



PAUL CÉZANNE (1839-1906), LES JOUEURS DE CARTES, PARIS, MUSÉE D'ORSAY
PHOTO © RMN-GRAND PALAIS (MUSÉE D'ORSAY) / HERVÉ LEWANDOWSKI

NEWS 2025

WHAT'S NEW IN FRANCE?

2025: WHAT'S NEW IN FRANCE?

Updated edition February 2025

With a wide range of openings and reopenings, anniversaries, foodie milestones, sporting events, transport novelties and brand new accommodation, **2025 is a dynamic year to visit France!** Read on to find out more about the exciting things coming to France this year.

The provisional figures for visitor numbers and revenue in 2024 are very encouraging: **100 million international visitors to France** (+2 million from 2023) and **€71 billion in international revenue** (+12% from 2023). The end-of-year holidays benefitted from a 'rebound effect', with ski resorts recording an occupancy rate of 85%, up 5.5% from 2023.

The UK remained in the top three outbound markets for overnight stays in the first half of 2024. Brits continue to be the top international nationality for the winter season. With 3.5 million overnight stays during winter 2024, British visitors exceeded 2023 figures - which were already higher than pre-Covid levels - by 8.4%. Campsites throughout the country saw an increase in overnight stays by European tourists during summer 2024, including the British (+5% from 2023).

38% of the 9.5 million tickets sold for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games events were purchased by international visitors, with the UK in the top three countries holding tickets, along with the US and Germany. There were 1.6 million international visitors in Ile-de-France during the Games (23 July - 11 August 2024), 8% of whom were British (almost 131,000 British visitors, 22% more than the same period in 2023).

The outlook for the **first quarter of 2025** is very positive, with an increase in visitor numbers: +10% in international air arrivals during Q1 and +7 percentage points in hotel occupancy in the capital in January.

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 be cancelled or postponed.



ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

2024

- October-November 2024 - EASYJET LAUNCHES NEWCASTLE-PARIS AND GATWICK-STRASBOURG ROUTES
- Winter 2024-25 - EUROPE'S HIGHEST WINE BAR OPENS IN VAL THORENS, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 4 December 2024 - UNVEILING OF THE LOUVRE-LENS' GALLERY OF TIME, Lens, Hauts-de-France
- 7 & 8 December 2024 - REOPENING OF NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL, Paris, Île-de-France
- End of 2024 - MAISON ALBAR LE VICTORIA OPENS, Nice, PACA
- End of 2024 - L'AIGLE DES NEIGES IS NOW EXPERIMENTAL CHALET VAL D'ISÈRE, Val d'Isère, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 2024-2025 - MINOR HOTELS' DEBUT IN PARIS WITH THREE HOTELS, Paris, Île-de-France
- 2024-2025 - MARRIOTT STRENGTHENING FRENCH FOOTPRINT WITH 10 NEW HOTELS, across France

2025

- Until 28 September 2025 - THE MET AT THE LOUVRE, Paris, Île-de-France
- 2 January 2025 - SINGLE €2.50 TICKET TO BE INTRODUCED FOR METRO AND RER, Paris, Île-de-France
- January 2025 - EASYJET LAUNCHES NEW YEAR-ROUND NEWCASTLE-LYON ROUTE
- 7 March 2025 - 150 YEARS OF MAURICE RAVEL
- March 2025 - SELF-CONTAINED COLIVING SPACE TO OPEN IN MONTPELLIER, Montpellier, Occitanie
- End March 2025 - RYANAIR BEGINS SEASONAL ROUTE TO CLERMONT-FERRAND, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 6 April 2025 - 300 YEARS OF PASQUALE PAOLI, CORSICA'S PATRIOTIC LEADER, Corsica
- 12 April 2025 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF JOSEPHINE BAKER
- 14-19 April 2025 - THE NEW MEGA BELL COURSE, La Plagne, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 8 May 2025 - 80TH VE DAY (VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY)
- 11 May 2025 - 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 'SAINT-NAZAIRE POCKET' LIBERATION, Saint-Nazaire, Pays de la Loire
- 19 May 2025 - 100 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS AT THE FRENCH OPEN, Paris, Île-de-France
- Spring 2025 - REOPENING OF CÉZANNE'S FORMER HOME AND STUDIO, Aix-en-Provence, PACA

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ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

- Spring 2025 - BRITTANY FERRIES LAUNCHES TWO NEW HYBRID SHIPS, Brittany & Normandy
 - 25 June 2025 - EASYJET TO FLY FROM MANCHESTER TO RENNES, Brittany
 - 26 June 2025 - EASYJET TO FLY FROM EDINBURGH TO BORDEAUX, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
 - 28 June 2025 - BRITISH AIRWAYS TO CONNECT STANSTED WITH BERGERAC, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
 - 28 June 2025 - OPENING OF HOTEL 'A MANDRIA', Domaine de Murtoli, Corsica
 - June 2025 - THE FULL REOPENING OF THE GRAND PALAIS, Paris, Île-de-France
 - First semester 2025 - OPENING OF HOTEL LA FONDATION BY THE GALIA GROUP, Paris, Île-de-France
 - 1 July 2025 - 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ERIK SATIE
 - 4-13 July 2025 - TALL SHIPS RACES 2025, Le Havre, Normandy & Dunkirk, Hauts-de-France
 - 5 July 2025 - THE TOUR DE FRANCE 2025 GRAND DÉPART, Lille and across Hauts-de-France
 - 23-26 July 2025 - EUROGAMES TO TAKE PLACE IN LYON, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
 - 26 July 2025 - THE TOUR DE FRANCE FEMMES 2025 GRAND DÉPART, Vannes and across Brittany
 - 25-31 August 2025 - BWF BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025, Paris, Île-de-France
 - Summer 2025 - OPENING OF MISS FRANCE MUSEUM, Saint-Raphaël, PACA
 - Summer 2025 - HIGH-ALTITUDE GREENHOUSE AT AN ECO RESTAURANT, Val d'Isère, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
 - Until September 2025 - FINAL YEAR TO VISIT THE CENTRE POMPIDOU BEFORE 2030, Paris, Île-de-France
 - 6 November 2025 - 200 YEARS OF CHARLES GARNIER
 - End of 2025 - REOPENING OF TOULOUSE'S FINE ARTS MUSEUM, Toulouse, Occitanie
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- 2025 - THE CAEN MILLENNIUM, Caen, Normandy
 - 2025 - CARTIER FOUNDATION TO OPEN NEW MUSEUM IN LOUVRE SAINT-HONORÉ, Paris, Île-de-France
 - 2025 - NANTES NAMED NEW GASTRONOMIC DESTINATION BY *LA LISTE*, Pays de la Loire
 - 2025 - OPENING OF NEWLY RESTORED PORTE SAINT-JACQUES, Cognac, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
 - 2025 - 150 YEARS OF THE PALAIS GARNIER, Paris, Île-de-France
 - 2025 - WORLD'S FIRST UBISOFT ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE TO OPEN IN FRANCE, Béziers, Occitanie
 - 2025 - 20 YEARS OF THE LOIRE À VÉLO, Centre-Val de Loire & Pays de la Loire



- 2025 - 1,000 YEARS OF THE CHATEAU DE MONTREUIL-BELLAY, near Saumur, Pays de la Loire
- 2025 - 10TH UNESCO BIRTHDAY FOR CHAMPAGNE'S SPARKLING HERITAGE, Champagne, Grand Est
- 2025 - 15TH UNESCO BIRTHDAY OF THE 'REPAS GASTRONOMIQUE DES FRANÇAIS', across France
- 2025 - OKKO HOTELS TO OPEN ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED HOTEL, Troyes, Grand Est
- 2025 - ALFRED HOTELS EXPANDING IN FRANCE WITH FOUR NEW ADDRESSES, across France
- 2025 - OPENING OF FRANCE'S FIRST HOTEL KEMPINSKI, Cap d'Ail, PACA
- 2025 - OETKER COLLECTION'S MASTERPIECE HOTELS OPENS VILLA LA GUETTIÈRE, Cap d'Antibes, PACA

2026

- 2026 - 97%-RECYCLABLE TGV M TO ENTER SERVICE
- 2026 - GIACOMETTI INSTITUTE TO BE REHOMED IN FORMER GARE DES INVALIDES
- 2026 - OPENING OF GRAND-SIÈCLE MUSEUM IN FORMER SULLY BARRACKS IN SAINT-CLOUD
- 2026 - WORLD'S LARGEST VIDEO GAME MUSEUM, 'ODYSSÉE', TO OPEN IN SEINE-ET-MARNE
- 2026 - EUROPEAN AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BE HELD IN PARIS-ST DENIS AS LEGACY OF OLYMPIC GAMES
- 2026 - FIRST LOUIS VUITTON HOTEL TO OPEN ON PARIS' CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES
- 2026 - RADISSON BLU JOINS TRIANGLE PROJECT, PARIS' NEW MIXED-USE DESTINATION

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Marine Teste
Head of PR



Rachel Johnston
Senior Press Officer



Katie Timothy
Junior Press & Events Officer



Pauline Harymbat
Press Officer for Normandy

EMAIL US: PRESSOFFICE.UK@ATOUT-FRANCE.FR
PRESS BLOG: [FRANCEUNCOVERED.COM](https://franceuncovered.com)
X: [@UK_ATOUTFRANCE](https://twitter.com/UK_ATOUTFRANCE)



CULTURE & HERITAGE

UNVEILING OF THE LOUVRE-LENS' GALLERY OF TIME Lens, Hauts-de-France 4 December 2024

Sister to the iconic Paris museum, the Louvre-Lens is a cultural gem in the crown of Northern France. Its [Gallery of Time](#) has undergone a total revamp, the first since the museum opened in 2012. It reopened before Christmas free of charge to all visitors and embodies the museum's commitment to making art and culture accessible. It's a unique space in the museum world that makes it possible to embrace 5,000 years of history in art and the humanities in a single gaze, including 443 works lent by the Paris Louvre.

REOPENING OF CÉZANNE'S FORMER HOME AND STUDIO IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Spring 2025

[Aix-en-Provence](#) is in for a major Cézanne celebration in 2025 with the reopening of two major artistic sites: his studio, housing the models for his final still-life paintings, his furniture, equipment and objects dear to him; and his family home at Jas de Bouffan, listed as a historic monument. A guided tour will tell you what this property meant to the painter: an anchor point, the theatre for his first paintings and a creative studio. Cézanne's favourite views, which appeared in around 50 of his oils and watercolours, are also on display in the house. Also don't miss the Bibémus quarry, where he used to paint, while in Aix - and wander the streets that marked the life, outlook and work of this father of modern painting.

[Follow Cézanne 2025](#)

REOPENING OF NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL Paris, Île-de-France 7 & 8 December 2024

Five and a half years after the fire that partially destroyed its upper section, the [public reopening of Paris' Notre-Dame Cathedral](#) took place on 7 & 8 December 2024, organised via a free online ticketing service. The official inauguration on 7 December comprised the 'awakening' of the organ, a liturgical celebration including a blessing, a Magnificat or a Te Deum, and vespers. The first Mass took place on 8 December, with the consecration of the altar. The restoration was entrusted to architect Philippe Villeneuve, with the general principle to rebuild the cathedral identically, including the spire. Final delivery of the redevelopment of the forecourt and the surroundings of Notre-Dame is scheduled for 2027, preceded by the stained glass windows in 2026.



OPENING OF MISS FRANCE MUSEUM Saint-Raphaël, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Summer 2025

Miss France, one of the oldest-running national beauty contests, is set to have its history displayed in a museum in Saint-Raphaël on the glamorous Côte-d'Azur. Mayor Frédéric Masquelier and the Miss France Society announced the opening of the [Miss France Museum](#) in Saint-Raphaël in 2025, housed in an elegant Belle-Époque villa. Visitors will be taken on a journey through the history of the Miss France competition, complete with an impressive collection of over 100 unique costumes worn by Miss France hopefuls over the decades, winners' crowns, paintings, and video extracts of must-see moments. Saint-Raphaël is where France won the Miss World title in 1953, with Denise Perrier.





CULTURE & HERITAGE

NEAR EASTERN ANTIQUITIES IN DIALOGUE:
THE MET AT THE LOUVRE
Paris, Île-de-France
Until 28 September 2025

The Louvre's Department of Near-Eastern Antiquities is hosting 10 major works from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, whose Department of Ancient Near-Eastern Art is currently closed for renovation. These 'special guest' artworks from the Met, dating from between the late 4th millennium BC and the 5th century AD, show some remarkable connections with the Louvre's own collection. Representing Central Asia, Syria, Iran and Mesopotamia, this dialogue between collections and works of art reintroduces visitors to these extraordinary, age-old artefacts and the stories they tell.

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FINAL YEAR TO VISIT THE CENTRE POMPIDOU
BEFORE 2030
Paris, Île-de-France
Until end September 2025

The iconic Centre Pompidou closes this September until 2030 for a major renovation programme. Supported by the Ministry for Culture, the renovation will remove asbestos from all facades, enhance fire safety, improve accessibility for people with reduced mobility and optimise energy efficiency for the whole building. The project also presents an opportunity to create a new large-scale cultural project for the Centre, which will continue to reflect and support contemporary creation as it engages with societal issues. The exhibition areas and bookshop will be progressively closed over the summer, with complete closure planned for the end of September.



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THE FULL REOPENING OF THE GRAND PALAIS
Paris, Île-de-France
June 2025

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Following its partial opening of the Nave and surrounding galleries to host the fencing and taekwondo disciplines at the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Grand Palais is undergoing the second phase of its restoration and is set to fully reopen in June this year. Work has been taking place since March 2021 across the three buildings that make up the emblematic site, which was built for the 1900 Universal Exhibition. The total work involves restoration of the façades, statues and interior decoration, as well as new technical installations and improved accessibility. The Grand Palais and Palais de la Découverte will have one unified entrance.

CARTIER FOUNDATION TO OPEN NEW ART MUSEUM IN
LOUVRE SAINT-HONORÉ BUILDING AS IT CELEBRATES
40TH ANNIVERSARY
Paris, Île-de-France
2025

The Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain is moving to a new location: the Louvre des Antiquaires on Place du Palais-Royal in Paris, opening to the public in 2025. The building's interiors have been renovated by Jean Nouvel, the same architect who designed the foundation's current premises on Boulevard Raspail in 1994. Compared to the strikingly modern building of glass and steel that Fondation Cartier currently inhabits, the new location is a classical Haussmannian building, formerly a five-star hotel in 1855 before becoming a department store in 1863. Since 1978, it has been known as the Louvre des Antiquaires and has housed hundreds of antique shops and galleries.



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CULTURE & HERITAGE



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THE CAEN MILLENNIUM

Caen, Normandy
2025

Caen will be celebrating 1,000 years of history in 2025! Locals, Normandy residents and visitors will unite to mark this historic anniversary through a full programme of artistic and cultural events. The Caen Millennium is designed to shine a spotlight on the many areas that contribute to its unique character - culture, arts and sciences, research and economy - and unite all those who make Caen what it is today: residents, civil society organisations, local authorities, institutions and businesses. Beyond the atmosphere generated by the public festivities, the Millennium will create a 'before and after' in the history of the city.

FRANCE'S FIRST UBISOFT ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

Béziers, Occitanie
2025

Ubisoft and Storyland Studios announced the development of the world's first Ubisoft Entertainment Centre at Studios Occitanie Méditerranée. This multi-brand themed entertainment experience is the first in a series of centres that will immerse fans and newcomers in fully interactive worlds based on Ubisoft's popular game franchises. Located in Béziers on France's Mediterranean coast, a 40-minute drive from Montpellier, the 88-hectare mixed development will include a professional film studio, multiple entertainment offerings, retail, dining, and hospitality.

REOPENING OF TOULOUSE'S FINE ARTS MUSEUM

Toulouse, Occitanie
End of 2025

Housed in a former 14th-century convent, the Musée des Augustins has undergone many changes over the years - but most recently, new works have been needed to resolve structural problems and respond to new cultural uses. Archaeological excavations have been carried out since 2021, while the interior layout of the Gothic halls, church and painting salon has been reconfigured. The new reception building will open onto a redeveloped forecourt and change the relationship between the monument and its surroundings.

OPENING OF THE NEWLY RESTORED PORTE SAINT-JACQUES

Cognac, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
2025

The historic fortified entrance to the town of Cognac dates back to the 12th century and has undergone various architectural phases and roles since its inception, occupying a strategic position west of Cognac to control traffic across the River Charente, and key to the town's commerce, trade and defence. Its restoration is expected to conclude in 2025. Until the reopening, you can visit the 'Coulisses du Chantier' (building works) for a €5 contribution to this ongoing restoration project. The town makes the ideal starting point for exploring the wider Cognac area, visiting winemakers and Cognac houses during distillation and beyond.



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ANNIVERSARIES

20 YEARS OF THE LOIRE À VÉLO Centre-Val de Loire & Pays de la Loire 2025

It's 20 years since the first section of the [Loire à Vélo](#) opened, today a 900km cycle route winding its way through the majestic Loire Valley, and the westernmost section of EuroVelo 6. Much of the Loire Valley is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and along the trail you stick to France's last great wild river, with its sandy banks and islands, vine-covered slopes, picturesque towns and villages, and fine food and wine. The route ends at the Loire's Atlantic estuary. There are over 700 cyclist-friendly 'Accueil Vélo' places to stay within a 5km radius and a train along the route accommodates bikes in summer.



© BOULLERET

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF JOSEPHINE BAKER 12 April 2025

Josephine Baker (1906-1975) was an American dancer, singer, actress and civil rights activist who found fame as an expatriate in France. Beyond her theatrical success, Baker was a courageous advocate for racial equality, participating in the French Resistance. In April 1975 Baker performed at the Bobino Theatre but died just days later. She was the first American woman in history to receive French military honours, as well as being the first black woman interred at the Panthéon. Her former home in Dordogne, the 15th-century [Château des Milandes](#), is open to visitors and has exquisite formal gardens.

80TH VE DAY (VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY) 8 May 2025

Following the success of D-Day's 80th in June 2024, efforts will be turning to the celebration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day which marked the end of the war in Europe and WWII as a whole on 8 May 1945. We expect a ceremony to take place in Reims, where Germany's surrender was signed.



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150 YEARS OF MAURICE RAVEL 7 March 2025

Born near St-Jean-de-Luz in the Basque Country, Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) was one of the most eminent composers of the 20th century, renowned for his complex compositions. He was introduced by his father to Erik Satie, whose distinctive personality and unorthodox music had a strong influence on Ravel, and he studied with Gabriel Fauré. Some of his best known works include *Boléro*, *Daphnis & Chloé* and *Pavane pour une infante défunte*. Ravel's [Museum House](#) in Montfort-l'Amaury, near Paris, is open for guided tours by reservation.

300 YEARS OF PASQUALE PAOLI, CORSICA'S PATRIOTIC LEADER 6 April 2025

In 1755, Corsican patriot Pasquale Paoli (1725-1807) proclaimed independence from the Genoese after five centuries of occupation. This celebrated leader gave Corsica a democratic constitution and founded the island's university. Corsicans refer to him as 'U Babbu di a Patria': the Father of the People. A [museum dedicated to Paoli](#) is located close to Ponte Leccia, where he was born. The museum is a classified 'Maison des Illustres', a label awarded to places that preserve the memory of key players in the political, social and cultural history of France.



ANNIVERSARIES

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE 'SAINT-NAZAIRE POCKET'

Saint-Nazaire, Pays de la Loire
11 May 2025

When German soldiers stabilised a front between the Vilaine and Pornic rivers in summer 1944, they enclosed 124,000 civilians in an area of 1,800 km² known as the '[Saint-Nazaire Pocket](#)' (la Poche de Saint-Nazaire). While France was otherwise liberated, local residents had to endure a further nine months of occupation with bombings, severe food restrictions and no electricity. The area was the last French territory to be liberated, on 11 May 1945 following the German surrender. Various events are being organised to mark the anniversary: the 'Bal des Empochés' (Liberty Ball) on 10 May; a display of portraits of Resistance fighters; a fireworks display on the theme of the Liberation on 13 July; and a major exhibition running from June to September on the reinvented city (1945-1955-2025) at submarine base-turned-cultural centre LiFE.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ERIK SATIE 1 July 2025

Born in Normandy, French composer and pianist Erik Satie (1866-1925) left an indelible mark on the world of music. Known for his avant-garde compositions like *Gymnopédies* and *Gnossiennes*, he challenged traditional musical norms with his minimalist style and unique harmonies. In his later years his best friends were painters, but he was deeply admired by fellow composers Ravel and Debussy, of whom he was an intimate friend for close to 30 years. Visitors can enjoy the audio-guided musical trail at the [Maisons Satie](#) in Honfleur, in the house where he was born.

150 YEARS OF THE PALAIS GARNIER

5 January 2025

AND 200 YEARS OF CHARLES GARNIER

6 November 2025

Paris' Palais Garnier opened its doors on 5 January 1875 and, since then, has built a rich history of artistic creation, with 172 performances per season and over a million visitors each year. To celebrate its 150th anniversary, the Paris Opera is organising a [series of events throughout 2025](#), with special concerts, exhibitions, encounters, a behind-the-scenes documentary, themed tours and artist residencies. The anniversary of the building aligns perfectly with the 200th anniversary of the birth of its architect, Charles Garnier, in 1825. Educated at the École des Beaux-Arts, Garnier's influence extended beyond his buildings to his writings, which continue to inspire architects today.



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1,000 YEARS OF THE CHATEAU DE MONTREUIL-BELLAY Near Saumur, Pays de la Loire 2025

One of the lesser-known Loire châteaux, [Montreuil-Bellay](#) was founded in 1025 on the banks of the Thouet river. As well as an imposing 600-metre-long wall flanked by towers, it has a network of vast, vaulted cellars and a vineyard producing red, white, rosé and sparkling wines. Visitors walk in the footsteps of the Duchess of Longueville, rebellious cousin of Louis XIV; learn about the suffering of the women imprisoned here and the care given to 1,000 wounded soldiers during the First World War. The village of Montreuil-Bellay is a 'Petite Cité de Caractère' crossed by the Loire à Vélo and Vélo Francette cycle routes.



© VINCENT DHETINE



GASTRONOMY & WINE

EUROPE'S HIGHEST WINE BAR OPENS IN VAL THORENS Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Winter 2024-25 season

The iconic Cime Caron summit has been undergoing transformations in the last few years, and thanks to cutting-edge technology at an altitude of 3,200m, the new Caron 3200 complex will be opening in [Val Thorens](#) for the winter season 2024-25. The challenge has been met by regional development specialist SETAM to provide new facilities up high and improve the visitor experience. The complex will include a 130-seat restaurant, a wine bar, a rooftop and a panoramic terrace as well as a space for events and seminars. This building represents the final piece in the various stages to transform the Cime Caron.

10TH UNESCO BIRTHDAY FOR CHAMPAGNE'S SPARKLING HERITAGE Champagne, Grand Est 2025

In 2025, the '[Coteaux, Maisons et Caves de Champagne](#)' (Champagne's Hillsides, Houses and Cellars) will celebrate the 10th anniversary of their inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The designation comprises three core areas: the historic Coteaux de Cumières in Mareuil-sur-Aÿ, the Avenue de Champagne in Épernay and the Colline Saint-Nicaise in Reims, plus 320 towns and villages. The festivities will be extended throughout the year and across the whole of Champagne, with the objective to make the people of Champagne proud of the beauty of their heritage and to raise the profile of the region even higher on the international stage.

RECENTLY
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NANTES NAMED NEW GASTRONOMIC DESTINATION BY *LA LISTE* Pays de la Loire 2025

[Nantes](#) has been named a 'Nouvelle Destination Gastronomique' for 2025 by world-leading ranking and restaurants guide *La Liste*, represented by four local chefs: Éric Guérin (La Mare aux Oiseaux), Mathieu Pérou (Le Manoir de la Régate), Sarah Mainguy (Vacarme and Freia) and Lucie Berthier (Sépia). Nantes' tourist office has been developing the city's food scene for the last decade and publishes the annual [Tables de Nantes](#) guide, highlighting the best restaurants in the area. The same prize in the international category was awarded to England, represented by chefs in London, Yorkshire and Cumbria. A food-themed press trip to Nantes and the surrounding area will be run in late March.

15TH UNESCO BIRTHDAY OF THE 'REPAS GASTRONOMIQUE DES FRANÇAIS' Across France 2025

Inscribed in 2010 on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage, France's 'gastronomic meal' is a customary social practice designed to celebrate important life moments. Its components include the careful choice of dishes; the purchase of good local produce; the pairing of food and wine; table decoration; and specific gestures during tasting (smelling and tasting what is served at the table). The gastronomic meal must follow a clearly defined pattern: it begins with an aperitif and ends with a digestive, with at least four courses in between: a starter, fish and/or meat with vegetables, cheese and dessert. Gourmet meals bring family and friends closer together and, more generally, strengthen social ties.





SPORTING EVENTS

THE NEW MEGA BELL COURSE IN LA PLAGNE

La Plagne, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
14-19 April 2025

La Mega Bell Course is a new springtime race series coming to [La Plagne](#), its 'bells' a nod to the Easter holiday timing. This unique competition combines fun, creativity and challenge across five wacky races that will test the skills of even the most seasoned skiers. Expect the unexpected, as the official times will only tell part of the story; competitors can also earn bonus points, face penalties, and take clever shortcuts to keep the suspense alive until the very end. Competitors have two strategies to choose from: embrace the chaos with total improvisation on Saturday or take a more tactical approach by practising on the timed courses available from Monday to Friday, each one unveiled day by day.



TALL SHIPS RACES 2025

Le Havre, Normandy & Dunkirk, Hauts-de-France
4-13 July 2025

Considered Europe's largest free family event, the [Tall Ships Races 2025](#) will start from Le Havre, Normandy, with three days of festivities from 4-7 July. The majestic 50-strong fleet will make its first stop in Dunkirk (Northern France) three days later on 10 July, staying there until 13 July. From Dunkirk, the fleet will head up the North Sea to Aberdeen and across to Norway's Kristiansand, before finishing in Esbjerg, Denmark. The Tall Ships Races are organised annually by Sail Training International. Ships from around the world gather to participate in competitive races, and to share and enjoy the ensuing shoreside festivities and celebrations. These events are youth-focused and bring a huge spectacle to the ports they call at.

RECENTLY ADDED

100 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS AT THE FRENCH OPEN

Paris, Île-de-France
19 May-8 June 2025 (tournament)

It was 1925 that the tennis tournament now known as the French Open was first opened to international players - prior to that, since its inauguration in 1891, the so-named 'French Clay Court Championships' was reserved for players registered with French clubs. The victories by Suzanne Lenglen and other French players led to the construction of the dedicated Roland-Garros stadium, named after an aviation pioneer who was killed in action during the First World War, which opened in 1928. The stadium is easily accessible by metro from central Paris, with [several other attractions](#) within walking distance.

EUROGAMES TO TAKE PLACE IN LYON

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
23-26 July 2025

[EuroGames](#) are a sports-for-all event, open for participation irrespective of sex, age, sexual identity or physical ability - and this year, they are heading to Lyon. A total of 38 different disciplines are programmed, including some less prominent, non-Olympic sports such as dragon boat racing, ultimate frisbee and pétanque. The goal is to inform and raise awareness to fight discrimination in sport, uniting people from different backgrounds while minimising the environmental impact. Lyon is highly accessible from the UK by high-speed train, with departures from Paris every 30 minutes. The next EuroGames is planned for 2027 in Cardiff.



SPORTING EVENTS

THE TOUR DE FRANCE 2025 GRAND DÉPART FROM LILLE Lille and across Hauts-de-France 5 July 2025

In 2025, the Tour de France's Grand Départ will focus on the qualities of the entire Hauts-de-France region, the Nord department and the European metropolis of Lille. The date of 5 July has been set for the first stage, whose route will form a loop around Lille. Next, the Pas-de-Calais department will have pride of place as the pack crosses it from east to west between Lauwin-Planque and Boulogne-sur-Mer. After that, the pack will set off from Valenciennes, which makes its return to the Tour route after a 34-year absence. Dunkirk, which hosted the Grand Départ in 2001, will be welcoming the finish of the third stage. Lastly, the start in Amiens will be the last opportunity to thank the inhabitants of the Hauts-de-France region for their welcome, before the Tour heads off to new horizons.

THE TOUR DE FRANCE FEMMES AVEC ZWIFT 2025 GRAND DÉPART FROM VANNES Vannes and across Brittany 26 July 2025

Edition four of the Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift will start in Brittany. The opening stage will be in the heart of the Morbihan department between Vannes and Plumelec, with the second in neighbouring Finistère between Brest and Quimper. It's a first for an event that has chosen to honour a region with such deep cycling roots. The 2025 edition will also mark a turning point in the history of the Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift, which will be contested over nine days of racing for the first time.



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BWF-BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 TO BE HELD IN PARIS Paris, Île-de-France 25-31 August 2025

The French Badminton Federation is organising the TotalEnergies BWF World Championships in Paris at the end of August. Taking place at the same buzzing venue used for the Paris 2024 Olympic badminton, the Adidas arena at Porte de la Chapelle, this major badminton event will bring together over 350 players from 50 countries to award the five titles of World Champions 2025. As many as 40,000 spectators are expected across the seven days. Paris was awarded the event in November 2018.



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



OKKO HOTELS TO OPEN ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED HOTEL Troyes, Grand Est 2025

A 15th French [Okko hotel](#) is set to open in Troyes, Champagne, opposite the train station of this famous medieval city. Spread across seven floors, the hotel will offer 106 rooms, three meeting rooms and a fitness area, all enhanced by green outdoor spaces - but most importantly, will benefit from a BREEAM certification. BREEAM supports solutions to reduce carbon emissions to net zero, improve whole life performance, manage health and social impacts, and boost circularity, resilience and biodiversity. The hotel will be delivered in 2025 by Vinci Immobilier.

A HIGH-ALTITUDE GREENHOUSE AT ECO RESTAURANT L'ART DES METS Val d'Isère, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Summer 2025

Opening [L'Art des Mets](#) in the unspoilt Le Manchet Valley, Caroline and Emmanuel had their hearts set on creating an ecologically-minded restaurant serving produce prepared on their own property. The majority of their ingredients are from the region: Savoie, Isère and Hautes-Alpes. Down the line, all waste is sorted and recycled. Vegetable peelings are fed to animals in a nearby farm, with pigs consuming many of the leftovers. The building itself has been renovated and reconfigured to optimise sustainable energy efficiency. By summer 2025, a greenhouse will be added to grow herbs and vegetables, all at an altitude of 1,900m. The restaurant is located at the crossroads of hiking and Nordic skiing trails and off-piste descents through Le Manchet Valley and beside the Calabourdane river. The restaurant is open during the day for lunch and tea, and can put on dinner in a yurt if booked in advance.

SELF-CONTAINED COLIVING SPACE TO OPEN IN MONTPELLIER Montpellier, Occitanie March 2025

[Bikube Montpellier](#) offers a new way of renting and living in this sunny southern French city. Private, fully-furnished apartments available to rent by the month, each with kitchenette, dining area, high-quality bed, shower room, clever storage space and a TV with Chromecast system. Living spaces and services are shared with neighbours, in an environment where everything has been designed to simplify daily life. Like a beehive, the residence is alive 24 hours a day thanks to its varied features: a restaurant, a coworking space, a magnificent garden at the heart of the block and a communal vegetable garden on the rooftop. There are electric car charging stations on the street outside, though all amenities are within easy reach on foot or by public transport.



ESCAPE TO THE MOUNTAINS

The mountains of France are midway through another sparkling winter season with a wealth of ski and non-ski activities, accessibility for all, increasingly greener resorts and varied accommodation. French ski school ESF also celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2025.

The new Vallon gondola is open in the Val d'Isère ski area, while in Courchevel, the 120-capacity Saulire cable car reopened in December 2024. Family-friendly Thollon-les-Mémises has joined the huge 'Magic Pass' uniting 80 ski resorts. The range of non-ski activities is ever growing: climb a frozen waterfall in Peisey-Vallandry; experience the bobsleigh track in La Plagne; go caving in the Dent de Crolles or take a chamois-spotting snowshoe hike in Les 2 Alpes; book a workshop in Val d'Arly using local medicinal plants; play trapper and stay in a forest tipi in La Clusaz; or enjoy farm visits in Le Grand Bornand.

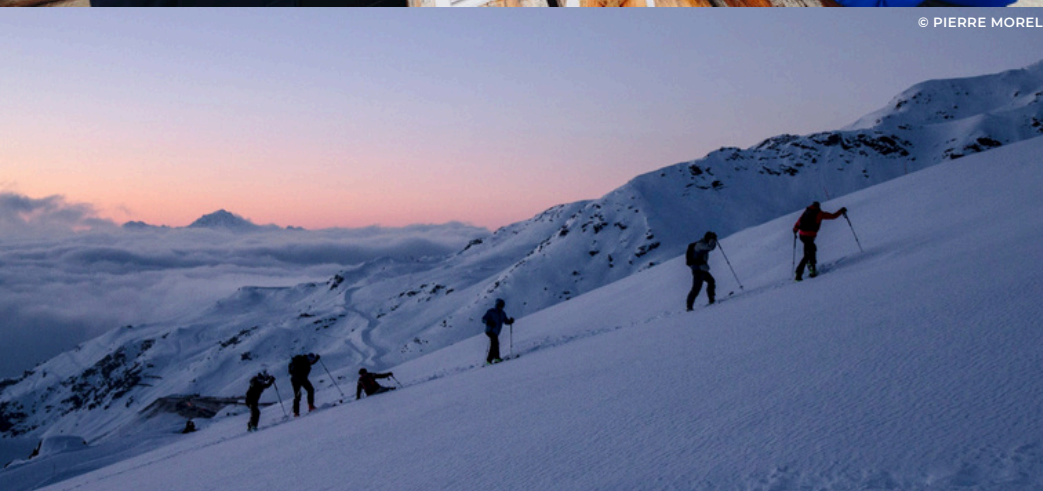
More and more lifts and activities in the mountains cater for people with physical and intellectual disabilities, as well as those from disadvantaged social backgrounds. New accommodation for this season includes Villa Parcs' Résidence Méri-Bellecombe in Brides-les-Bains, the luxury Fleur des Alpes in Méribel and a cosy B&B in Villard-de-Lans. The 'Montagne Zéro Déchet Sauvage' charter was signed by France Montagnes in 2023, aiming to end waste in the French mountains by 2030, and 29 ski resorts have now been awarded the Flocon Vert label for their efforts in sustainable protection.

[Browse the France Montagnes Winter 2024/25 press kit](#)



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THE RAIL SKI PRESS KIT, FOR TRAVEL BY TRAIN TO THE FRENCH MOUNTAINS

France Montagnes and Atout France, in conjunction with Snowcarbon, produced a [dedicated Rail Ski press kit](#) about travelling to the French mountains by train, listing the various rail options and including example schedules, booking windows and information on station-to-resort transfers. Its unique Rail Ski map illustrates the entire rail route network between London and the resorts to help you plan your journey.



HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION

MAISON ALBAR LE VICTORIA OPENS IN NICE
5-star hotel
Nice, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
End of 2024

Maison Albar Hotels has opened the doors of its new establishment in Nice, bearing the name of Victoria, the fifth generation of the Albar family. Situated between the Promenade des Anglais and Place Masséna, and close to the old town, Le Victoria offers 102 rooms and 30 suites boasting spectacular views over the Baie des Anges and the hinterland of Nice. Conceived as an immobile cruise, the hotel has an exceptional 650 m² spa, a state-of-the-art fitness area and a rooftop with restaurant, bar and pool. At ground level, the hotel is bolstered by a vast array of high-end boutiques.



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**MINOR HOTELS' DEBUT IN PARIS
WITH ADDITION OF THREE HOTELS**
4-star hotels
Paris, Île-de-France
2024-2025

Minor Hotels has announced its debut in the French capital with the addition of three four-star hotels. The group launched three NH Hotels in the first quarter of 2024: the 207-room NH Paris Gare de l'Est, the 103-room NH Opéra Paris Faubourg and the 90-room NH Paris Champs Élysées. The latter will be launched in 2025 as NH Collection following a renovation. The three hotels in Paris join Minor Hotels' current portfolio of six French properties located in Marseille, Lyon, Toulouse and Nice.

**ALFRED HOTELS EXPANDING IN FRANCE
WITH FOUR NEW ADDRESSES**
Across France
2025

Complementing its three existing addresses in Compiègne and Biarritz, Alfred Hotels is set to open four new hotels across France in 2025: in the Burgundy town of Beaune, in Monaco, in Montreuil (east of Paris) and in Toulouse. Each AH address is rooted in its surroundings, a sensitive renovation of an existing building with natural, minimalist decor inspired by local culture and materials. The group aims to develop 20 walkable hotels at the heart of dynamic French cities.

**MARRIOTT STRENGTHENING FOOTPRINT IN
FRANCE WITH 10 NEW ADDITIONS**
Across France
2024-2025

Marriott International is expanding its France portfolio with 10 properties totalling over 1,000 rooms by the end of 2025. The expansion includes three new Moxy hotels: Moxy Annecy and Moxy Paris Clamart in 2024, followed by Moxy Nice anticipated by the end of 2025. Other expected additions by the end of 2025 include Residence Inn by Marriott Lille, Courtyard by Marriott Lyon East and Aloft Dijon, an adaptive reuse project of a former post office in the city centre. Marriott has already completed one adaptive reuse project in the luxury space: Hôtel du Couvent opened in Nice in summer 2024, a conversion of a convent dating from 1604. In the premium sector, Marriott also expects to add a Tribute Portfolio Hotel in Mougins. The company currently has a portfolio of 69 properties across 29 French cities including Paris, Nice, Cannes, Lyon, Strasbourg, Marseille, Reims, Lille, Bordeaux and Toulouse.



HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION



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L'AIGLE DES NEIGES IS NOW
EXPERIMENTAL CHALET VAL D'ISÈRE
Val d'Isère, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
End of 2024

L'Aigle des Neiges has become part of the Experimental Group family and is now [Experimental Chalet Val d'Isère](#). Overlooking the Vanoise massif, the hotel has been reimagined as a winter haven of epic proportions, an escape into the heart of the French Alps with 113 rooms and suites, two restaurants, a cocktail bar, a spa and various meeting spaces. Each room is a sanctuary after a day of adventures, each unique with a Savoyard nod and touches of the forest. Ski motifs are woven with ecru bouclette textiles, white marble and rich wooden details.

OETKER COLLECTION'S MASTERPIECE
HOTELS OPENS VILLA LA GUETTIÈRE
Cap d'Antibes
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
2025

Close to the Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc, [Villa La Guettière](#) is nestled in 6,500 square metres of grounds, spread over two levels and featuring nine en-suite bedrooms - some with private terraces - across its main residence and annexe. Its magnificent pool overlooks the Mediterranean and features a pool house with lounge, dining room and gym. Expansive yet intimate, Villa La Guettière is fully equipped with modern comforts and serviced by a dedicated team of staff, discreet security and a private chef.



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HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION



**OPENING OF HOTEL LA
FONDATION BY THE GALIA
GROUP, MANAGED BY TERLIA**
5-star hotel
Paris, Île-de-France
First semester 2025

RECENTLY
ADDED

Nestled in the 17th arrondissement between Parc Monceau and Batignolles village, the Galia Group is set to unveil La Fondation - an extraordinary 10,000-square-metre complex designed by Roman & Williams. The space features a five-star hotel, two restaurants, a rooftop, office spaces complete with an auditorium and a hanging garden, and sports club equipped with a climbing wall and a semi-Olympic pool. Managed by Terlia, La Fondation redefines hospitality, offering locals and travellers a unique, holistic experience in the vibrant heart of Paris.

OPENING OF 'A MANDRIA'
4-star hotel
Domaine de Murtoli, Corsica
28 June 2025

With the feel of a family home, this luxury hotel on the former pastoral site of Domaine de Murtoli has an exceptional setting in the Corsican countryside, overlooking the Cagna mountains. The accommodation comprises five suites - three with private pools - and five luxury bedrooms spread between a restored main patrician building and a few former sheepfolds. There is a large principal pool and rich, Italian-inspired meals are served on the terrace, shaded by olives and surrounded by fig and citrus trees. Guests at A Mandria have reserved access to one of Murtoli's beaches and to the other restaurants and services of this exclusive Domaine.

**OPENING OF THE KEMPINSKI,
CÔTE D'AZUR**
5-star hotel
Cap d'Ail
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
2025

The Fondimmo real estate group announced the opening of a luxury hotel complex in 2025: The Kempinski, designed by architect couple Massimiliano and Doriana Fuksas. Set on a land plot of 12,000 square metres in this premium position at the gates of Monaco, the hotel will offer 130 rooms and suites as well as numerous bars and restaurants - one fine dining - and a spectacular infinity pool with far-reaching sea views and a large spa. For business travellers, the complex has planned an event space with a range of versatile meeting and reception rooms.



TRANSPORT

BRITTANY FERRIES LAUNCHES TWO NEW HYBRID SHIPS

Brittany & Normandy
Spring 2025

Spring 2025 will soon see the arrival of two new hybrid-LNG ships into the Brittany Ferries fleet, part of the final and most ambitious fleet renewal programme in the company's history. Saint-Malo will operate the Portsmouth to St-Malo route from February, while Guillaume de Normandie is scheduled to commence sailing between Portsmouth to Caen in April. The new additions will be the first cross-Channel ferries to be hybrid-LNG - powered by both fuel and electricity - taking Brittany Ferries closer to a cleaner future. From dining and entertainment to cabin choices and décor, both ships have been specifically designed and built for the routes they will serve.



© ALLAIN LLOYD / WIKIMEDIA

97%-RECYCLABLE TGV M TO ENTER SERVICE 2026

Fifth generation of high-speed train TGV M, ordered by SNCF, has been delayed but is due to enter service in 2026 on the Paris-Lyon line. The train has improved aerodynamics and can tailor onboard power use to its passenger count, whose maximum is 740 (up from the current 634). Compared to today's models, the TGV M is expected to consume 20% less energy and reduce carbon footprint by 37%. The new TGV livery and interiors feature a light palette of grey and white with superimposed rounded forms, evoking the comfort of the current TGV Inoui travel experience. The light colours should also cut down solar gain and reduce the amount of energy consumed by train air-conditioning systems during periods of strong sunshine. Instead of using vinyls, the entire livery is painted, which is more durable and will reduce the time required for refurbishment work.



TRANSPORT



© F. CORMON/AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES TOURISME

RECENTLY
ADDED

RYANAIR ANNOUNCES SEASONAL ROUTE FROM GATWICK TO CLERMONT-FERRAND
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
From end March 2025

Ryanair is expanding its network with an exciting new seasonal route between London Gatwick and the capital of France's volcano territory, [Clermont-Ferrand](#). Offering direct flights between the two cities twice weekly (Wednesdays and Sundays) between March and October, this new service promises to open up one of France's most unique and scenic regions to UK travellers. The Auvergne Volcanoes Natural Park, west of Clermont, is Europe's largest volcanic complex and contains the UNESCO-listed Chaîne des Puys with 80 volcanoes alone: an exceptional environment for outdoor activities. From Clermont's train station, you can even reach some of the area's villages by bus within an hour.

BRITISH AIRWAYS TO CONNECT STANSTED WITH BERGERAC
Nouvelle-Aquitaine
From 28 June 2025

RECENTLY
ADDED

Bergerac Dordogne Périgord Airport is expanding its offerings with the announcement of a new route operated by British Airways. Operating every Saturday from 28 June, this service will directly connect London Stansted with [Bergerac](#), making travel between Dordogne and the British capital more convenient than ever. Home to numerous picturesque bastide towns, vineyards and activities along its eponymous river, Dordogne is a much-loved destination for outdoor holidays, fine gastronomy, camping and château stays - with Bergerac as the gateway.

EASYJET ANNOUNCES FIVE NEW YEAR-ROUND ROUTES TO FRANCE:
NEWCASTLE-PARIS, GATWICK-STRASBOURG,
NEWCASTLE-LYON, MANCHESTER-RENNES
AND EDINBURGH-BORDEAUX
October/November 2024, January and June 2025

Flights between Newcastle and [Paris-Charles de Gaulle](#) commenced operation six days a week from 27 October 2024, while flights between Newcastle and [Lyon](#) have run weekly since 4 January 2025, giving residents in the north-east of England regular direct links to the capital of France and its principal gastronomic city. Additionally, flights between London Gatwick and [Strasbourg](#) have operated three times a week on Mondays, Fridays and Sundays since November 2024, giving customers the choice of a week or weekend break to explore this historic city in eastern France.

RECENTLY
ADDED

From 25 June, easyJet will operate a new twice-weekly route between Manchester and [Rennes](#), considered the capital of Brittany with a small-town atmosphere, pedestrianised streets, colourful half-timbered houses and lively terraces. From 26 June, the carrier will also fly between Edinburgh and [Bordeaux](#), creating the only direct connection to Nouvelle-Aquitaine's capital from Scotland.

Explore FranceTM 