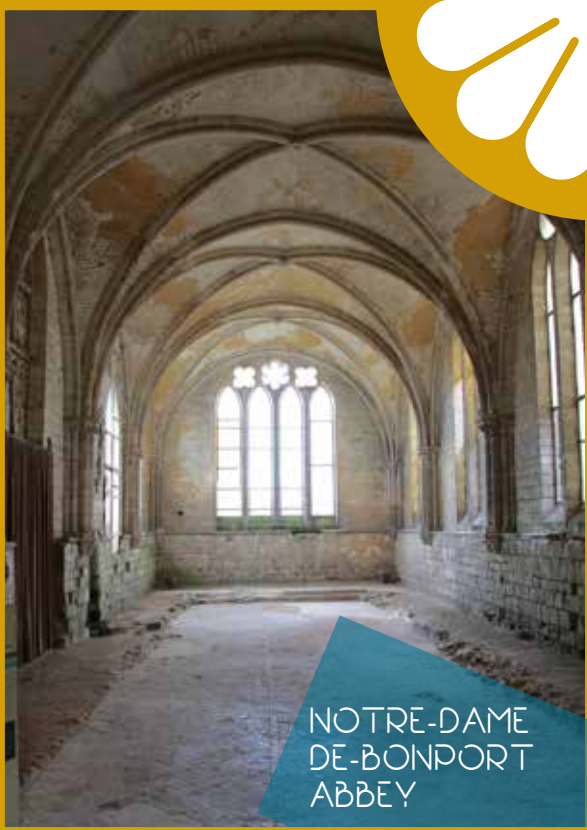
Pôle
ROUEN Seine-Eure



JUMIEGES ABBEY



SAINT-GEORGES-DE-BOSCHERVILLE ABBEY



NOTRE-DAME DE-BONPORT ABBEY



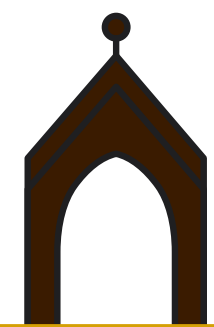
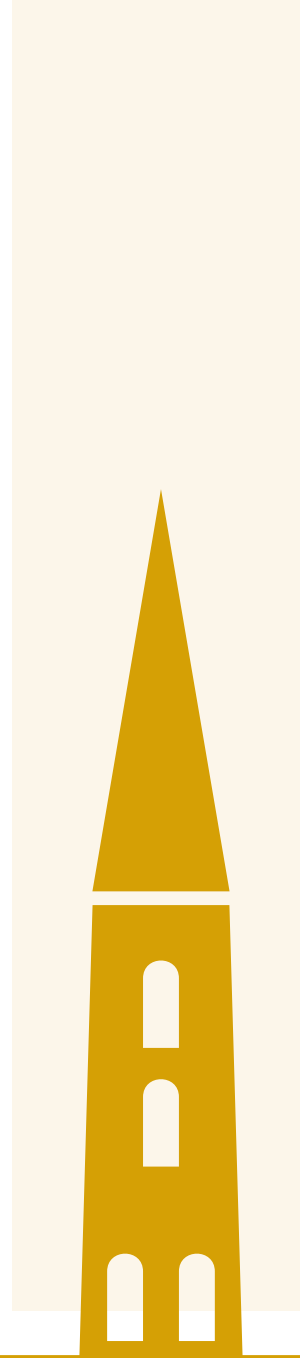
SAINT-OUEN ABBEY



During the second half of the 7th century, various monasteries were built in the Rouen region. St. Ouen, one of the greatest Rouen bishops of the Merovingian dynasty, played a major role in this boom; with his support, Wandrille founded the Fontenelle monastery in 649 and Philibert founded Jumièges in around 654. St. Ouen was buried in 684 in Rouen in a funerary chapel, and a Benedictine abbey was built around it in around 750. The monasteries were sacked by the Vikings from 841. The Benedictine monks were exiled to more peaceful regions, taking relics and manuscripts with them.

They returned after the creation of Normandy, following the treaty signed in 911 between King Charles the Simple and the Viking leader Rollo. The dukes of the new principality encouraged restoration of the abbeys: Saint-Ouen was rebuilt from 918 and Jumièges in around 940. The devotion of the dukes and lords led to other Benedictine buildings being created, including Saint-Georges de Boscherville in 1113. In the 12th century, they turned to the Cistercian monks, like Richard the Lionheart in Bonport in 1189.

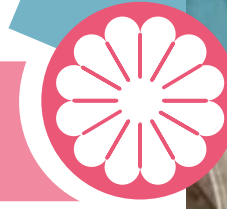
All of these abbeys suffered during the Hundred Years' War. The commendam in 1515, which allowed the king to appoint abbots, led to their decline, which worsened at the end of the 16th century due to the Wars of Religion. The Benedictine abbeys fortunately experienced a surge due to the St. Maur reform, introduced from 1618, which led to a spiritual and intellectual revival. But over time, the effects of the reform weakened; there were few monks left in the monasteries when they were closed due to the Revolution.





SAINT-OUEN

A base for the archbishop of Rouen



The Saint-Ouen Benedictine abbey was created in 750 by St. Remi, archbishop of Rouen, who was also the abbot. Having taken refuge in the outskirts of Aisne during the Viking invasions, the monks returned to Rouen in around 918. They soon achieved independence by obtaining the right to elect their abbot in around 960.

In the 11th century, abbot Nicolas, son of the duke of Normandy Richard III, asked a monk to write a list of miracles resulting from the relics of St. Ouen. He commissioned a large Romanesque church which was consecrated in 1126.

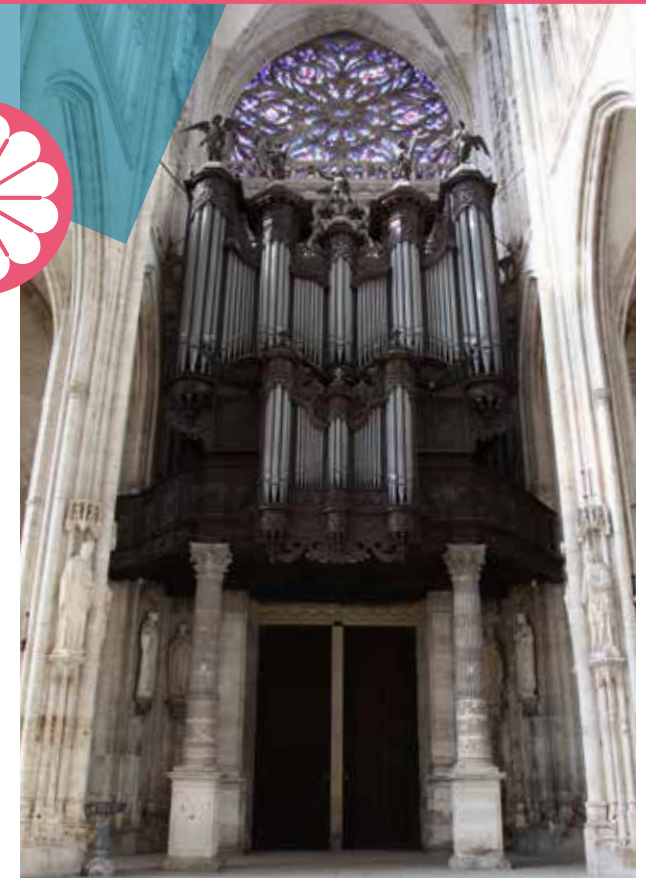
Damaged by several fires, this church was in such poor condition that its choir collapsed in 1318. The abbot Jean Mardargent decided to completely rebuild a new church. The project was so active that on his death in 1339, the choir was complete and the foundations of the transept and nave's adjoining span were in place. The size of the choir was justified by the number of monks, which had increased from 43 to 62; it was also explained by the rivalry between the abbey and the nearby cathedral! The church project was then delayed by internal problems at the abbey and the Hundred Years' War. It took a century to complete the transept and another century to complete the nave. And the façade was still not yet complete!

Rulers of Rouen for several months in 1562, the Huguenots destroyed a large portion of the church's furnishings. The St. Maur monks endeavoured to recreate it from 1660; during

the 18th century, they started to build monastic buildings better adapted to their way of living; they rebuilt the dormitory and were in the process of building a new refectory when the Revolution interrupted the project. The church became the parish church; the other buildings were destroyed, except the dormitory, which became the town hall in 1800, and a cloister gallery.

The abbey church, a masterpiece in Rayonnant Gothic art

Whilst it took over two centuries to build the abbey church, from 1318 to 1549, it is perfectly harmonised as the successive architects respected what was planned in the 14th century; we can therefore consider this church as a masterpiece in Rayonnant Gothic art, even though it was completed during the Flamboyant Gothic and Renaissance period. Its proportions are impressive: 137 m long, 26 m wide and 33 m tall. The narrow effect is accentuated by the multiple vertical lines. The craftsmen pushed the limits of the Gothic technique as much as possible: the pillars are very narrow and the walls are pierced with huge windows over three floors, which provide exceptional light. The church also has a very famous organ, created in 1890 by Aristide Cavaillé-Coll and installed in a large oak cabinet which was placed against the façade in 1630. Charles-Marie Widor, who unveiled it on 17 April 1890, described it as the "Michelangelo of organs"!



CLOSE-UP

These windows have kept their marvellous glass from the 14th century in the choir, from the 15th century in the transept and the 16th century in the nave. Scenes from saints' lives are presented in the chapels which open out onto the choir's ambulatory and the side aisles of the nave, whilst the major figures of the Old Testament, to the north, the new Testament and the Church, to the south, are found in the upper windows; the Crucifixion stained glass window in the choir and the glass rose on the western façade are modern.

SAINT-OUEN ABBEY CHURCH

Place du Général de Gaulle 76000 ROUEN
Tel.: 00 33 (0)2 32 08 13 90
www.rouentourisme.com

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 12pm and 2pm to 6pm from 01/04 to 30/09, closed at 5pm from 01/10 to 31/03.
Closed Monday, Friday and 01/01, 25/12.

F1 Hôtel de Ville stop



SAINT-PIERRE-DE-JUMIÈGES ABBEY

A Merovingian establishment



JUMIÈGES ABBEY

24, rue Guillaume le Conquérant
76480 Jumièges

Tel.: 00 33 (0)2 35 37 24 02
abbaye-de-jumieges@seinemaritime.fr
www.abbayedejumieges.fr

Open every day: From 9:30am to 6:30pm from 15 April to 15 September - From 9:30am to 1pm and 2:30pm to 5:30pm from 16 September to 14 April -

The abbey house is open during temporary exhibitions: From 10am to 6pm from 15 April to 15 September - From 10am to 12:30pm and 2:30pm to 5pm from 16 September to 14 April
Closed on 01/01, 01/05, 01/11, 11/11 and 25/12.

Line 30 + Filo'r

An abbey was created in Jumièges due to St. Philibert, who settled at the site in the Seine Valley in 654.

The first monks followed a rule combining the rules of St. Coloman and St. Benoit, before endorsing the rule of St. Benedict. The new abbey had three churches, respectively dedicated to Our Lady (Notre Dame), St. Pierre and St. Germain & St. Denis. In 841, the monastery was sacked by the Vikings; it was then abandoned by the monks, who took refuge near to Cambrai. They returned to Jumièges in around 940 with the assistance of the duke of Normandy, William Longsword. They were able to restore the St. Pierre church, which still had significant remains. In the 11th century, the monks began to restore the Notre-Dame church, consecrated in 1067 in the presence of the duke of Normandy, William the Conqueror. They then created quite large convent buildings to house a community which had around sixty members in the mid 13th century. The choir of the Notre-Dame church was rebuilt not long after this, as well as a large portion of the St. Pierre church.

Jumièges experienced a revival thanks to the St. Maur reform, introduced in 1616. The monks successfully rebuilt all the convent homes at the end of the 17th century and the start of the 18th century. There were still sixteen monks there in 1790 when the Revolution began. They were required to leave, and the abbey – sold as a national asset – was used as a stone quarry for around thirty years.

In 1852, the Lepel-Cointet family purchased the ruins and looked after them until they were purchased by the State in 1946. The abbey became the property of the Seine-Maritime department in 2007.

Two juxtaposed churches

Jumièges is one of the rare abbeys to have kept two juxtaposed churches, both in ruins. The smallest, dedicated to St. Pierre, was largely rebuilt during the 13th and 14th centuries, but it still has significant remains from the start of the 9th century, so before the Viking invasions; these are the only Carolingian remains surviving in Normandy. The façade and part of the nave walls are also from this era. The two first spans of the north wall are well preserved: two semi-circular arches resting on a square pillar without a capital, originally leading to a lost side aisle; they are overlooked by medallions, in which paintings have been inserted, and gemel windows which let in light to the platforms in the side aisles. An exceptional Carolingian wall painting showing the bust of a man is still visible on the south wall.

The Romanesque remains of the neighbouring large church, dedicated to Notre-Dame, are “one of the most impressive ruins in France”. These impressive remains are all located in a 14 hectare park which offers a very romantic green setting. The abbey home, a 17th century manor house, is a new cultural facility, entirely dedicated to visual arts and modern photography. The park also hosts an environmental modern art event every two years.



CLOSE-UP

Go back in time with Jumièges 3D

Visitors are offered the opportunity to view a reconstruction of the Jumièges Abbey before its destruction. Thanks to augmented and substituted reality, it is possible to place 360° 3D views over the current remains. The effect is impressive and allows visitors to experience the era. The application is available at the entrance to the abbey for €5. The application can be downloaded onto an Apple or Android tablet or smartphone.



SAINT-GEORGES-DE-BOSCHERVILLE ABBEY

The chamberlains' abbey in Normandy



Also located in the Seine valley, on the outskirts of the Roumare forest, the Saint-Georges-de-Boscherville abbey owes its creation to Raoul de Tancarville, chamberlain of the duke of Normandy, who founded a collegiate of regular canons at this site in 1050. His son, Guillaume de Tancarville, replaced the canons in 1113 with Benedictine monks from Saint-Evroult-en-Ouche.

On their arrival, the Benedictine monks – whose numbers certainly exceeded twenty – started to build a large abbey church. They then built the convent buildings.

After the challenges of the Hundred Years' War, the abbey experienced a period of prosperity which allowed the monks to rebuild the cloister in the early 16th century. But the commendam in 1536 put an end to this prosperity. The Wars of Religion worsened the situation, as the abbey was sacked in 1562 and 1570 by the Huguenots. In 1590, a fire destroyed the chamberlain manor house which had become the abbey house. The monastic buildings were in such poor condition that the monks had to demolish the refectory during the 17th century. After this sombre period, the abbey experienced a revival thanks to the introduction of the St. Maur reform in 1659. Maurist Benedictine monks rebuilt the monastery from 1690, building a huge building as an extension to the 12th century chapter house. They created a French-style garden on the hill overlooking the abbey to the east. When the Revolution

occurred, there were no more than seven monks. Sold in 1791 as a national asset, the monks' building was transformed into a mill; it was largely destroyed after the company went under in 1822.

A typically Norman Romanesque church

The abbey church is practically intact. The wide windows offer a wonderful brightness which is accentuated by the white limestone of the Seine Valley. Its layout and elevation present all the characteristics of Norman Romanesque art.

Of the convent buildings created by the first monks, only the chapter house remains, built in around 1170; the interesting sculptures at the entrance were so damaged that they had to be replaced with replicas. Of the cloister built in the same era, all that remains are the five magnificent capitals which are presented in Rouen at the Musée des Antiquités.

A visit to the gardens allows visitors to admire the superb layout of the apse. Unique in Normandy, the French-style gardens at the Saint-Georges-de-Boscherville Abbey are remarkable for their terrace layout. From the upper terrace, there is a magnificent view over the abbey and the Seine Valley.



CLOSE-UP

Capital decoration

The church's highly varied capital decoration is characteristic of the first half of the 12th century. Some are gadroons, others are hooks and scrolls, with palm leaves, masks and interlacing; others are illustrated or decorated with animal motifs.

SAINT-GEORGES-DE-BOSCHERVILLE ABBEY

12 route de l'Abbaye
76840 Saint Martin de Boscherville
Tel.: 00 33 (0)2 35 32 10 82
Open every day except 25 December and 1 January
www.abbaye-saint-georges.com

From 1 November to 31 March: 2pm to 5pm
From 1 April to 31 October: 9am to 6:30pm

Free audio guides
(6 languages: French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch)

Line 30



NOTRE-DAME-DE-BONPORT ABBEY

A Cistercian abbey founded by Richard the Lionheart



As often is the case, everything starts with a story. Richard, duke of Normandy and king of England, was hunting on the banks of the Seine Following a serf, he wanted to cross the river, but his horse was swept away by the current. Fearing for his life, he vowed to build an abbey in the location where he escaped danger. Arriving safe and sound on the bank, not far from Pont de l'Arche, he gave this place the name of... Bonport.

Whilst the legend is doubtful, the creation of the Bonport Abbey by Richard the Lionheart is on record in 1189. He brought in a community of twelve monks from the Notre-Dame du Val (Val d'Oise) Cistercian monastery. To build the abbey, the duke allowed the monks to take wood needed from the neighbouring Bord forest. In 1221, the first buildings were created and the abbey church was completed in 1244. Located near to the border between Normandy and the French kingdom, the abbey was damaged during the Hundred Years' War. The commendam in 1536 worsened the abbey's decline, which had just fifteen monks living in its poorly maintained buildings. But significant work was carried out in the 18th century by the final two abbots (recreation of the cloister, opening larger windows, arranging the staircases).

In 1874, the abbey was purchased by the Lenoble family, which transformed it into a family home. This ended the destruction of the buildings which started in 1791, with the church, cloister and lay brothers' home used

as a stone quarry. The bases of the pillars in the nave and choir of the church still mark out the location of this monument, inspired by the Breuil-Benoit Cistercian abbey in Marcilly-sur-Eure. Some of its furnishings are found in the surrounding churches.

In this monastic enclosure - now carefully maintained - you can visit the remains of the abbey dating back to the 13th century. The most remarkable room is undoubtedly the refectory, which opens out on the north gallery of the cloister. It covers over 300m² with no pillars. Its high arches on crossed ogives rest on narrow columns. It is an expression of Cistercian art through its unrivalled simplicity and beauty.

In the neighbouring room, the chefs prepare meals around the central fireplace and its large flue; it is a rare example of a medieval kitchen. On the ground floor of the main home, the rooms have kept their stone arches and pillars with sculpted capitals. The former vestry was converted into a kitchen; then we have the chapter house, the parlour or the scriptorium, where the monks copied manuscripts. From the cloister, which is now lost, the lay brothers could attend monks' meeting "without a say". On the north end, the ogive arch in the large cellar sits on a single central pillar. Upstairs, the former dormitory was divided into several rooms decorated with woodwork from the 18th century; the large gallery hosts modern art exhibitions in summer.



CLOSE-UP

Despite later modifications, the Bonport Abbey has a standard construction and remarkably harmonised decoration. The current owners are keen to maintain and showcase the different rooms which recall the daily lives of the monks. The buildings are located in a magnificent monastic enclosure; a large part of the wall still exists.

BONPORT ABBEY

27340 Pont-de-l'Arche
Tel. : 00 33 (0)2 35 02 19 42
contact@abbayedebonport.com
www.abbayedebonport.com

Guided tours in French and English or unaccompanied visit from 2pm to 6:30pm from 1 April to 30 September, every Sunday and public holidays. In July and August, every day except Saturday.

The monks' legacy

When not praying, the monks copied manuscripts. Several of these magnificently lit works are kept at the Rouen municipal library. The monks gradually cleared the Normandy forests and promoted the large farming areas. They also played a role in the economic development of the region in the Middle Ages. Monks were also genius builders. Despite the numerous destructions after the closure of the abbeys, the buildings which remain are a master class in architecture, which runs from the Carolingian era through to the end of the 18th century. Many visitors come to discover these superb buildings which offer a piece of Normandy history.

SAINT-OUEN
ABBEY



SAINT-GEORGES-
DE-BOSCHERVILLE
ABBEY

In the Normandy Seine valley, nestled in the majestic twists and turns of the river, there are still four abbeys, with towering walls, arches, vaults, towers and spires.

Take the abbey trail between Eure, Rouen and Jumièges, and discover four masterpieces of French monastic heritage, made up of Romanesque and Gothic buildings which recount an ancient history.

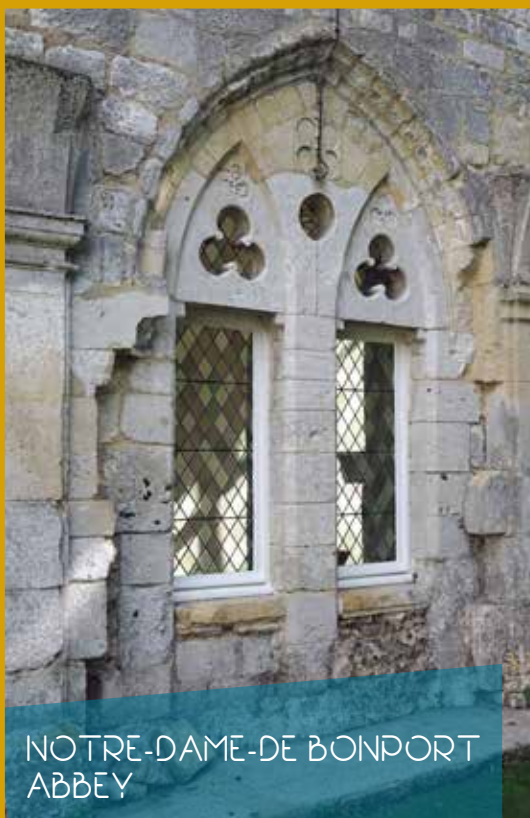


THE NORMANDY ABBEY TRAIL

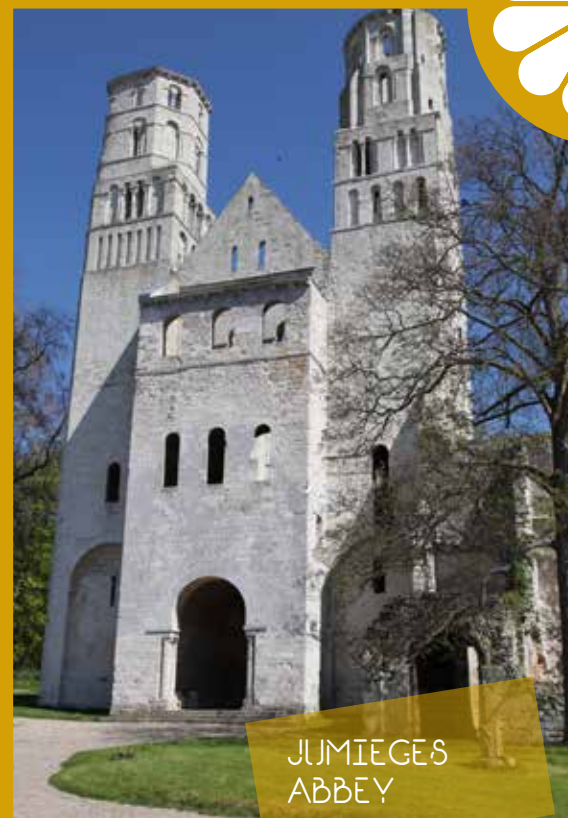
From Rouen to Mont-Saint-Michel, come and discover these majestic buildings which punctuate the abbey trail and which recall the wealth of the Duchy of Normandy and the power of the Church in the Middle Ages: Saint-Ouen, Saint-Georges-de-Boscherville, Saint-Pierre-de-Jumièges...

NORMANDY ABBEYS

Historic trail
28 rue Raymond Aron • BP 52 •
76824 MONT-SAINT-AIGNAN Cedex
Tel.: (33) 02 35 12 41 60
www.abbayes-normandes.com



NOTRE-DAME-DE BONPORT
ABBEY



JUMIEGES
ABBEY

THE ROUEN - SEINE EURE METROPOLITAN AREA

THE SURROUNDING AREA

Other points of interest and recreational activities can be discovered in the Rouen Seine Eure metropolitan area.

It is possible to walk from the Rouen to Val-de-Reuil railway stations along a 43km path over 2 days, by following the GR®2 path. The route provides historic and relaxing breaks, between two panoramas and forest regions.



The GR®2 links Dijon to Le Havre, passing through Paris and Rouen. It follows the Seine from its source to its mouth over 852 kilometres of continual marked paths.



“La Seine normande, à pied de gare à gare [Normandy Seine, on foot from station to station]” map available at the Rouen, Jumièges and Louviers tourist offices.



From Rouen station to Val-de-Reuil station

Points of interest to discover:

- 1 **Rouen Dungeon:** 71, rue Bouvreuil, 76000 Rouen
www.donjonderouen.com
- 2 **Musée des Beaux Arts:** esplanade Marcel Duchamp, 76000 Rouen
Open every day from 10am to 6pm, closed on Tuesday
musees-rouen-normandie.fr/fr **FREE**
- 3 **Cathedral:** place de la Cathédrale, 76000 Rouen
Open from 1/04 to 31/10: Sundays and public holidays from 8am to 6pm, tour from 2pm (services in the morning), during the week from 9am to 7pm except Monday from 2pm to 7pm.
From 1/11 to 31/03: Sundays and public holidays from 8am to 6pm (services in the morning), during the week from 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 6pm except Monday only from 2pm to 6pm.
www.rouen.fr/cathedrale-notre-dame
- 4 **Joan of Arc Historial:** 7, rue Saint-Romain, 76000 Rouen
Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 7pm
www.historial-jeannedarc.fr
- 5 **St. Maclou Church:** place Barthélémy, 76000 Rouen
Open Monday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 12:30pm and 2pm to 5:30pm from 1/10 to 31/03, closes at 6pm from 1/04 to 30/09
www.rouentourisme.com
- 6 **National Education Museum (Munae):** Maison des Quatre Fils Aymon 185, rue Eau-de-Robec, 76000 Rouen
Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 1:30pm to 6:15pm - Saturday, Sunday and public holidays from 10am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 6:15pm
www.reseau-canope.fr/musee **FREE**
- 7 **Notre-Dame Basilica:** 18, rue de la Basilique, 76240 Bonsecours
Open every day from 8am to 12pm and 2pm to 7pm
Sunday from 9am to 7pm
www.rouentourisme.com/edifices-religieux/basilique-notre-dame-497
- 8 **Biotropica (zoological greenhouse)**
Base de loisirs, Butte de la Capoulade, RD 110, 27100 Val-de-Reuil
Open every day from 9:30am to 5:30pm from October to March
9:30am to 7pm from April to September
www.biotropica.fr
- 9 **Léry-Poses leisure centre:** 27740 Poses
Open from 7am to 6pm
www.lery-poses.fr

Rouen Normandy Tourism & Congress

25, place de la Cathédrale
CS 30666 76008 ROUEN
Tel.: +33(0)2 32 08 32 40
accueil@rouentourisme.com
www.rouentourisme.com

*Open from May to September: from Monday to Saturday from 9am to 7pm.
Sundays and public holidays from 9:30am to 12:30pm and 2pm to 6pm.
From October to April: from Monday to Saturday from 9:30am to 12:30pm and
1:30pm to 6pm.*

*Closed on Sundays and public holidays
(1 January, 1 May, 1 and 11 November, 25 December).*

Jumièges Tourist Information Office

Rue Guillaume le Conquérant
76480 JUMIEGES
Tel.: + 33 (0)2 35 37 28 97
jumieges@rouentourisme.com

*Open from 9 to 31 March: Thursdays and Fridays from 2pm to 5pm
and Saturdays from 10am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm.
April and October: from Tuesday to Saturday: 10am-12:30pm/1:30pm-5pm
From 2 May to 30 September: every day: 10am-12:30pm/1:30pm-6pm
From 1 November 2019 to 9 March 2020: Closed
(documents available in the Jumièges Abbey)*

Seine-Eure Tourist Office

10 rue Maréchal Foch
27400 LOUVIERS
Tel.: +33(0)2 32 40 04 41
info@tourisme-seine-eure.com
www.tourisme-seine-eure.com

*Open all year round from Monday to Saturday from 9:30am to 12:30pm
and 2pm to 5:30pm (6pm from April to October).
Closed on Sundays and public holidays.
(1 January, 1 May, 1 and 11 November, 25 December).*

