



# NEWS 2023

## WHAT'S NEW IN FRANCE?

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# 2023 WHAT'S NEW IN FRANCE?

Since France scrapped all Covid entry restrictions in August 2022, we are thrilled to see that travel to France is back on track. With a number of new and exciting openings, exhibitions, sustainable tourism initiatives, gastronomy ventures and of course the Rugby World Cup, it is without doubt that 2023 is the year to travel to France! Read on to find out more about the exciting new things coming to France next year.

The United Kingdom should remain in the top three outbound markets for France with, according to our estimates, a return to pre-2019 levels in 2023-2024. The summer 2022 tourism figures in France were very positive and even exceeded the 2019 level by 3%. We are pleased to say that France remains one of the top three preferred destinations for the British along with Spain and Italy.

All information contained here is correct at the time of publication, but we do recommend that you check with the individual destinations or venues for the latest updates going forward, as dates may remain subject to change and events may still need to be cancelled or postponed.

[Coming to France? Your Covid-19 questions answered - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs \(diplomatie.gouv.fr\).](#)



# ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

## LATE 2022

- 2022/2023 - NAUSICAÁ'S 'GRAND LARGE' IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Hauts-de-France
- 2022 - 'BLACK BUTTERFLIES', NETFLIX SERIES, Hauts-de-France and Occitanie
- 2022 - NEW ECO GUESTHOUSE, Plouguerneau, Brittany
- 2022 - THE HARTUNG-BERGMAN FOUNDATION, Antibes, Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur
- Late 2022 - HOTEL JOIE DE VIVRE 4\*, Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- September 2022 - 'THE SERPENT QUEEN', AMAZON PRIME SERIES, Chateau de Chambord, Loire Valley
- September 2022 - 23 April 2023 - DAVID HOCKNEY'S 'A YEAR IN NORMANDY' EXHIBITION, Bayeux, Normandy
- October 2022 - MOOVERT, LAUNCH OF THE NEW GREEN ACCOMMODATION BOOKING SITE, across France
- Autumn 2022 - THE GR DE PAYS ENTRE DEUX LACS HIKING TRAIL, Hérault, Occitanie
- 17 December 2022 - THE CITÉ DU VITRAIL OPENS, Troyes, Grand-Est

## 2023

- 17 January 2023 - LA CITÉ DE L'HISTOIRE, AN IMMERSIVE TOUR OF FRANCE'S HISTORY, Paris Ile-de-France RECENTLY ADDED
- 19 January 2023 - NBA PARIS GAME 2023, Paris, Île-de-France
- 28 January - 28 May 2023 - DAVID HOCKNEY AT THE MUSEE GRANET, Aix-en-Provence, Provence-Alps-Cote-d'Azur RECENTLY ADDED
- 6-19 February 2023 - ALPINE SKI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023, Courchevel and Méribel
- February - April - LA CITÉ DU VIN RENOVATED PERMANENT EXHIBITION AND IMMERSIVE TASTING JOURNEY, Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine RECENTLY ADDED
- March 2023 - NEW EXHIBITION SPACE AND RENOVATION OF D-DAY MUSEUM, Arromanches, Normandy
- 26 March - 1 October - REOPENING OF RODIN MUSEUM IN MEUDON, Meudon, Paris Ile-de-France RECENTLY ADDED
- April 2023 - OPENING OF NANCY THERMAL SPA COMPLEX, Nancy, Grand-Est
- 9 May 2023 - THE CARRÉ D'ART CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY, Nimes, Occitanie RECENTLY ADDED
- Spring 2023 - A NEW MARITIME HERITAGE REDESIGNED IN HONFLEUR, Honfleur, Normandy
- Spring 2023 - THE CITÉ INTERNATIONALE DE LA LANGUE FRANCAISE, Villers-Cotterets, Hauts-de-France
- Spring 2023 - RENOVATION OF THE HOTEL CARLTON CANNES 5\*, Cannes, Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur
- Spring 2023 - HOTEL DES CARMES 5\*, Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- Spring 2023 - FRANCE'S HIGHEST AND FASTEST ROLLERCOASTER OPENING AT PARC ASTERIX, Hauts-de-France RECENTLY ADDED
- Spring 2023 - OPENING OF FRANCE'S LARGEST PLANETARIUM, Auvergne-Rhone-Alps RECENTLY ADDED
- 8-18 June 2023 - THE ROUEN ARMADA, Rouen, Normandy
- 15 - 18 June 2023 - NATURE IS BIKE FESTIVAL, Angers, Pays de la Loire RECENTLY ADDED
- 22-25 June 2023 - BORDEAUX FÊTE LE VIN BECOMES AN ANNUAL FESTIVAL, Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 30 June-2 July 2023 - THE RETURN OF ANJOU VÉLO VINTAGE, Saumur, Pays de la Loire
- 17-29 July 2023 - THE 50TH ROLEX FASTNET RACE, Cherbourg, Normandy
- 22-23 July 2023 - 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FÊTE DES RAMPARTS, Dinan, Brittany
- 8 September-28 October 2023 - RUGBY WORLD CUP 2023, nine host cities across France
- 10 September 2023-Spring 2024 - THE RACE AROUND 2023, La Rochelle, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- October/November 2023 - 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRANSAT JACQUES VABRE, Le Havre, Normandy
- 2023 - GARDEN FESTIVALS, Cote d'Azur & Loire Valley
- 2023 - THE LIMOUSIN SEPTENNIAL OSTENSIONS, Limousin, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 2023 - SEASON 3 OF 'EMILY IN PARIS', Vaucluse, Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur
- 2023 - 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 24 HOURS OF LE MANS, Le Mans, Pays de la Loire
- 2023 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PICASSO'S DEATH, Paris, Île-de-France



# ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

- 2023 - 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF VAN GOGH'S BIRTH, Paris, Île-de-France
- 2023 - 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALSACE WINE ROUTE, Grand Est
- 2023 - HAUTS-DE-FRANCE IS THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF GASTRONOMY, Hauts-de-France
- 2023 - VALLÉE DE LA GASTRONOMIE IS BACK, Burgundy, Beaujolais, Rhône Valley and Provence-Camargue
- 2023 - SUSTAINABLE COGNAC PRODUCTION BY REMY MARTIN, Cognac, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 2023 - SUSTAINABLE SKIING, Serre Chevalier, Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur
- 2023 - HOTEL LE GRAND MAZARIN 5\*, Paris, Île-de-France
- 2023 - ESPACE 105 4\* HOTEL AND URBAN SPACE, Rouen, Normandy
- 2023 - HOTEL CHÂTEAU LOUISE DE LA VALLIERE 5\*, Loire Valley
- 2023 - TOUR DE FRANCE DOCUMENTARY, NETFLIX SERIES, France
- Winter 2023 - 2024 - LES SYBELLES CELEBRATES ITS 20TH BIRTHDAY - Auvergne-Rhône-Alps

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ADDED

## 2024-2025

- April-September 2024 - THE NORMANDY IMPRESSIONIST FESTIVAL, Normandy
- June 2024 - 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS AND BATTLE OF NORMANDY, Normandy
- 26 July-11 August 2024 - THE OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES, Paris, Île-de-France and Marseille
- 2024 - LAUNCH OF MIDNIGHT TRAINS' SLEEPER TRAINS, Paris, Île-de-France
- 2024 - LAUNCH OF TGV M, across France
- 2025 - REOPENING OF ACCOR ORIENT EXPRESS, Paris, Île-de-France

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# CULTURE & HERITAGE

## DAVID HOCKNEY'S 'A YEAR IN NORMANDY'

Bayeux, Normandy

22 September 2022 – 23 April 2023

British artist David Hockney is presenting 'his Normandy' at the Bayeux Tapestry Museum. The original work, recently on display in the main gallery of the Musée de l'Orangerie in Paris, takes the form of a 90-metre-long frieze celebrating the arrival of spring in the Normandy countryside. Painted on an iPad, it was greatly inspired by the thousand-year-old narrative embroidery. The Bayeux exhibition brings Hockney's frieze and its muse together in an unprecedented collaboration.

## CITÉ DU VITRAIL OPENING IN TROYES

Troyes, Grand-Est

17 December 2022

A 3,000-square-metre site dedicated entirely to the art of stained glass, the stunning Cité du Vitrail opens in Troyes on 17 December 2022. It is housed in the prestigious Hôtel-Dieu-le-Comte in the historic centre, with the entire west wing highlighting the work and artistic creations of the master glassmakers of yesterday and today. The visitor tour will present the different stages of production, the techniques used to produce the works, and reveal a backstage peek inside a glassmaker's workshop.

## NEW EXHIBITION SPACE AND RENOVATION OF D-DAY MUSEUM IN ARROMANCHES

Arromanches, Normandy

March 2023

Built in Arromanches to commemorate 6th June 1944 and the Battle of Normandy, the D-Day Museum has been totally renovated and is set to open its doors in March 2023. It boasts a new 1,200-square-metre exhibition space to help visitors understand the incredible technological challenge of building the prefabricated port – a gigantic project initiated by Winston Churchill – plus a recontextualised model gallery and a new monumental projection on the functioning of the port.



© STUDIO OG - CITÉ DU VITRAIL

## OPENING OF NANCY THERMAL SPA COMPLEX

Nancy, Grand Est

2023

This coming spring, Nancy will have the pleasure of opening Nancy Thermal, a brand new urban spa complex. Adjacent to the lush and leafy Parc Sainte-Marie and a stone's throw from the École de Nancy Museum and the Artem campus, the establishment will offer a varied range of spaces and treatments for all, capitalising on the naturally warm spa waters with their excellent health benefits. The project is bold, but respects architect Louis Lanternier's original building and the heritage of the site.

## THE LIMOUSIN SEPTENNIAL OSTENSIONS

Limousin, Nouvelle-Aquitaine

2023

Taking place only every seven years and listed as part of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Ostensions are grand ceremonies and processions for the exhibition and worship of relics of Catholic saints kept in Limousin churches. Widely supported by local towns and villages, the festivities are attended by great numbers of people who gather to see the relics as they process through town, accompanied by flags, banners, decorations and costumed historical figures. The Ostensions belong to the whole population of Limousin, and the local residents – Christian and non-Christian alike – think of themselves as the keepers of the tradition.



# CULTURE & HERITAGE

OPENING OF CITÉ INTERNATIONALE  
DE LA LANGUE FRANÇAISE  
Villers Cotterets, Hauts-de-France  
Spring 2023

The [Cité Internationale de la Langue Française](#) will be a cultural leisure site dedicated entirely to the French language and the French-speaking world. The site will be a multidisciplinary institute accessible to all. It will bring together varied and complementary activities including a visitor circuit, temporary exhibitions, one-off performances and residency workshops for artists.



## GARDEN FESTIVALS IN 2023

THE 4TH COTE D'AZUR GARDEN FESTIVAL  
(25 March – 1 May)

The 4th edition of the festival will be themed 'Surprising Perspectives', incorporating 17 landscape creations spread over six sites on the French Riviera: Antibes, Cannes, Grasse, Menton, Nice and Monaco. On each site, two or three gardens (each of 200m<sup>2</sup>) will be created for the competition, supplemented by 10 non-competition gardens, a programme of conferences and numerous animations on the department of Alps-Maritimes.

THE 32ND INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL OF  
CHAUMONT-SUR-LOIRE (April – November)

Less than 200km from Paris, between Tours and Blois, lies a natural oasis perched 40 metres above the River Loire: the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire. The doors to its chateau and surrounding park are open all year round, but the arguable star of the calendar is the garden festival, bursting with plant curiosities including some rare species, and unusual blooms usually considered unobtainable. In 2023, there will be an international competition for 20 plots.

INAUGURATION OF THE HARTUNG-  
BERGMAN FOUNDATION  
Antibes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur  
2022

Hans Hartung (1904-1989) and Anna-Eva Bergman (1909-1987) were key figures in modern art and key players in abstraction. They lived through the history of the 20th century and braved its dramas. In the 1960s, they acquired a two-hectare olive grove on the heights of Antibes and established their villa and studios there, according to their plans. This place where they lived and worked until the end of their lives is today a foundation that preserves exceptional collections of works and archives and constitutes a remarkable architectural ensemble, registered as 20th-century heritage. [Click here](#) for more information.

LA MAISON CARRÉE REOPENS IN NÎMES  
Nîmes, Occitanie  
July 2022

La Maison Carrée reopened in 2022 and regained its interior volumes. This is something that Nîmes and its inhabitants have been feverishly awaiting for ages. Lark mirror or reflections of universal value, the inscription in 2023 of the roman temple the best preserved World Heritage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will bring, if it is validated next year, its share of surprises to the ancient building.







# ENTERTAINMENT

## 'BLACK BUTTERFLIES': NETFLIX SERIES (2022) Hauts-de-France and Occitanie

This French crime thriller series, originally entitled '[Les Papillons Noir](#)', follows a novelist with writer's block who is asked to write a memoir, but soon finds himself entangled in the bloodstained past of a serial killer. Filming locations include Morbecque, Lille, Roubaix, Tourcoing and Arras in Hauts-de-France, and Collioure, Banyuls-sur-Mer and Argeles-sur-Mer in Occitanie.

## 'THE SERPENT QUEEN': AMAZON PRIME SERIES (2022) Chateau de Chambord, Loire Valley

'[The Serpent Queen](#)' tells the story of Catherine de Medici who, against all odds, became one of the most powerful and longest-serving rulers in French history. Catherine's tale unfolds through flashbacks as she defends her actions and imparts the lessons she's learned to her new servant girl, Rahima. Filming took place at the Chateau de Chambord, Chenonceau and Villandry. Bourges Cathedral is also highlighted.

## SEASON THREE OF 'EMILY IN PARIS': NETFLIX SERIES (2023) Vaucluse, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

After landing her dream job in Paris, Chicago marketing exec Emily Cooper embraces her adventurous new life while juggling work, friends and romance. Following a successful first two series filmed in both Paris and on the Cote d'Azur, '[Emily in Paris](#)' Season Three moves across to Vaucluse, with Apt, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue and distillery Les Agnells revealed as specific filming locations for the show.

## THE LAST RIFLEMAN (2023) Normandy

A WWII veteran escapes his care home in Northern Ireland and embarks on an arduous but inspirational journey to France to attend the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, finding the courage to face the ghosts of his past. Based on a true story, [this movie](#) stars Pierce Brosnan & John Amos.

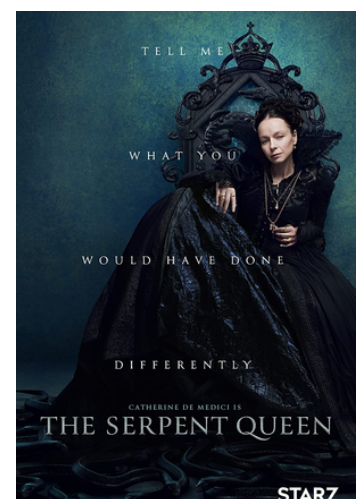
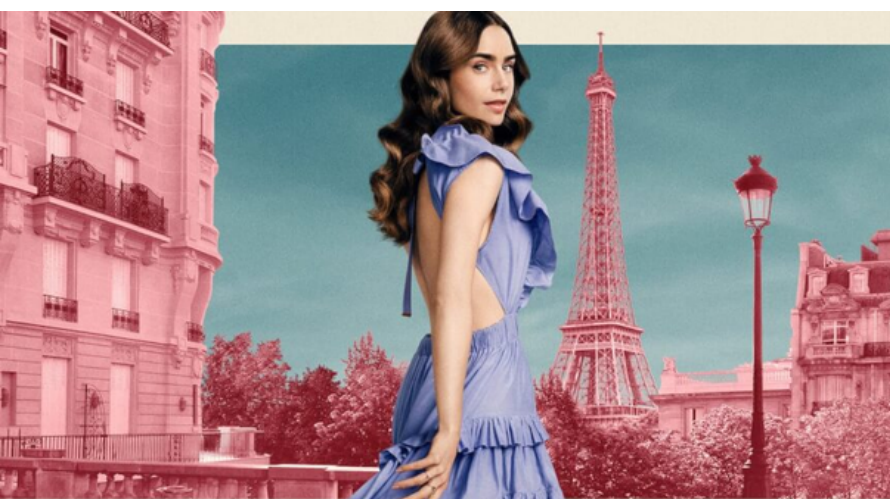
## TOUR DE FRANCE DOCUMENTARY, NETFLIX SERIES (2023) France

Tour de France organisers ASO have announced a spring release date for a series of eight 45-minute episodes on the iconic Tour on Netflix, based on the 2022 race. Netflix has said its Tour de France series will "follow as closely as possible all the actors of the Tour de France, from cyclists to team managers to understand the multiple stakes of a race". It promises to show the racing but also the 'backstages' of the eight teams involved, from how they prepare for the Grand Boucle to crossing the finish line.

### MORE SERIES TO LOOK OUT FOR:

- TV series 'Murder in Provence' was shot in Aix-en-Provence and Cassis
- The series 'Marie Antoinette', available on BBC2 and iPlayer, used the Chateaux de Versailles, Vaux-e-Vicomte and Fontainebleau for filming
- Upcoming ITV series 'The Reunion' was shot in Antibes, on the Cote d'Azur
- Also expected in 2023 is Netflix's 'All The Light We Cannot See', featuring Saint-Malo and Villefranche-de-Rouergue

RECENTLY  
ADDED





# ANNIVERSARIES

**100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 24 HOURS OF LE MANS**  
Le Mans, Pays de la Loire  
10 – 11 June 2023

It's a century since this world-famous endurance race first took place, on 26 May 1923! A dedicated documentary will premiere in Paris in 2023, amid other events. By summer 2023 the centenary celebration will reach its grand finale with a month of celebration, beginning at [Le Mans 24 Hours](#) in mid-June and finishing at Le Mans Classic four weeks later. This will also include a one-off exhibition of every Le Mans' winning car.

**40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FÊTE DES RAMPARTS**  
Dinan, Brittany  
22 – 23 July 2023

Next year marks 40 years of this [spectacular medieval festival](#). Rediscover the daily life of our ancestors and take the opportunity to explore the medieval city of Dinan with its emblematic chateau, ramparts, clock tower, Cordeliers convent and Saint-Sauveur basilica. Knights' tournaments, a grand parade and a large medieval market create a colourful weekend as Dinan rediscovers its customs of yesteryear and offers you a spectacular trip back in time.

**70TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'LA ROUTE DES VINS DE L'ALSACE'**  
Grand-Est  
2023

France's first ever wine route is turning 70! Officially established as a tourist route in 1953, the [Alsace Wine Route](#) winds lovingly through vineyards and hillsides over 170km from north to south. It crosses nearly 70 wine-producing villages where more than 1,000 producers open the doors of their cellars to share their passion for wine.



© AAA\_MEYER

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PICASSO'S DEATH**  
Paris, Île-de-France  
2023

A commission organised by the French and Spanish governments has coordinated 42 exhibitions under the name of 'Picasso Celebration 1973-2023' at several top European and American institutions. Among the establishments set to honour Picasso's life and artistic legacy is Paris' Centre Pompidou. Picasso lived much of his adult life in Montmartre, in the north of the French capital. Next year will also see the unveiling of the new Centre for Picasso Studies at the Musée National Picasso-Paris.



© D\_VANNOOTE

**170TH ANNIVERSARY OF VAN GOGH'S BIRTH**  
Musée d'Orsay, Paris, Île-de-France  
2023

To mark this anniversary, a special exhibition entitled 'Van Gogh in Auvers-sur-Oise: His Final Months' will first be presented at the Van Gogh Museum before moving to the [Musée d'Orsay](#) (September 2023 – January 2024). The artist came to Auvers, a village just north of Paris, from an asylum in Provence. During his 70 days there he completed 70 paintings, an astonishing achievement. With around 50 van Gogh paintings, the exhibition will be curated by Emmanuel Coquery.

**LES SYBELLES CELEBRATES ITS 20TH BIRTHDAY**  
Auvergne-Rhone-Alps  
Winter 2023 - 2024

RECENTLY  
ADDED

"In 2023-2024, we are all 20 years old!" is the slogan of ski resort [Les Sybelles](#) as it prepares to celebrate its 20th anniversary this summer and next winter. A magical atmosphere will pervade the whole season with special anniversary decorations, apres-ski activities and festive torchlight descents. The resort is releasing a book to mark the occasion, due to be published by Editions Glénat in the autumn. There will also be a musical event on 13-14 January 2024.





# GASTRONOMY & WINE

## VALLÉE DE LA GASTRONOMIE IS BACK!

Burgundy, Beaujolais, Rhône Valley  
and Provence-Camargue

This recent concept invites visitors to explore four elite regions of the eastern half of France through an abundance of sensory journeys. The 385-mile trail, which begins in Burgundy-Franche-Comté, will provide food and wine lovers with a delightful gourmet journey from Dijon to Marseille. The route wends its way through the gastronomy and wine powerhouses of Auvergne-Rhône-Alps and Provence's Rhône Delta, before ending in Occitanie's Gard department. Click [here](#) for more information.



## HAUTS-DE-FRANCE

### THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF GASTRONOMY 2023

Northern France has become the first French region to be awarded the title of European Capital of Gastronomy. The label – awarded by the International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (IGCAT), a non-profit organisation comprising a network of over 60 experts from every continent – offers an excellent opportunity to develop food tourism in the region. The award will also bring publicity to chefs in the region and to their work on northern French products, whose diversity isn't necessarily well-known to a broader public.

## LA CITÉ DU VIN RENOVATED PERMANENT EXHIBITION AND IMMERSIVE TASTING JOURNEY (ADDED)

Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine

February - April 2023

RECENTLY  
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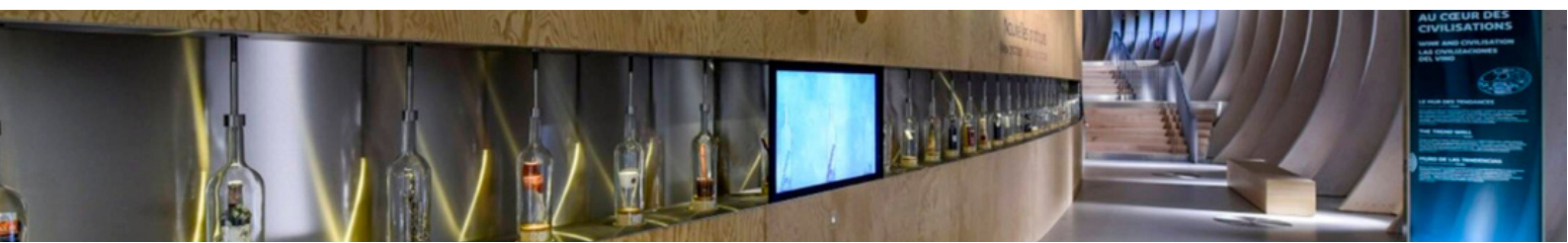
The renovated permanent exhibition at La Cité du Vin opens on 4 February with brand new cultural attractions across its 3,000-sqm space. Embark on an interactive, sensory experience by admiring vineyards from the skies, travelling around the world of wine, learning about winegrowers and terroirs, walking the Wine Trend Alley and visiting the Buffet of the Five Senses, to name just a few. In April, a new immersive tasting journey will be available, allowing visitors to explore their feelings while tasting wine (or something non-alcoholic).

## BORDEAUX FÊTE LE VIN BECOMES AN ANNUAL FESTIVAL

Nouvelle-Aquitaine

22 – 25 June 2023

A leading wine tourism festival, Bordeaux Fête le Vin has been attracting visitors from France and abroad for over two decades. Traditionally held every two years, this popular event has now become an annual event that will bring the city of Bordeaux to life every June. The event aims to promote the destination through its wines, its local artisan products and its heritage, with a programme focused on sharing, tasting and learning. Bordeaux Fête le Fleuve, which traditionally took place in June every other year, will be replaced by the newly annual Bordeaux Fête le Vin.





# SPORTING EVENTS

## RUGBY WORLD CUP 2023

Nine host cities across France  
8 September – 28 October 2023

The [Rugby World Cup 2023](#) will take place at stadiums in Bordeaux, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Nantes, Nice, Saint-Etienne, Paris / Saint-Denis and Toulouse. France 2023 looks set to smash all previous attendance records, with organisers focused on creating exceptional fan experiences and transformational impact. France 2023 and World Rugby have also confirmed their mutual ambition to raise existing standards for international sporting events in terms of social responsibility, inclusion and sustainable development. The tournament will be the first international sporting event to offer an online platform for sustainable transport, accessible to all fans. Recycled materials will also be used for the medals and benches. Find out more about attractions in each host city [here](#).

## NBA PARIS GAME 2023

Paris, Île-de-France  
19 January 2023

Paris is proud to be hosting an NBA game on 19 January in the Paris Accor Arena, when the six-time NBA Champion Chicago Bulls will face the three-time NBA Champion Detroit Pistons. This is the first time since 2020 that an NBA game has been played overseas – and it marks the 12th game held in France since 1991.



## ALPINE SKI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

Courchevel and Méribel  
6 – 19 February 2023

France will host the [Alpine World Ski Championships](#) in the famous resorts of Méribel and Courchevel. At the heart of the 3 Vallées ski area in the French Alps, some of the world's greatest skiers will have a majestic playground to match their talent. It's a great opportunity to experience the excitement of a world competition in an exceptional setting.

## THE RETURN OF ANJOU VELO VINTAGE

Saumur and surroundings, Pays de la Loire  
30 June – 2 July 2023

This fabulous fun celebration of period outfits and retro bike rides returns to the Loire Valley after three years off. Immerse yourself in the atmosphere of yesteryear and enjoy rides through the beautiful Anjou landscape, with routes ranging from 30 to 130km. Expect plenty of polka dots, petticoats, moustaches and fascinators, plus swing and blues on the festival dance floor in the Vintage Village and copious glasses of sparkling Saumur. Click [here](#) for more information.

## NATURE IS BIKE FESTIVAL 2023

Angers, Pays de la Loire  
15 - 18 June 2023

RECENTLY  
ADDED

The 3rd edition, of [Nature is Bike](#) in France will bring together the gravel community: riders, seasoned cyclists, explorers, bike trip and adventure lover. For gravel and adventure cycling enthusiasts, the festival will include new routes and rides, a Bike Show with the leading brands and hottest cycling destinations, a gravel forum and quite a number of activities. The Nature is Bike village will be the beating heart of the festival, in a natural setting around the "Lac de Maine", in a festive and friendly atmosphere.



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# SAILING & YACHTING



## SET SAIL FOR THE ARMADA

Rouen, Normandy

8 – 18 June 2023 (every 4 years)

Come and marvel at the world's finest tall ships on the banks of the Seine in Rouen. This key event in the international sailing calendar brings visitors together with thousands of French and foreign sailors, 50 magnificent tall ships as well as military boats and submarines from all over the world. The final parade will see the ships head downstream towards the estuary between Honfleur and Le Havre. The Rouen Armada is the only event of its kind in France.

## A NEW MARITIME HERITAGE SITE REDESIGNED IN HONFLEUR

Honfleur, Normandy

Spring 2023

New at the medieval fortress in Honfleur: the oldest building in town and the former Porte de Caen gate that used to lead into town is being restored and, from spring next year, will be home to a new interpretation centre dedicated to Honfleur's maritime history.

## ARRIVAL OF THE 50TH ROLEX FASTNET RACE

Cherbourg, Normandy

23 - 28 July 2023

For the second time, the city of Cherbourg-en-Cotentin will host the finish of the iconic Rolex Fastnet Race, now in its 50th year. In 2021, a record-breaking fleet of 337 boats from 24 countries took part in the competition. A Race Village and many accompanying festivities are planned in the city centre to invite sailing enthusiasts to take part in this great ocean festival.

## THE RACE AROUND 2023

La Rochelle, Nouvelle-Aquitaine

10 September 2023 – Spring 2024

This solo and double-handed round-the-world race in Class40 is hosted by La Rochelle in 2023, with around 30 competitors setting off on 10 September and returning in spring 2024. Based on legendary races such as the Around Alone and the BOC, The Race Around is designed around a traditional course and supported by a growing Class40 fleet, featuring some of the most successful and accessible yachts in international ocean racing. Stops will be made in South Africa, New Zealand and South America. The race is committed to positively transforming the maritime industry and influencing decarbonisation.

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRANSAT

JACQUES VABRE

Le Havre, Normandy

Late October / early November 2023

In its 30 years, the biannual Transat Jacques Vabre has managed to establish itself as the toughest and longest-running two-handed transat. The source of this great race is the coffee route, since Le Havre and coffee share the same history, of sailors crossing the Atlantic to bring the precious beans back to Europe. Visitors can enjoy a week of buzz in the Race Village set up in the Bassin Paul Vatin, where the boats are moored. Expect exhibitions, boat tours and meetings with the skippers, shows and concerts, free coffee tastings and a spectacular fireworks display over the port the night before departure.

## REOPENING OF THE MAISON PIERRE LOTI TO MARK HIS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Rochefort, Nouvelle-Aquitaine

Late 2023 / early 2024

Next year marks a century since the death of French naval officer and novelist Pierre Loti, known for his short stories. Loti's exoticism made him popular in his time and his themes anticipated some of the central preoccupations of French literature between the World Wars. His house in Rochefort – near La Rochelle – will reopen its doors after renovation in a year's time. In the meantime, discover the world of Loti at the Hèbre Museum, which houses part of the house's collections in a permanent exhibition that retraces the life of this traveller-writer, from his childhood 'little museum' to his costumes, via his career as a sailor and his taste for social events.



# SUSTAINABLE TOURISM & OTHER INITIATIVES

## A NEW ECO-GUESTHOUSE IN PLOUGUERNEAU Plouguerneau, Brittany 2022

This ideal stopover guesthouse is five minutes' walk from the islands, the oyster bar and the lighthouses in Plouguerneau, designed in the spirit of a sea refuge with six private, low-cost cabins. It resembles a houseboat with catamaran nets used as a mezzanine and a range of green installations, from bio-sourced insulation to solar water heating and compost toilets. During the day, the communal areas are used for activities to raise awareness on ecology and the coastline, such as study groups and cookery workshops. Supported by local authorities, the centre aims to accelerate the ecological transition in the region. More information [here](#).

## MOOVERT, A NEW ACCOMMODATION BOOKING SITE Across France October 2022

[MooVert](#) brings together a carefully selected group of accommodation, restaurant and service providers who share common values: authenticity, respect for the environment and excellent service. The service providers are evaluated in order to help consumers choose more eco-responsible accommodation, restaurants and activities. A MooVert algorithm has been co-constructed with Teragir/La Clef Verte (for the eco part) and Bienvenue à la Ferme.

## NAUSICAA'S 'GRAND LARGE', A NEW IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE Boulogne-sur-Mer, Hauts-de-France 2022/2023

There's a new visitor experience at the Europe's largest aquarium just across the Channel, aiming to raise awareness of the importance of ocean conservation and preservation. Discover the high seas and meet the majestic animals that inhabit it, thanks to an augmented reality system in one of [Nausicaá's](#) most fascinating spaces: The Great Bay, with its 100-square-metre window. Visitors wear a pair of Microsoft HoloLens 2 smart glasses with high-definition holograms.



## SUSTAINABLE COGNAC PRODUCTION AT RÉMY MARTIN Cognac, Nouvelle Aquitaine 2023

On the eve of its 300th anniversary, the [Rémy Martin Cognac House](#) has declared its commitment to a Social and Environmental Responsibility approach – for a fairer and more sustainable vision of the production of its cognacs. Visitors can enjoy 10 different themed programmes involving vineyard walks, tasting workshops, or a tasting ceremony of the Louis XIII cognac. On its estate in Juillac-le-Coq, Rémy Martin also hosts the 'Bulle Verte Slow Exploration', an eco-service station dedicated to sustainable methods of transport. It's also the starting point for an electric bike ride in Grande Champagne.

## SUSTAINABLE SKIING Serre Chevalier, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur 2023

A pioneer ski area in terms of renewable energy, Serre Chevalier installed two hydro-electric turbines in 2022. The aim for 2023 is to generate 30% of its energy needs from solar, wind and hydroelectric renewable sources. Travelling by train, or not using your car during your stay, is possible in all the mountains of France. As many as 12 French resorts have now been awarded the Flocon Vert.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Going green: France's steps to become a leading European destination for sustainable tourism - [Read more](#)





# SUSTAINABLE TOURISM & OTHER INITIATIVES

## A GREENER HOTEL STAR-RATING IN FRANCE BY ATOUT FRANCE - Across France 2022

One of Atout France's roles is to award stars to hotels, which are reviewed every 5 years. A new procedure for awarding stars to hotels and other accommodation came into effect in April 2022. The 2022 version, which includes 243 criteria, emphasises sustainable development. There are now 27 criteria related to sustainable development (compared to 13 in the previous edition), of which 15 are mandatory: staff training in energy-saving management, water-saving and waste management measures, waste sorting for guests, environmentally friendly cleaning products, information to guests on low environmental impact transport, a means of reducing the amount of laundry and much more. This new procedure is much more demanding and will further encourage establishments in the hotel sector to become key actors in the ecological transition. 87% of hotels in France will be impacted. [Read more](#)

## THE GR PAYS ENTRE DEUX LACS, A NEW WATERSIDE HIKING TRAIL Hérault, Occitanie Autumn 2022

This newly launched trail links two major sites in the Hérault department: Lake Avène and Lake Salagou. Choose from the 'Tour du Lac d'Avène' (33km) starting from Ceilhes, the 'Tour du Lac du Salagou' (32km) starting from Clermont-l'Hérault, and a linear trail, the 'Sentier des 2 Lacs' (65km), which joins the two loops together. Admire the beauty of the two lakes with their contrasting landscapes and colours.

## GUÉDELON, BUILDING A CASTLE FROM SCRATCH Bourgogne-Franche Comté Ongoing

In the heart of Guédelon forest, in an abandoned quarry, a team of master-builders is building a 13th-century castle from scratch. Quarrymen, stonemasons, carpenter-joiners, woodcutters, blacksmiths, tilers, carters and rope makers are working together to revive heritage craft skills and to shed light on the world of medieval construction. The year 2023 will mark the 25th anniversary since construction began. [Read more](#).



## PARISLOCAL, THE EVENT THAT PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON PARISIAN KNOW-HOW Paris, Île-de-France November 2023

The [ParisLocal](#) event will put the spotlight on the know-how of Greater Paris and its craftsmen. During a festive weekend, the public is invited to discover Parisian creation in all its diversity through original activities, such as exclusive workshops, tastings, demonstrations and open houses.

## 'THE 'FLOCON VERT' LABEL FOR GREENER MOUNTAINS The Mountains of France Ongoing

The French mountains cover 25% of the country, their six main massifs dotted with 5,600 local councils, villages and towns. Many initiatives are protecting the mountains and making skiing more sustainable, such as the 'Flocon Vert' ('Green Snowflake') label, which guarantees the sustainable commitment of mountain tourist destinations and is awarded to candidate resorts following a demanding audit. Resorts include Chatel, Chamonix-Mont Blanc and Chamrousse. Measures include using renewable energy sources, as at least 48 ski lift companies in the French Alps have committed to a sustainable approach to reduce their CO2 emissions. Alongside this are other biodiversity initiatives such as 'Be part of the mountain', a scheme offering workshops, naturalist observation points and educational approaches in the Vanoise National Park and other regional parks. In response to climate change, the French mountains are also significantly developing their summer / shoulder season activities to allow and encourage year-round visitors. [Read more \(French only\)](#).



# HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION



LE GRAND MAZARIN

**JOIE DE VIVRE 4\***  
Bordeaux, Nouvelle Aquitaine  
Late 2022

France's first Joie de Vivre hotel is opening in the Mériadeck district of Bordeaux, a new hotel concept supported by the Hyatt Group and Alboran Hotels and Hospitality. The JdV by Hyatt hotels are true reflections of the neighbourhoods we call home. Embracing our namesake (joie de vivre), each property invites guests to celebrate the joy of life and make each stay theirs truly.

**HOTEL DES CARMES 5\***  
Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine  
1st quarter 2023

Owner of Château Les Carmes Haut-Brion and property developer Patrice Pichet is entering the luxury hotel business with this hotel in Les Chartrons, Bordeaux, housed in the former Calvet cellars. The project is headed up by Philippe Stark, who previously worked on the cellar of the Pessac-Léognan appellation property. Website to be announced.

**HOTEL CARLTON CANNES 5\* - RENOVATION**  
Cannes, Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur  
Spring 2023

It's time for a renaissance for the Carlton in Cannes. This ambitious renovation and extension project, scheduled for completion in spring 2023, will preserve the hotel's Belle-Epoque soul while adding elements of contemporary design. It has been entrusted to interior designer Tristan Auer, who will harmoniously combine the hotel's heritage with his creativity to create a modern-day masterpiece in true Carlton style.

**HOTEL LE GRAND MAZARIN 5\***  
Paris, Île-de-France  
2023

The first Paris address from Maisons Pariente, Le Grand Mazarin will open its doors a stone's throw from Hôtel de Ville, close to the Seine, at the corner of rue de la Verrerie and rue des Archives. The elegant décor has been conceived by internationally renowned Swedish designer Martin Brudnizki, revisiting French classicism with a breath of refined modernity. There are 61 rooms, including 11 suites.

**ESPACE 105 4\* HOTEL AND URBAN SPACE**  
Rouen, Normandy  
2023

Opening soon along the Seine in Rouen is this newly redesigned cultural and urban living space complete with four-star hotel, rooftop restaurant, bar, coffee shop, reading café, coworking space and 800-square-metre artists' studio. Website to be announced.

**CHÂTEAU LOUISE DE LA VALLIÈRE 5\***  
Loire Valley  
2023

A new gem in the Relais & Châteaux collection, Château Louise de La Vallière will offer five-star service and a gourmet restaurant, nestled in a forest at the heart of Touraine near the royal town of Amboise. This 16th-century château was the first holiday residence of the young Louise, future Duchess of La Vallière and the Sun King's great love.







NEWS 2023

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## MORE NEWS FOR 2023

**OPENING OF FRANCE'S LARGEST PLANETARIUM**  
Auvergne-Rhone-Alps  
Spring 2023

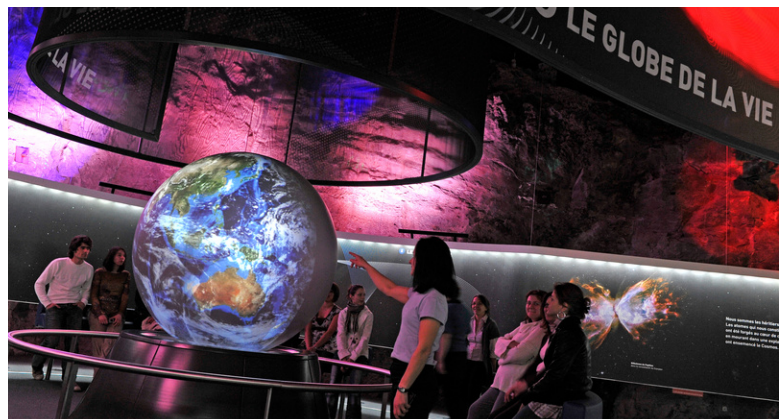
Volcano-themed amusement park [Vulcania](#) is unveiling a brand new 22-metre planetarium dome this spring, the largest in France, offering visitors a unique immersive experience into space. Travelling into our solar system and beyond, you'll enjoy films and animated sessions with the park's science team. The structure's four educational rooms host workshops for young explorers and school groups. Vulcania mirrors its physical location perfectly, being at the heart of the UNESCO-listed Chaîne des Puys with its 80 volcanoes.

**FRANCE'S HIGHEST AND FASTEST ROLLERCOASTER OPENING AT PARC ASTÉRIX**  
Oise, Hauts-de-France  
Spring 2023

A new three-hectare zone is set to open in spring 2023 at amusement park Parc Astérix in northern France, which will be home to a record-breaking rollercoaster named [Toutatis](#). Sporting unique special effects, the coaster will be the highest (51 metres) and fastest (110 km/h) of its kind in France. In the same zone will be family attraction Chez Gyrofolix with its four giant arms rotating in orbit, as well as the Parc's largest playground. The zone will have its own restaurant and shops too.

**LA CITÉ DE L'HISTOIRE, AN IMMERSIVE TOUR OF FRANCE'S HISTORY**  
La Défense, Paris Ile-de-France  
17 January 2023

Conceived by the renowned Amaclio Productions and Franck Ferrand, [Paris' Cité de l'Histoire](#) is a new draw at La Grande Arche in the La Défense area of Paris. Travel back through centuries of France's history with ultra-immersive shows and cutting-edge technology, meeting emblematic figures along the way. Visits take around three hours and focus on four main spaces or attractions: the 'Key to the Centuries' tour; a 30-minute immersive show on Victor Hugo; the 100m-long 'Corridor of Time' with its tactile terminals; and the 'Eternal Notre-Dame' experience. There is also a restaurant and bookshop.



**RODIN MUSEUM IN MEUDON**  
Meudon, Paris Ile-de-France  
26 March - 1 October 2023

The [Rodin Museum in Meudon](#) opens from 26 March to Sunday 1 October. Highlights for the year include the LOVE evening for Valentine's Day, the easter egg hunt with the chocolate maker. The opening of L'Atelier Rodin from 15 April to 27 August: A new space dedicated to artistic practice in the museum to welcome families, free of charge, without reservation. Finally, from 17 October to 3 March 2024 the museum will open a new exhibition by the British artist Antony Gormley.

**DAVID HOCKNEY AT THE MUSÉE GRANET**  
Aix-en-Provence, Provence-Alps-Cote d'Azur  
28 January - 28 May 2023

In partnership with the Tate, Aix's landmark cultural institution is hosting a [700-sqm retrospective exhibition](#) of works by leading British artist David Hockney. It demonstrates Hockney's journey from his years of apprenticeship to the latest digital creations that have made his current fame. Over 110 works will be on display for this five-month period in sunny Provence, marking the final stage of the itinerant exhibition which began in Brussels in autumn 2021.

**THE CARRÉ D'ART CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY**  
Nîmes, Occitanie  
9 May 2023

First opened in 1993 and designed by English architect Norman Foster, the [Carré d'Art](#) is home to one of the world's most important collections of contemporary art. This anniversary celebration will take the form of numerous exhibitions, involving works by Lebanese artist Walid Raad. Other museums in this historic Roman city are also joining the event: the Musée de la Romanité, the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Musée des Cultures Taurines, Musée du Vieux Nîmes and Musée de Nîmes.





# LOOKING AHEAD

## OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES 2024 Paris, Île-de-France & Marseille 26 July – 11 August 2024

Set to take place exactly 100 years after France's last summer Games, Paris 2024 will be the largest event ever organised in the country and unlike any other Games in history in its eco-conscious approach, encouraging energy conservation, innovation and creativity. The event will use 100% renewable energy, track its carbon footprint and make use of 95% of existing venues, such as Versailles for equestrian events and the Champ de Mars (beneath the Eiffel Tower) for beach volleyball. It promises to be an inclusive, interactive and sustainable celebration of sport: the first fully gender-balanced and carbon-neutral Games.

## 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS AND THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY Normandy June 2024

Normandy will forever be marked by the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy that led to the liberation of France and Europe. 2024 will mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, and with it, a momentous occasion to celebrate peace, liberty and reconciliation. A rich and unprecedented programme of events will be put together to bring the memory of this tragic period of world history to life, all while emphasising the spirit of hope.

## NORMANDY IMPRESSIONIST FESTIVAL Normandy April – September 2024

Normandy is the birthplace of Impressionism – and the 2024 edition of the Normandy Impressionist Festival will celebrate the 150th anniversary of this famed artistic movement. This major event will take place for six months across the whole region, boasting an impressive programme of exhibitions, performances, conferences and open-air events, such as light shows on monuments, fireworks displays, cruises on the Seine and Impressionist tours.



## LAUNCH OF MIDNIGHT TRAINS' SLEEPER TRAINS Paris, Île-de-France 2024

French start-up Midnight Trains plans to connect 12 European cities with its central hub in Paris via sleeper train. By 2024, it aims to provide a service that functions like a hotel on wheels, with private rooms and on-demand films.

## LAUNCH OF TGV M Across France 2024

A new and faster TGV will also be launched in France in 2024. This train will reach a top speed of 220mph – compared with the current TGV's 190mph – and according to SNCF will be more spacious than current models. It will also be more energy efficient, promising a 32% reduction in carbon emissions. Passengers will be able to reach destinations more quickly, allowing the intended move away from short-haul plane travel within France.

## REOPENING OF ACCOR ORIENT EXPRESS Paris, Île-de-France 2025

The legendary Orient Express is coming back to life in 2025, having first travelled from Paris to Istanbul in 1883. Synonymous with the golden age of rail travel, the train will be back on the tracks in 2025, operated by French hospitality group Accor.



