

TRAVEL BOOK 2023



English edition



VISIT THE LAND OF THE 24h LE MANS®



© FIA WEC

24 HOURS: 1923 – 2023 100 YEARS OF HISTORY!



The Sarthe region is getting ready to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the legendary 24 Hours of Le Mans race on 10 and 11 June 2023. Founded in 1923, the competition has made a long-lasting contribution to the history of motorsport worldwide and is a key part of the region's identity.

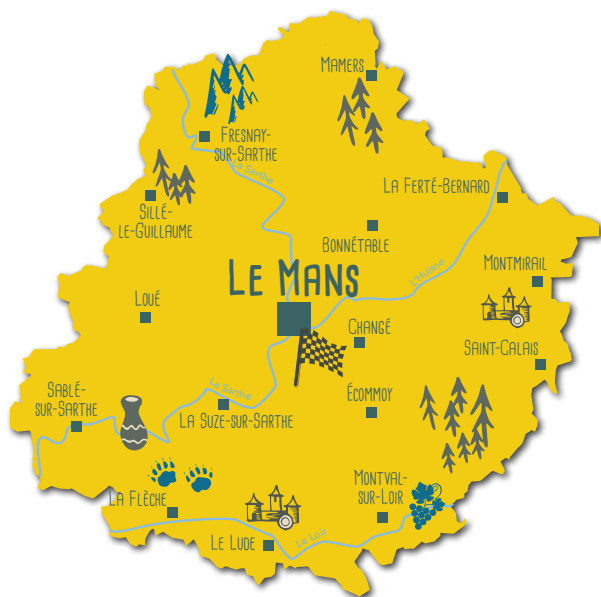
2023 - RACE OF THE CENTURY

The centenary 24 Hours of Le Mans race looks to be a landmark occasion. With new rules introduced in 2020, the Le Mans Prototype, or LMP1, cars will be replaced with HyperCars known as LMH and LMDH, meaning the big constructors that forged the Le Mans legend will make their return this year. The 2023 race will see a face-off between Toyota and Peugeot, as well as Cadillac and Ferrari, the constructor's big comeback after 40 years away, and Porsche, many-time Le Mans champions. Intense battles to look forward to!

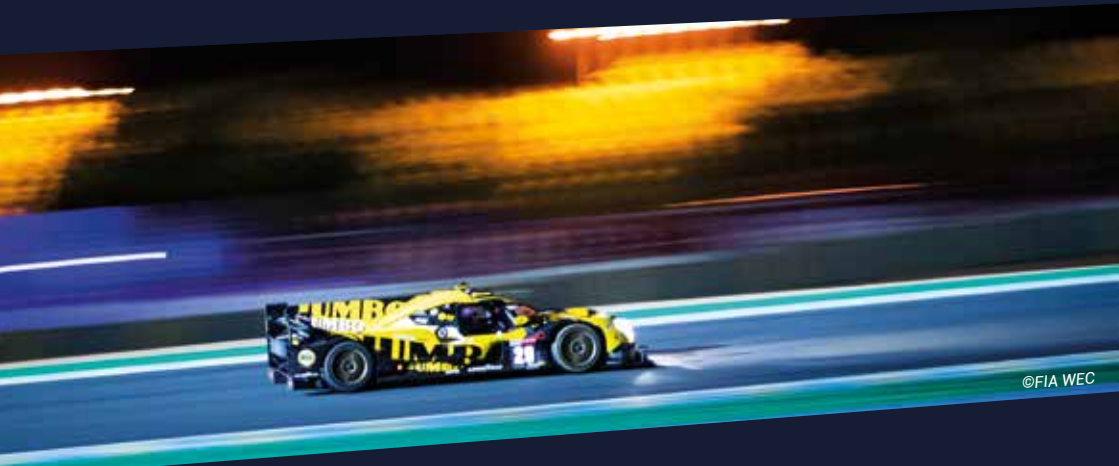


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2023 RACE CALENDAR



©FIA WEC

■ **03/17 – 03/19**

*Exclusive Drive
motor show*

■ **03/25 – 03/26**

*French Superbike
Championship*

■ **03/31 – 04/02**

Fun Racing Cars

■ **04/15 – 04/16**

*24 Heures motos
motorcycle race*

■ **05/12 – 05/14**

*French Motorcycle
Grand Prix*

■ **06/04**

*Test day for
24 Hours of Le Mans*

■ **06/10 – 06/11**

*24 Hours of Le Mans
Centenary Race*



■ **06/29 – 07/02**

Le Mans Classic

■ **07/08 – 07/09**

24 Hours Rollers

■ **07/15 – 07/16**

23h60 motorcycle race

■ **07/25 – 07/29**

*Rotax Max Challenge
Karting race*

■ **08/19 – 08/20**

*The Big
Car Show*

■ **08/26 – 08/27**

24 Hours Cycle race

■ **09/23 – 09/24**

24 Hours Truck race

■ **10/07 – 10/10**

*IAME Euro Karting
Challenge*

■ **10/10 – 10/15**

*IAME International World
Karting Final*

■ **10/13 – 10/14**

*Porsche Sprint
Challenge*

■ **10/21 – 10/22**

*Slalom ACO Rally - Inter
ecuries*

■ **11/10 – 11/12**

*Trophée tourisme
endurance car race*

■ **11/11**

*6 Hours of Le Mans
Karting*

24h PROGRAM*

LE MANS®

THURSDAY JUNE 1

- centenary exhibition at the 24 Hours of Le Mans museum

FRIDAY JUNE 2 - SATURDAY JUNE 3

- scrutineering: technical and administrative checks in Le Mans city center
- launch evening for the 24 Hours of Le Mans in the city center on Saturday

SUNDAY JUNE 4

- test day for 24 Hours of Le Mans
- Ligier European Series race

MONDAY JUNE 5

- centenary exhibition in Le Mans city center
- access to the 24 Hours Karting located within the main track

TUESDAY JUNE 6

- access to the 24 Hours Karting located within the main track
- free access to the 24 Hours museum with a race entry ticket
- "weekdays" and "weekend"
- track open to the public
- autograph session
- pit stop challenge

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7 TO THURSDAY JUNE 8

- free access to the 24 Hours museum with a race entry ticket
- "weekdays" and "weekend"
- support races
- car exhibition in Le Mans city center
- access to the 24 Hours Karting located within the main track
- free practice
- qualifying practice
- concert

THURSDAY JUNE 8

- support races
- access to the 24 Hours Karting located within the main track
- free access to the 24 Hours museum with a race entry ticket
- "weekdays" and "weekend"
- free practice
- concert
- hyperpole pole position races

FRIDAY JUNE 9

- support races
- access to the 24 Hours Karting located within the main track
- free access to the 24 Hours museum with a race entry ticket
- "weekdays" and "weekend"
- drivers parade
- track open to the public
- auction
- centenary parade
- concert

SATURDAY JUNE 10

- support races
- access to the 24 Hours Karting located within the main track
- opening ceremony
- // START - 24 HOURS OF LE MANS //
- concert
- centenary show

SUNDAY JUNE 11

- kids zone
- free access to the 24 Hours museum with a race entry ticket
- "weekdays" and "weekend"
- access to the 24 Hours Karting located within the main track
- // FINISH - 24 HOURS OF LE MANS //



**Program may be subject to change.
Please check the most up-to-date program
for more details.*

GETTING TO THE CIRCUIT

Le Mans is connected **to Paris by many high-speed, direct train services:**

- Roissy Charles-de-Gaulle airport to Le Mans: 1 h 40 (7 trains per day)
- Paris Montparnasse station to Le Mans: 55 minutes

www.oui.sncf

On arrival at Le Mans station, the simplest way is to take the T1 tram that runs non-stop, 24-hours-a-day during the race weekend.

TRAM JOURNEY - LINE T1

Depart Le Mans station - Antarès stop (terminus): 20 minutes

TRAM JOURNEY - LINE 5

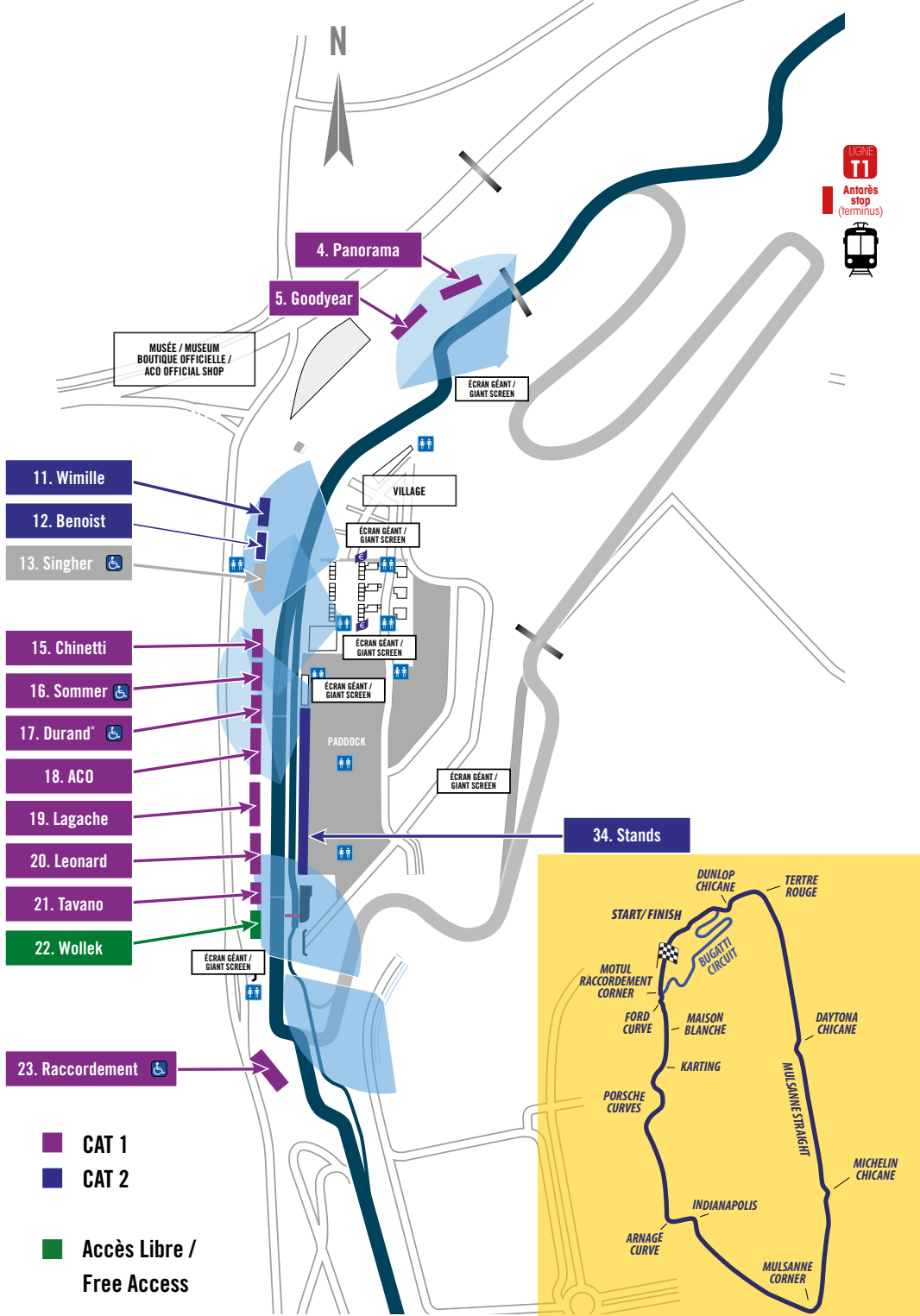
Depart Comtes du Maine - Oasis stop (terminus): 30 minutes

www.setram.fr

CYCLING is also a practical option. You'll reach the racetrack in 20 minutes, cycling from the station.

We don't recommend using a car because of the numerous traffic jams that build up over race week.





WHERE TO STAY

Find accommodation for any and all of the Le Mans circuit events online, such as 24 Hours of Le Mans, Le Mans Classic, GP Moto and others:

sarthe-tourism.com



le-mans-tourisme.com



destinationcircuit.com



- 24H IMMERSION – EXTEND YOUR EXPERIENCE -



HÔTEL DE FRANCE - LA CHARTRE-SUR-LE-LOIR

This is probably the best-known hotel amongst motorsport fans in France. Hôtel de France has welcomed many stars of the silver screen, like Steve McQueen, as well as the big-name drivers from the 60s and 70s - Sir Stirling Moss, Jackie Sticks and Derek Bell were regular visitors. And lots of photos remind us that the hotel was also used by the Aston Martin and Ford teams in those days.

www.lhoteldefrance.fr

HÔTEL IBIS STYLES - MULSANNE

Positioned right on the legendary Mulsanne bend, you'll dive straight into the vintage version of the circuit at this hotel! The decor includes a "checkered flag" wall and helmet-shaped armchairs as well as sofas in various legendary team colors, like Gulf and others. Make the most of this one-off, timeless experience.

www.sarhetourisme.com/auberges-hotels/ibis-styles-le-mans-sud-mulsanne/



HÔTEL IBIS STYLES - LE MANS

Not far from Le Mans station and the city center, this hotel offers 90 soundproofed rooms with air conditioning. The interior decor has clearly been inspired by the famous race course, with drivers' helmets on show and stunning wall paintings in the bedrooms.

www.sarhetourisme.com/auberges-hotels/hotel-ibis-styles-le-mans-gare/



IMMERSE YOURSELF IN 24 HOURS OF LE MANS

BEHIND THE SCENES

AT 24 HOURS OF LE MANS

Almost 140 vehicles - some of them legendary - are on show at this great museum. Visiting the museum lets you understand the excitement that builds every year around this famous race. Several temporary exhibitions take place throughout the year.

New: to mark the 24 Hours of Le Mans centenary, a unique exhibition will showcase cars that have made the race legendary. Dates to be confirmed.

www.lemans-musee24h.com



SIMULATORS AND KARTING

The 24 Hours of Le Mans karting offers two circuits for ages 7 years and up, to suit your ability. Want to experience the race like the real thing? Head for the simulators where you can experience how it feels to race like an endurance driver!

Bonus: 24 Hours of Le Mans karting has a two-person kart available for people with reduced mobility to discover the track's excitement.

www.lemans-karting.com



RACING DRIVER FOR A DAY AT THE PORSCHE EXPERIENCE CENTER

The Porsche Experience Center invites visitors to sit in the driver's seat and fully savor the effects of adrenaline felt during a circuit in one of their cars - models include 911, GT 718 Cayman, GT4 Clubsport, GT3 RS, or the latest electric Taycan. Various circuits and programs are available along with a day rental service. You can also do the same program in your own Porsche to really make the most of one of the center's tracks. Each year, the Porsche Experience Center in Le Mans provides itinerary trips to all its fans.

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

VINTAGE 24 HOURS OF LE MANS

LE MANS CLASSIC, JUNE 29 TO JULY 2

Le Mans Classic is making a one-off come back in 2023 to celebrate the 24 Hours of Le Mans centenary. Four days of vintage-style celebration with almost 800 cars dating from 1923 through to 1993 and 1,000 drivers competing on the legendary track, will bring the history of this world-famous endurance circuit back to life. While the engines roar on the racetrack, nearly 8,500 vintage cars across 60 different brands will showcase their profiles in various "villages" around the circuit. The event will be studded with many activities, from American drive-ins and concerts, a vintage bus tour and 1960s dance floor to a vintage car auction and much more.

www.lemansclassic.com



© M.Oudoux

ZERO GHG EMISSIONS TARGET BY 2025

The aim of Mission H24, launched by the Automobile Club de l'Ouest, is to create a 100% clean supercar that emits only water. The first LMPH2G was initially launched in 2020, revealing some significant performance data: 0 to 60 mph in 3.4 seconds and a top speed of over 186 mph! Still under development, the car should take part in its first 24 Hours of Le Mans in 2025.

This supercar represents the future for motorsport - the race to reach zero greenhouse-gas emissions.



GOING OUT IN LE MANS

Want to take a break? Make the most of the city center's proximity - just 20 minutes by tram - where you can relax and spend your evening in one of the most beautiful medieval cities in France.

- GOING OUT FOR A DRINK -

CHIC COCKTAILS - BAR LE 108

Le 108 is a fashionable spot with dimmed lighting and chic interior decor. The bar offers about twenty cocktails with a practical detail - a graphic to show you what you are drinking. Choose from sweet or sour, mild or strong cocktails. Its themed evenings add a touch of originality and are coordinated by their super-dynamic team.

Facebook : [centhuit108](https://www.facebook.com/centhuit108)

BARS & RESTAURANTS IN AN OLD CLOISTER

- LA VISITATION

The old convent's cloister, La Visitation, is popular with locals, offering attractive, spacious terraces where you can eat, enjoy a drink or even play a game - giant games free to use.

<https://lavisitationlemans.fr/>

TEMPLE TO BEER - BRASSERIE SEPTANTE-DEUX

Brasserie Septante-Deux offers tastings of a wide range of hand-crafted beers made both in-house and elsewhere. You can also eat surrounded by the wood, brick and wrought iron decor.

<https://brasserieseptantedeux.com>



- EATING OUT -

STARRED FUSION RESTAURANT WHERE EAST MEETS WEST

- L'AUBERGE DE BAGATELLE

Having trained in Michelin-starred restaurants, Jean-Sébastien Monné moved to Le Mans. His restaurant serves fusion cuisine, where East meets West, and local aromas are enhanced with far-flung flavors. Examples include monkfish roasted with coconut and saffron from Vaalogé in Sarthe, and roast venison with Ikori cocoa nibs.

www.aubergedebagatelle.fr



Jean-Sébastien Monné © M. Guillon

BOUTIQUE RESTAURANT FOR GREAT FOOD - L'ÉPICURIEUX

Situated at the gates of Le Mans' old city, chef François Ricordeau prepares food that's continuously refreshed following the seasons - fresh figs with sablé biscuits, oyster cappuccino, or Sarthe duck fillet with plums and amber wine.

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



François Ricordeau © J.P. Berlose

*Come and taste the
flavors of Sarthe!*



Want to make the evening last longer?

Want to have some fun? The city center has about ten clubs and night spots where you can let your hair down!

MAP OF THE PLANTAGENET CITY - LE MANS



LE MANS, ROYAL CITY

The Plantagenet dynasty has made its mark on the Sarthe region. Walk in the footsteps of this Anglo-French family dynasty right at the heart of Le Mans.

PLANTAGENET CITY - STEP INTO THE PAST

Le Mans' historic center is impressive for its scale and uniformity. Spread over 15 hectares, it is made up of about a hundred timber-framed houses, with the oldest dating back to the 15th century. Many carved corner pillars and engraved lintels tell the story of the city's commercial activities and keep its legends alive. The bell tower of the Cathedral of Saint Julian rises up like a beacon, forming a link between the city's Roman and Gothic architectures. The cathedral houses two treasures, namely a magnificent chapel decorated with 47 painted angels playing musical instruments. And a stained-glass window depicting the Ascension, dating back to the 12th century - the oldest stained-glass window in the world still in situ.

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

GALLO-ROMAN WALL - ONE OF A KIND

Built between the 3rd and 4th centuries, these walls measured more than a kilometer, and encircled the old city of Vindinum, the capital of the Gallic people of Aulerques Cénomans. Today, only 500 meters of the geometrically patterned walls remain, punctuated with 11 towers and three archways. Le Mans' walls are the best preserved of those from the ancient Roman empire, alongside those of the two imperial capitals, Rome and Constantinople, known now as Istanbul.

WALLS OF RENOWN

Visible from the river, the walls are mainly red in color and very striking. And this was doubtless the aim of its patrons - to demonstrate the city's power and wealth. The refinement of the patterns, whether diamonds, triangles or hourglass shapes, and the quality of the construction - with alternating brick patterns, rows of pale limestone and dark brown sandstone bound in pink mortar - reinforce this theory.



DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Le Mans has initiated the UNESCO world heritage registration process for its Gallo-Roman walls.



Gallo-Roman walls © M. Guillon



Plantagenet City ©P.Beltrami



Le Mans Cathedral ©L. Lagarde



Plantagenet City ©J.P. Berlose

CULTURE IN MOTION

STREET ART - LE MANS

The Plain Champs festival brings world-class street artists together on the first weekend in July. Over the three days, artists create live works on mobile structures and everything is in festival mode featuring DJ sets, local food trucks, children's workshops and more. The art works are then exhibited in all the city's neighborhoods. Every year Le Mans also commissions new, large-scale permanent wall paintings and there are almost 30 works scattered across the city for you to discover.





Seth ©A. Szczuczynski

+ ZOOM IN

Seth

In 2022, 39 artists took their turn during the festival. Seth was one of them and he created a large-scale anamorphic piece spread across three buildings and six floors right in the center of Le Mans. The wall painting, called Rabbit Hole, takes us with Alice and the white rabbit into a dizzying world. His work was voted the second most beautiful wall art in the world in June 2022 by the Street Art Cities website.

NUIT DES CHIMÈRES

IN JULY AND AUGUST, AT NIGHTFALL.

Cobblestones and façades of historic monuments are transformed into giant projection screens. As night falls, the Plantagenet City enters the stage, set for a unique journey through history and legends.

www.nuitdeschimeres.com



1001 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES

- CARRÉ PLANTAGENÊT

This archaeological museum looks back over Le Mans' long history showcasing outstanding artefacts collected during various archaeological digs. Come and see the Sablons treasure, comprising about one hundred pieces of Aulèrques gold from the 1 century BCE, the Plantagenet Enamel from the 12th century, or the Venus of Rextugénos from the 1st or 2nd century CE.



TOMB OF AN EGYPTIAN QUEEN - MUSÉE DE TESSÉ

Le Mans' Musée de Tesse has restored the full-scale funerary chamber of queen Nefertari, the wife of Pharaoh Ramesses II, from around 1250 BCE. Discover more than 250 works, items and even mummies - some are more than 4,000 years old. Be careful you don't get lost!



MORE THAN 200 CONTEMPORARY ARTWORKS - LE FIAA

This art center, located right at the heart of Le Mans' Visitation, offers permanent exhibitions by contemporary artists like Guy Ferrer, Bernard Pras and even Charlotte de Maupéou. Exhibitions by major international artists are regularly planned.

www.fiaa-lemans.com



QUEEN'S ABBEY - ROYAL ABBEY OF ÉPAU

In 1229 Bérengère de Navarre, Richard the Lionheart's wife, decided to found a large Cistercian abbey, the Royal Abbey of Épau. The building's Gothic architecture upholds the order's values to the letter, namely austerity and renunciation. The Department of Sarthe took over the abbey in 1958 and today it is one of the most significant cultural centers in Sarthe. Each year, the abbey's teams provide a large exhibition, a walk-through photographic display in the gardens, music festivals and sound illuminations for New Year.

<https://epau.sarthe.fr>



Find out more
about our cultural
heritage



CHÂTEAUX LIFE

- CHÂTEAUX TO VISIT -

Set out to explore the châteaux in Sarthe and stroll through their history and stories. The Sarthe region abounds with châteaux in various styles and from a range of eras, from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance to the modern day. Keen to find out all their secrets? Step inside!

www.sarthe-tourisme.com/decouvrir/patrimoine-culturel/chateaux-et-jardins/



Château de Poncé-sur-le-Loir ©M.Guillon



Château de Courtanvaux ©J.P Berlose



Château du Lude ©J.P Berlose

- TRY OUT THE FRENCH WAY OF LIFE -



Château du Grand Lucé ©M. Spengler

LUXURY AND KNOW-HOW FRENCH STYLE - HÔTEL DU GRAND LUCÉ

This château is impressive for its 18th century tufa stone façade and its vast gardens. The bedrooms will give you an insight into the everyday life of French nobility during that era. Le Grand Lucé is listed by Conde Nast Traveller magazine as one of the 86 finest hotels and it's a member of the Leading Hotels of the World network.

<https://chateaugrandlucé.com>

FRENCH-STYLE ROMANCE - CHÂTEAU HÔTEL DE SAINT-PATERNE

It is said that château de Saint-Paterne was once home to French king, Henry IV's lovers. This family château has been renovated into a luxury hotel with 10 rooms, boasting parkland and a heated open-air pool. It offers one of the most romantic experiences - dinner lit by countless silver torches.

www.chateau-saintpaterne.com/



Château de St Paterne ©D.E Cohen

Find out more
about the region's
châteaux



CHARMING VILLAGES AND GARDENS

VILLAGES WITH PLENTY OF CHARACTER

Eleven charming towns and villages in the Sarthe region stand out as they are listed in France's Small Towns of Character®. They offer a voyage through time with their preserved heritage and events all year round. Come and discover these architectural treasures during your stay in Sarthe!



Parçay-sur-Sarthe ©Globe Blogueurs



Fresnay-sur-Sarthe ©PBeltrami



Sillé-le-Guillaume ©PB. Fourny



Saint-Léonard-des-Bois ©A.Amiot

SUMPTUOUS GARDENS

Cultivated nature is at the very heart of the gardens open to visitors in Sarthe, offering you fabulous floral wonders. Whether luscious or discreet, with local or exotic species filling the air with their scent, a visit to a garden in the Sarthe region is a real source of inspiration. Large and small gardens are waiting to welcome you to enjoy a sensory experience.



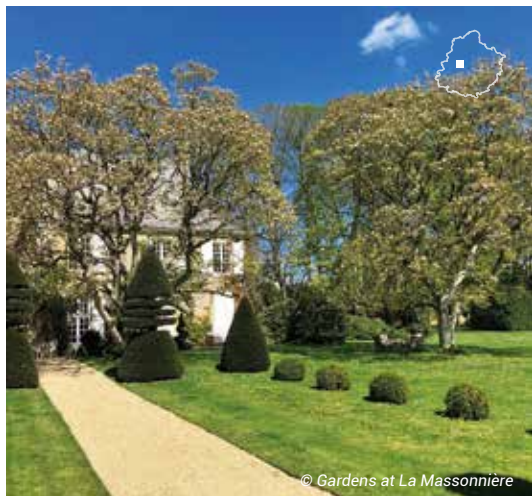
Gardens at château de Villaines, Louplandes ©Cemjika



© Gardens at château de Ponce-sur-le-Loir



Gardens at prieuré de Vauboin ©Clo&Clem



© Gardens at La Massonnière

EXPERIENCES NOT TO MISS



EXCITEMENT

- WAKE PARADISE

Climb onto a wake board, towed by a system of cables and try your hand at performing tricks on the ramps along the course.

<https://wakeparadise.fr/>

©M.Guillon

BE A ZOOKEEPER FOR A DAY - ZOO DE LA FLÈCHE

This well-known zoo houses almost 1,500 animals from five continents nestled in lush vegetation - from African elephant plains, through Argentine pampa, to Australian bush, the grizzly bear's Canadian forest and on to the Indian rhino's Asian plains. And since 2019 you can enjoy the aquatic area with underwater viewing space to watch the Sumatran tigers.

Be a zookeeper for a day! Spend a few hours alongside one of our keepers to find out more about their job (by reservation).

www.zoo-la-fleche.com



©S.Lira



©P.Beltrami

HOLIDAY ON THE WATER

- RIVERS OF WESTERN FRANCE

Take a family cruise on live aboard boats along 175 miles of waterways - no license needed. You'll love the peacefulness, diversity of landscapes and countless experiences to enjoy from heritage to outdoor activities!

www.sarhetourisme.com/rivieres-de-louest



©E.Pirat

CANI-KART IN THE FOREST - SLEDDOGRIDE

Cani-Kart is a kind of sled on wheels pulled along by a team of dogs. Just like the ones in the High Arctic, you can speed through the forest for a thrilling - and unforgettable - ride! Cani-Kart is accessible for people with reduced mobility.

www.sleddogride.fr

WINE TASTING IN THE SARTHE REGION!

Two registered designations of origin, known as AOC wines, are made in the Sarthe region - Jasnnières and Coteaux-du-Loir. Winemakers are ready and waiting to help you discover their expertise through wine tasting courses at Domaine de Cézin, a night with winemakers at Domaine Gigou or even a tour of the "decorated" cellars at Domaine Lelais.



©P.Beltrami

*More things to do
in the Sarthe*





100% LOCAL LIQUORS

- DISTILLERIE DU SONNEUR

Distillerie du Sonneur is both a liquor boutique and a place for tastings and fruit preparation with a distillation still. The whole space is open to the public for exciting and delicious guided tours!

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

MUST VISIT GOURMET LOCATIONS IN SARTHE

Don't miss tasting our local specialties. Le Mans' and the Sarthe region's rillettes specialty is made with pork meat, gently cooked for many hours and best enjoyed with fresh bread.

The Sablé is a biscuit created in the Louis XIV era, enjoyed with dessert or a good cup of coffee. You'll find rillettes in all good delicatessens. And to find Sablé biscuits, go to La Sablésienne or Maison Drans in Le Mans city center.



Members
AUTOMOBILE CLUB DE L'OUEST



EXPERIENCE THE

24h
LE MANS®

IN THE BEST CONDITIONS!



% 40
discount on
2 entry tickets*



Access the Club
reception area



Ticketing opens
in premiere



€114*

*See sale conditions



Le Mans Tourist Office

Tel: +33 (0) 2 43 28 17 22
contact@lemans-tourisme.com

www.lemans-tourisme.com



Sarthe Tourisme

Tel: +33 (0)2 72 881 881
contact@sarthetourisme.com

www.sarthetourism.com



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