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NEWS 2026

WHAT'S NEW IN FRANCE?

2026: WHAT'S NEW IN FRANCE?

Welcome to 2026 in France! With a wide range of openings, anniversaries, green and gastronomic initiatives, cycling and other sporting events, transport novelties and new accommodation, 2026 is another dynamic year to visit. Read on for the exciting news from France - plus the French exhibitions you can catch in the UK.

Following an atypical year marked by the success of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, France welcomed over 100 million international visitors in 2024, generating 71 billion euros in international spending—a new historic record. The UK maintained its position as one of the top two outbound markets to France, both in terms of arrivals and total international spending. British travellers contributed 7.8 billion euros in tourism expenditure within France during 2024, underlining their vital role in the country's inbound tourism.

Looking into the figures for 2025, the trends are decidedly positive. After a period of relative slowdown in the first semester—attributable to a combination of factors such as currency fluctuations, geopolitical uncertainties, and the gradual fading of 'revenge travel'—UK spending in France rebounded strongly. July 2025 saw British travellers' spending rise by 14.7% compared to July 2024, signalling renewed momentum for the remainder of the year. Early indicators for the winter season show promise, with sustained interest from British visitors who continue to be a leading nationality for overnight stays.

However, attention should be paid to the immediate implications of the new Entry/Exit System (EES) implemented from 12 October 2025, which may affect travel flows.

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

Sources: INSEE, Banque de France



ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

Mid-end 2025

- September 2025 - CORSICA ACHIEVES A GOLD LEVEL IN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM, Corsica
- September 2025 - LE MARO 70': NEW GRAVEL BIKE ROUTE THROUGH THE MARAIS BRETON VENDÉEN, Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie, Pays de la Loire
- From 12 October 2025 - INTRODUCTION OF ENTRY EXIT SYSTEM (EES) AND ETIAS APPLICABLE TO NON-EUROPEAN NATIONALS WISHING TO ENTER OR LEAVE FRANCE
- Autumn 2025 - OPENING OF HOTEL CHÂTEAU LA COMMARAINÉ, Pommard, Burgundy-Franche-Comté
- December 2025 - LE 3: NEW WINE TOURISM SPACE IN THE HEART OF REIMS, Reims, Grand Est
- December 2025 - FIRST ROSEWOOD HOTEL TO OPEN IN COURCHEVEL, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- From December 2025 - TRAVELSKI NIGHT EXPRESS: NEW SLEEPER TRAIN LINKING PARIS TO THE ALPS, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- End 2025 - 100 YEARS OF THE AVENUE DE CHAMPAGNE, Épernay, Grand Est
- End 2025-2030 - MODERNISATION IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH ALTITUDE 3300 PROJECT, Alpe d'Huez, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes





ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

2026

- New!** • 14 January 2026 - MUSEUM PRICE INCREASE FOR NON-EU VISITORS TO FRANCE, France
- 30 January - 1 February 2026 - NEW TRADE SHOW SHOWCASING RESPONSIBLE TOURISM, Paris, Île-de-France
- 5 February 2026 - SIX NATIONS OPENING MATCH TO BE FRANCE VS IRELAND, Paris, Île-de-France
- New!** • 9-15 February 2026 - 5TH EDITION OF ÉPERNAY MON AMOUR, Épernay, Grand Est
- 11-15 February 2026 - 95TH FÊTE DU MIMOSA, Mandelieu-La Napoule, PACA
- New!** • 14 February 2026 - REOPENING OF MUSÉE DE LA VIE ROMANTIQUE, Paris, Île-de-France
- New!** • February 2026 - FULL OPENING OF NEW HYATT HOTEL, Reims, Grand Est
- 19-22 March 2026 - NEW INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE BOATING SHOW, Nice, PACA
- New!** • 25 March - 20 July 2026 - MUSÉE DE L'ORANGERIE EXHIBITION ON HENRI ROUSSEAU, Paris, Île-de-France
- March 2026 - NEW GASTRONOMIC FOOD COURT AND ROOFTOP, Tours, Centre-Val de Loire
- March-April 2026 - HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS TOURING FRANCE FOR 100TH BIRTHDAY, across France
- New!** • 8 April - 26 July 2026 - NEW EXHIBITION CELEBRATES MARILYN MONROE AT 100, Paris, Île-de-France
- 12 April 2026 - 50TH EDITION OF THE PARIS MARATHON, Paris, Île-de-France
- 19 April 2026 - APPLE PEAK: A NEW MOUNTAIN RELAY RACE, Peisey-Villandry, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- New!** • Until 26 April 2026 - 100 YEARS OF ART DECO AT THE MUSÉE DES ARTS DÉCORATIFS, Paris, Île-de-France
- April 2026 - NEW NAVIGÔNE RIVER TRANSPORT TO BECOME ALL ELECTRIC, Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- April 2026 - LE PROVENÇAL REOPENING AHEAD OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY, Cap d'Antibes, PACA
- New!** • 1 May 2026 - ZANNIER HOTELS OPENS LATEST ADDITION ON ÎLE DE BENDOR, Bandol, PACA
- 12-13 May 2026 - TWO NEW SPACE SHOWS IN TOULOUSE, Toulouse, Occitanie
- 22-24 May 2026 - THE 15TH PETITES FOLIES FESTIVAL, Lampaul-Plouarzel, Brittany
- New!** • 24 May 2026 - 5TH EDITION OF SAINT-NAZAIRE CÔTÉ NATURE, Saint-Nazaire, Pays de la Loire



ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

2026, continued

- New!** • 7 June 2026 - 3RD EDITION OF THE VENDÉE ARCTIQUE, Les Sables-d'Olonne, Pays de la Loire
- 11-14 June 2026 - 10 YEARS OF THE LYON STREET FOOD FESTIVAL, Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 23-26 July 2026 - 40 YEARS OF DOUARNENEZ'S MARITIME FESTIVAL, Douarnenez, Brittany
- 26 July - 9 August 2026 - THE EUROPEAN AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS, Paris, Île-de-France
- New!** • 1-9 August 2026 - 5TH TOUR DE FRANCE FEMMES, Vaucluse, PACA
- 2-9 August 2026 - MAYENNE TO HOST INTERNATIONAL CYCLE TOURISM FESTIVAL FOR THE FIRST TIME, Château-Gontier, Pays de la Loire
- New!** • 20-23 August 2026 - CABARET VERT FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 20TH EDITION, Charleville-Mézières, Grand Est
- New!** • Summer 2026 - SUSTAINABLE REDEVELOPMENT OF JUAN-LES-PINS BEACHFRONT, Juan-les-Pins, PACA
- New!** • Summer 2026 - FRANCE'S HIGHEST HOTEL TO OPEN, Pic du Midi, Occitanie
- 5 September 2026 - THE 40TH MARATHON DU MÉDOC, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 1-4 October 2026 - 5 YEARS OF THE LILLE STREET FOOD FESTIVAL, Lille, Hauts-de-France
- New!** • October 2026 - ICONIC PARIS VENUE LE PALACE TO REOPEN, Paris, Île-de-France
- November 2026 - NEW ECO-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION IN THE ALPS, Tignes, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- December 2026 - NEW NIGHT TRAIN LINKING PARIS TO THE ALPS, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 2026 - CLAUDE MONET: 100 YEARS OF LEGACY, Normandy, Paris, and Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 2026 - 200 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY, Saint-Loup-de-Varennes, Burgundy-Franche-Comté, and Saint-Nazaire, Brittany
- 2026 - LAUNCH OF THE ROUTE DU CASSIS, Burgundy-Franche-Comté
- 2026 - 10 YEARS OF THE CITÉ DU VIN, Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 2026 - OPENING OF THE GRAND SIÈCLE MUSEUM IN SAINT-CLOUD, Paris, Île-de-France
- 2026 - ÉTOILE VOLTAIRE SET TO OPEN, Paris, Île-de-France



ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

2026, continued

- 2026 - 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF LASCAUX IV, Montignac, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 2026 - 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF GEORGE SAND, Aubusson, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 2026 - NANTES' ADDITIONAL CYCLE ROUTES AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY, Nantes, Pays de la Loire
- 2026 - MOB HOTEL OPENING A FIFTH COMPLEX, Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- 2026 - FRANCE'S FIRST VIGNETTE COLLECTION HOTEL, Théoule-sur-Mer, PACA
- 2026 - NEW FOUR-STAR APART CITY SET TO OPEN, Paris, Île-de-France
- 2026 - CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL TO OPEN NEAR DISNEYLAND, Paris, Île-de-France
- 2026 - FUTURE FIVE-STAR HOTEL TO OPEN IN TOURAINE, Amboise, Centre-Val de Loire
- 2026 - RADISSON GROUP ADDING FOUR NEW HOTELS TO FRENCH PORTFOLIO, across France
- 2026 - NEW BRITTANY FERRIES ROUTES ANNOUNCED, Brittany & Normandy
- 2026 - CHÂTEAUX TO START OPERATING AUTONOMOUS MINIBUSES, Châteauroux, Centre-Val de Loire
- 2026 - 50 YEARS OF UNIWORLD RIVER CRUISES, across France
- 2026 - SNCF SET TO LAUNCH 5TH-GENERATION TGV, across France
- New!** • 2026 - CANAL DU MIDI MARKS 30 YEARS OF UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE STATUS, Occitanie
- New!** • 2026 - NEW LONG-DISTANCE TRAIL IN ARDENNES, Ardennes, Grand Est
- New!** • 2026 - NEW TRAIL ROUTES IN BEAUJOLAIS, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Burgundy-Franche-Comté



ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

2027 AND BEYOND

- 2027 - EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE NORMANS: WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR'S MILLENNIUM, Normandy
- 2027 - 120 YEARS OF MONTGENÈVRE, FRANCE'S OLDEST SKI RESORT, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- 2027 - FRANCE'S FOURTH CITÉ DE LA GASTRONOMIE TO OPEN AT PARIS-RUNGIS, Paris, Île-de-France
- 2027 - REOPENING OF MUSÉE NISSIM DE CAMONDO, Paris, Île-de-France
- 2027 - OPENING OF A NEW BYZANTIUM DEPARTMENT AT THE LOUVRE, Paris, Île-de-France
- 2027 - OPENING OF LA VILLA COSE, FIVE-STAR SPA HOTEL IN COLMAR, Grand Est
- 2027 - OPENING OF THE CDG EXPRESS LINKING PARIS-CDG AIRPORT TO GARE DE L'EST, Paris, Île-de-France
- New!** • 2027 - TWO NEW HOTELS OPENING IN THE CHAMPAGNE CAPITAL, Épernay, Grand Est
- New!** • 2027 - NEW MUSÉE DES SACRES OPENING IN THE PALAIS DU TAU, Reims, Grand Est
- New!** • 2027 - NEW MARCEL PAGNOL MUSEUM OPENING, Allauch, PACA
- 2028 - BOURGES TO BE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE, Centre-Val de Loire

FRANCE IN THE UK

- 13 February – 17 May 2026 - SEURAT AND THE SEA, The Courtauld, London
- September 2026 – July 2027 - THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY ON DISPLAY, The British Museum, London
- 2 October 2026 – 31 January 2027 - PAINTING THE FRENCH RIVIERA, Royal Academy of Arts, London
- 3 October 2026 – 31 January 2027 - RENOIR AND LOVE, The National Gallery, London
- Expected 2029 - PUY DU FOU UK, Bicester, Oxfordshire

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CULTURE & HERITAGE

MUSEUM PRICE INCREASE FOR NON-EU VISITORS TO FRANCE

Across France

14 January 2026

Starting on 14 January, visitors to France from countries outside of the European Economic Area, including the UK, will see an increase in the entrance costs to museums and cultural heritage sites across the country. The Louvre, in Paris, is leading the charge by rising prices by 45% for most non-European Union visitors, who will have to pay an extra €10 to enter the world's most visited museum. The measure could raise an estimated €15m–€20m annually for the museum's New Renaissance project - a modernisation plan to improve the facilities, in part due to overcrowding, following an announcement made by President Macron. The price hikes will also cover running costs for individual museums.



5TH EDITION OF ÉPERNAY MON AMOUR

Épernay, Grand Est

9-15 February 2026

Love will be in the air in Épernay as the event known as 'Épernay Mon Amour' returns for its 5th edition. Across a week, the capital of champagne invites both visitors and locals, singletons and couples to indulge in a packed programme of varying romantic and festive experiences. From champagne cellar visits and tastings by candlelight to gourmet cooking classes, watching cult films at the cinema, or attending special concerts at the theatre, revel in love-themed guided tours and exhibitions, or simply enjoy moments of relaxation and strolling down the Avenue de Champagne, soaking up the atmosphere of the town for Valentine's week.

95TH EDITION OF LA FÊTE DU MIMOSA

Mandelieu-La Napoule, PACA

11-15 February 2026

Every year in February, the town of Mandelieu-La Napoule becomes draped in yellow as part of the five-day-long Fête du Mimosa. First introduced to the area in the 19th century by British aristocrats, the yellow flower, which gives its name to the cocktail, flourishes in the nearby landscapes in winter. The flower has been celebrated locally since 1931 with five days of festivities including concerts, fireworks, a banquet, a parade with floats adorned in mimosas, and eight tonnes of mimosa flowers. 2026 will see the 95th edition of this colourful festival, taking place between 11-15 February with the theme 'The Carnival of Carnivals', which will highlight the festive spirit of 12 iconic carnivals from around the world.





CULTURE & HERITAGE

REOPENING OF MUSÉE DE LA VIE ROMANTIQUE
Paris, Île-de-France
14 February 2026

After being closed since September 2024, Paris' Museum of Romantic Life is set to reopen on Valentine's Day following major renovations. Located in the former home of painter Ary Scheffer, the museum is dedicated to collections of works from the Romantic period. To mark its reopening, the museum will host a temporary exhibition dedicated to Paul Huet and his fascination with the skies. Visitors can also unwind in the museum's garden at the Rose Bakery Tearoom, offering delicious refreshments amid the greenery.

MUSÉE DE L'ORANGERIE EXHIBITION ON
HENRI ROUSSEAU
Paris, Île-de-France
25 March - 20 July 2026

The career of French Post-Impressionist painter Henri Rousseau will be celebrated in 2026 through a temporary exhibition at the Musée de l'Orangerie. Conceived in collaboration with the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, and displaying a number of loaned pieces from the foundation, The Ambition of Painting exhibition will display some 50 major works and offer a retrospective look at Rousseau's role in influencing modern art. Often dubbed the 'Customs Officer' due to his career as a tax collector for the city of Paris for 20 years, before retiring at age 49 to become a full-time painter, Rousseau was largely self-taught and best known for his imaginative jungle scenes and dreamlike style. His paintings were originally mocked by critics, but are now praised for their creativity and simplicity.



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NEW EXHIBITION CELEBRATES MARILYN MONROE AT 100
8 April - 26 July 2026
Paris, Île-de-France

She was one of the most famous actresses in her day, known for playing comic 'blonde bombshell' characters, becoming an icon and sex symbol, and even today remains one of most recognisable stars from her era. This year marks 100 years since the birth of Norma Jean Baker, also known as Marilyn Monroe. To mark the occasion, the non-profit Cinémathèque française will be re-exploring Monroe's remarkable career and talent, and aims to restore her image beyond that of the clichés by showcasing rare photos, films and memorabilia.



CULTURE & HERITAGE

100 YEARS OF ART DECO CELEBRATED AT THE MUSÉE DES ARTS DÉCORATIFS

Until 26 April 2026
Paris, Île-de-France

It was back in 1925 that the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes gave definition to a new style and birth to a new word: Art Deco. The revolutionary six-month exhibition held in Paris saw 15,000 participants including designers, artists, manufacturers, publishers, department stores and even foreign nations displaying their creations to over 16 million visitors in what was a celebration of modernism. The exhibition was the catalyst for the Art-Deco movement which came to symbolise the Roaring Twenties, from architecture to automobiles, art to everyday items. To celebrate its centenary, the [Musée des Arts Décoratifs](#) is currently hosting an exhibit (on until 26 April) featuring over 1,000 items including paintings, posters, sculptures and fashion items.

5 YEARS OF LES PETITES FOLIES FESTIVAL

Lampaul-Plouarzel, Brittany
22-24 May 2026

Fifteen years after its initial inception, [Les Petites Folies](#) festival returns for a celebratory birthday event, spanning three days from 22-24 May 2026. This music festival, held annually in Lampaul-Plouarzel, in the Pays d'Iroise, on the tip of Brittany's Atlantic coast, sees artists from a variety of genres perform to a daily crowd of approximately 10,000 people. Attendance is capped by organisers in order to protect the beautiful coastal landscape. The festival is just as much a family event, including a dedicated children's reading zone with board games and even an interactive circus, where younger attendees can harness their skills in juggling and balloon twisting.



5TH EDITION OF SAINT-NAZAIRE CÔTÉ NATURE

Saint-Nazaire, Pays de la Loire
24 May 2026

Returning to [Saint-Nazaire](#) for its fifth edition in May is the Saint-Nazaire Côté Nature. Taking place within the 25-hectare green lung of the city, the Parc Paysager, the event is a chance to celebrate nature and rurality. While maintaining a sustainability and eco-friendly approach, the event, as always, will have a family-friendly atmosphere featuring 48 workshops, including family yoga, four merry-go-rounds, four farms with plenty of animals, nine shows and a bal-guinguette to finish off the day. This year's event coincides with the opening of the promenade Robert-Badinter, a new green space built on the site of a former car park and named in honour of the former French Justice Minister and champion of abolishing the death penalty.



CULTURE & HERITAGE

40 YEARS OF DOUARNENEZ MARITIME FESTIVAL

Douarnenez, Brittany
23-26 July 2026

It was in 1986 that the inaugural Douarnenez Temps Fête festival was held in the small fishing town of Douarnenez, located in Finistère, attracting 400 different vessels. Since then, this bi-annual maritime festival, that celebrates traditional sailing boats, wooden craft, and maritime culture, has become renowned worldwide. It was the success of the Douarnenez festival that led to the creation of the Brest International Maritime Festival, which takes place every four years and saw over 700,000 attendees in 2016. Alongside the sailing of a fleet of traditional vessels including reproduction viking and pirate ships, the quayside comes alive with food stalls, craft demonstrations and performances of sea shanties.



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CABARET VERT FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 20TH EDITION

Charleville-Mézières, Grand Est
20-23 August 2026

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2026, the Cabaret Vert festival has become a cultural landmark in Charleville-Mézières. Since its creation in 2005, Cabaret Vert, which is named after an Arthur Rimbaud poem, has grown into a major event, despite the cancellation of its 2020 edition due to Covid. The festival blends music, art and social engagement, with a strong commitment to eco-responsibility. Artists from an array of musical genres will perform across four stages while street theatre, visual arts and a vibrant comic book festival will take place, further enriching the experience.



CULTURE & HERITAGE

ICONIC PARIS VENUE 'LE PALACE' TO REOPEN

Paris, Île-de-France
October 2026

It first opened in 1978 in what was formerly a theatre, and was to become one of the most iconic clubs in the world and an institution of the Paris nightlife scene. In October 2026, it is scheduled to reopen its doors once more following a three-year closure. Located in the 9th arrondissement, [Le Palace](#) was Paris' answer to Studio 54. Behind its neo-Baroque walls could be found a radical mix of crowds from Yves Saint-Laurent to Karl Lagerfeld, Mick Jagger to Serge Gainsbourg, Grace Jones to Andy Warhol. A young David Guetta played there on occasion as the club became a cultural hotspot for early electronic music. The new venue hopes to recapture the avant-garde energy, glamour and decadence of the original nightclub.

CANAL DU MIDI MARKS 30 YEARS OF UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

Occitanie
2026

In 2026, the [Canal du Midi](#) celebrates 30 years since it was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, highlighting its enduring appeal as one of France's most iconic tourism destinations. Built between 1667 and 1694 and originally called Canal Royal en Languedoc until the French Revolution, the 360km-long network of waterways links the Mediterranean and the Atlantic and was once an important part of France's economy. Today the canal is enjoyed by tourists from around the world who come on slow-paced boating and cycling holidays and savour the landscapes and communities the canal winds through. To mark this milestone, a year-long programme of cultural and sporting events will take place and allow individuals to rediscover the canal in all its glory.



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CLAUDE MONET: 100 YEARS OF LEGACY Normandy, Paris and Nouvelle-Aquitaine 2026

One of France's most revered and celebrated artists, Oscar-Claude Monet was a 19th-century painter and a founder of Impressionism, an artistic movement that takes its name from his 1872 painting 'Impression, Sunrise'. Monet is best known for the Rouen Cathedral series and 'Les Nymphéas', a series of paintings depicting the garden at his home in [Giverny](#), Normandy, where he died in 1926. To commemorate the centenary of his passing, countless events will be held throughout 2026. In Normandy, [over 100 events](#) will include a new edition of the Normandy Impressionist Festival running between May and September. Two places also worth visiting are the Jardin des Nénuphars Latour-Marliac in Temple-sur-Lot, in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, where Monet purchased his waterlilies, and the [Musée Marmottan Monet](#) in Paris, housing the world's foremost collection of his paintings. Visit this year before the museum closes in 2027 for renovations!



CULTURE & HERITAGE

200 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Saint-Loup-de-Vareennes, Burgundy-Franche-Comté
and Saint-Nazaire, Pays de la Loire
2026

2026 will mark 200 years since the process of capturing a fixed image was first achieved and with it, the birth of photography. It was French inventor and pioneer, Nicéphore Niépce, who first successfully took what is now the oldest surviving photograph 'Point de vue du Gras'. Niépce used camera obscura and natural light to capture the view of buildings and surrounding countryside from his estate in Saint-Loup-de-Vareennes, close to [Chalon-sur-Saône](#), which today serves as a museum. Whereas nowadays a photo can be taken with the click of a button, Niépce's process took just over eight hours to achieve its outcome. To mark the bicentenary, exhibitions will take place throughout 2026 and into 2027, including one dedicated to photography's founding father at the eponymous Nicéphore Niépce Museum in Chalon-sur-Saône. In Pays de la Loire, an exhibition will be held on the ocean liner SS Normandie at the Escal'Atlantic museum in [Saint-Nazaire](#), to celebrate the ship's history through a display of black and white photos.



ÉTOILE VOLTAIRE SET TO OPEN

Paris, Île-de-France
2026

After a decade in the making, the new Étoile Voltaire is set to open its doors in [Paris](#) in 2026. This revolutionary cultural venue will see a combination of five cinemas, including one panoramic screening room with views over Parisian rooftops, a community restaurant headed by famed chef Thierry Marx, a space for exhibitions and events, and a green rooftop terrace. On the site of what was once the Voltaire electrical substation in Paris' 11th arrondissement, the ambitious project to construct the Étoile Voltaire was born out of the 2016 'Réinventer Paris' competition and has the aim to become a cultural landmark of the city.



OPENING OF THE GRAND SIÈCLE MUSEUM IN SAINT-CLOUD

Paris, Île-de-France
2026

Located on the site of the former Sully barracks in the town of Saint-Cloud, in the Parisian suburbs, is soon to be the [Grand Siècle Museum](#). Following an extensive renovation project, this new museum is scheduled to open to the public sometime in 2026 and will be dedicated to the 'Grand Siècle', a period marked by the reign of Louis XIV known as 'Le Roi Soleil', offering visitors a glimpse into 17th- and early 18th-century France. The museum will be home to a vast collection including period furniture, medals, sculptures, paintings and more.



CULTURE & HERITAGE

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF LASCAUX IV
Montignac, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
2026

Since its discovery in 1940 by an 18-year-old boy and his dog, the cave paintings of the Grotte de Lascaux in the department of Dordogne have become symbolic worldwide as an example of man's earliest artistic endeavours. Over the years, the caves have been a hotspot for visitors and a hallmark for local tourism, leading to the original cave being closed off to the public in 1963 due to rapid deterioration. In its place a series of full-scale fac similes were created including the latest edition, Lascaux IV, which is an exact to scale replica of the original cave and which will celebrate 10 years of being opened to the public in 2026. To mark the occasion, Lascaux IV has a year-long programme packed with events, exhibitions, and new tours, including special events in September around the European Heritage Days under the theme of 'Le Patrimoine en danger'.



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150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF
GEORGE SAND
Aubusson, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
2026

Today, George Sand is recognised as one of the most notable writers of her era and at her peak, was more renowned in Britain than either of her French contemporaries, Victor Hugo and Honoré de Balzac. Born Amantine Dupin de Francueil, to conceal her true identity and gender, she adopted a 'nom de plume' to author countless works, including her first and possibly most famous novel, *Indiana* in 1832. To mark 150 years since the writer's death, a 50-meter-long tapestry is set to be unveiled in her honour at the reopening of the Cité internationale de la Tapisserie, in Aubusson, following a period of renovation. The Cité will also be celebrating its 10th birthday in 2026.



GASTRONOMY & WINE

100 YEARS OF THE AVENUE DE CHAMPAGNE
Épernay, Grand-Est
End 2025

The home of one of France's most famous and most luxurious exports is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. The Avenue de Champagne in Épernay, the so-called 'capital of Champagne', is home to many renowned champagne houses, such as Pol Roger, Laurent-Perrier, and Moët & Chandon, among others. With its impressive architecture, the kilometre-long avenue is said by locals to be the most expensive in the world, due to the roughly 200 million bottles of champagne stored in the many chalk cellars underground. 2025 also marks 10 years since the avenue was first listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Coinciding with this year of festivities will be the 25th edition of the three-day Habits de Lumière festival in December.



LE 3: NEW WINE TOURISM SPACE
IN THE HEART OF REIMS
Reims, Grand Est
December 2025

Hidden in a quiet side street of Reims is Champagne Thiénot's brand new oenotourism space, Le 3. Taking its name from its address at 3 rue du Marc, Le 3 celebrates the craftsmanship and heritage of all things champagne. As part of the visiting experience, Thiénot is offering visitors two different hour-long interactive guided tours, which include a visit of the kilometre-long underground cellars and the extraordinary 10m-high vat room before heading into the Vinothèque museum. This experience gives guests a true insight into the champagne-making process and is punctuated by a tasting of two cuvées from either the 'Origine' or 'Famille' collection, depending on the tour chosen.

NEW GASTRONOMIC FOOD COURT
AND ROOFTOP
Tours, Centre-Val de Loire
March 2026

Set to open in March 2026 in Tours is a brand new food hall and accompanying rooftop bar, with its reaching views over the Cathédrale Saint-Gatien and beyond. Located on the site of the former Saint-Gatien hospital in Tours city centre, the La Belle Vue food hall has been a number of years in the making and is set to host up to 600 clients at one time. With its sights set on becoming one of the most attractive places to eat in the city, the venue will offer a variety of cuisines, while keeping it local and fresh by sourcing ingredients from the surrounding areas.



GASTRONOMY & WINE



10 YEARS OF THE LYON STREET FOOD FESTIVAL Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes 11-14 June 2026

Set to celebrate its 10th birthday this year with four days of gastronomic heaven is the Lyon Street Food Festival. Self-proclaimed as France's biggest food festival, the 2026 edition will feature 130 French and international chefs cooking up an array of culinary creations, with hands-on cooking workshops and live music performances, accommodating close to 50,000 visitors. The 2025 edition saw the festival partner with two international guest destinations, as well as taking up new residence at Les Grandes Locos, a former SNCF train maintenance workshop, located on the banks of the Rhône. Les Grandes Locos, where the upcoming 10th anniversary will be held, has recently been transformed into a diverse cultural venue.

5 YEARS OF THE LILLE STREET FOOD FESTIVAL Lille, Hauts-de-France 1-4 October 2026

Another gastronomy event celebrating a birthday in 2026 is the Lille Street Food Festival. First created post-COVID, the festival has grown over the past five years and saw a record number of attendees in 2025, reaching 49,000. The event is held at EuraTechnologies innovative technology hub, a business space that also hosts events and exhibitions in Place Pierre de Saintignon. The festival is home to an eclectic mix of food stalls and a variety of different cuisines as well as local brewers and mixologists, a number of family-friendly animations and musical accompaniment from a series of marching bands and DJ sets.



LAUNCH OF THE ROUTE DU CASSIS Burgundy-Franche-Comté 2026

A brand new gourmet route has been created in the heart of Burgundy to celebrate a famed local currant. The Cassis Route is a 55km journey across the beautiful countryside between Dijon and Nuits-Saint-Georges, and gives insight into the history and expertise behind the famed Dijon and Burgundy blackcurrants. Along the way, visitors will meet local producers of the currant, which is used in liqueurs, mustards, jams and beauty products, and will stop off at museums including the Cassissium in Nuits-Saint-Georges, which combines learning and discovery with tastings. A visit to Maison Lejay-Lagoute in Dijon, the birthplace of the famous crème de cassis, is also included.



GASTRONOMY & WINE

WINE TOURISM OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Mayenne, Pays de la Loire

2026

Just south of the Normandy border, Mayenne is more synonymous with cider and home to very few vineyards - but [La Maison du Pin](#) is one of them. Claude Marquet planted it in 1997: a plot of 53 rows of vines, with 53 - Mayenne's departmental code - a symbol of Claude's attachment to his homeland. The vineyard is currently being converted to organic farming and produces white, rosé, red and sparkling wines. Within three years, production will increase to 10,000 bottles, with five grape varieties: Chardonnay, Chenin, Syrah, Pineau d'Aunis and Pinot Noir. Half an hour's drive away in Saint-Jean-sur-Mayenne, another winegrower, Florent Deslandes, planted his first vines in June 2025 - with his first bottles expected in three years' time. By the fourth or fifth year, he hopes to be producing 1,000 to 3,000 litres.

NEW TRAIL ROUTES IN BEAUJOLAIS

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Burgundy-Franche-Comté

2026

[Beaujolais](#), a region celebrated for its scenic vistas of rolling hills, charming villages and vast expanses of green vineyards, is unveiling a series of new trails designed to deepen exploration of the landscape. In Deux-Grosnes, a newly launched 74km, five-day multi-stop trail departs from Monsols and winds through seven historic villages, offering sweeping views across the Beaujolais hills, the Saône valley and even the Alps, blending heritage, nature and striking scenery. Adding another dimension, the new châteaux route provides an alternative to the traditional wine trail, guiding visitors to eight remarkable châteaux renowned for their architecture, history and wines, offering a chance to discover treasures that are still largely unknown. For endurance enthusiasts, the 'Odyssée Beaujolaise' Ultra Trail is a demanding 90km run starting at Château de Montmelas, crossing eight major peaks of Beaujolais Vert and 17 towns, showcasing the region's rich natural and cultural heritage.



10 YEARS OF THE CITÉ DU VIN

Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine

2026

First opened in May 2016, Bordeaux's [Cité du Vin](#) will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2026. Located on the banks of the Garonne River, the architectural masterpiece - designed to resemble wine swirling in a glass - is dedicated entirely to the world of wine. It serves as a cultural and tourist exhibition centre, housing an interactive museum, tasting rooms, a bar and a shop, and welcoming thousands of visitors each year. Throughout 2026, a number of celebratory events will take place, including a festive weekend from 5-7 June with numerous activities, exhibitions, a dedicated 10-year cultural programme and a special edition of the Via Sensoria sensory tasting experience.



SPORTING EVENTS

SIX NATIONS OPENING MATCH TO BE FRANCE VS IRELAND

Paris, Île-de-France

5 February 2026

After a whirlwind year for rugby with the Women's Rugby World Cup, one of the sport's most highly anticipated competitions returns, as the Men's [Six Nations Championship](#) kicks off at the Stade de France in Paris. The home favourites and 2025's winners, France, will take on World Number Twos and last year's Triple Crown winners, Ireland. The two teams will meet at the Stade de France in Paris on Thursday 5 February - the first time ever that the competition will start mid-week. Ireland will have to adapt for 2026, as three of their key players retired at the end of the previous tournament and a large portion of the Irish team remains over 30.



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HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS TOURING FRANCE FOR 100TH BIRTHDAY

Across France

March-April 2026

Iconic basketball team the Harlem Globetrotters are celebrating 100 years since their foundation in 1926. Contrary to what their name suggests, the exhibition basketball team were in fact founded in Chicago, Illinois. The Globetrotters are renowned for their impressive routines, blending ball-handling skills, theatre and comedy, making for a one-of-a-kind family outing. As part of their centenary year, the team will be touring France in March and April, making appearances in towns and cities such as [Bourges](#) and [Les Sables-d'Olonne](#), and at venues including the famous Accor Arena in the Parisian neighbourhood of Bercy.

50TH EDITION OF THE PARIS MARATHON

Paris, Île-de-France

12 April 2026

In 2026, the Paris Marathon will mark its 50th anniversary. Officially called the [Schneider Electric Marathon de Paris](#) since 2013, every April the City of Lights sees thousands of runners set off from the Champs-Élysées on a gruelling tour of Paris. Runners pass some of the major sights of the French capital, before finally crossing the finish line on Avenue Foch, close to the Arc de Triomphe, 26 miles later. 2025 saw €5 million raised for 300 charities, as well as 56,950 finishers, 31% of whom were women, breaking the world record for marathon attendance.



© Adobestock-sebastien rabany



SPORTING EVENTS

APPLE PEAK: A NEW MOUNTAIN RELAY RACE
Peisey-Vallandry, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
19 April 2026

Following 2025's last minute cancellation due to adverse weather, the [Apple Peak relay race](#) is on track to hold its inaugural event on 19 April 2026. Held in Savoie, participants in teams of two will compete to reach the highest point in the Peisey-Vallandry ski area. The race will start in the small town of Landry, with a trail run of 3.5 km and ascent of 750m, followed by a relay on the wild Vallandry snow front, before reaching the ski mountaineering portion, whereby the runner's partner will ascend 600m over 2.5km to reach the top of Sommet TC Vallandry. The event will also include a variety of entertainment, music and food stands.



2026 EUROPEAN AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Paris, Île-de-France
26 July - 9 August 2026

Paris is set to host the [European Aquatics Championships](#) in the summer of 2026, as the competition celebrates its 100th anniversary. First organised by the Ligue Européenne de Natation (now European Aquatics) in 1926, it is one of the oldest continental aquatics competitions in the world. The championships are held biennially and include five different aquatics disciplines: long-course swimming, synchronised swimming, open water swimming and both diving and high diving, which were added to the rota in 2024. With athletes from across Europe taking part, the event is seen as a key qualification event for both the Olympics and the World Championships.



SPORTING EVENTS

THE 40TH MARATHON DU MÉDOC Nouvelle-Aquitaine 5 September 2026

One of the more amusing events in the annual sporting calendar, the Marathon du Médoc, is returning for its 40th edition in September 2026. Held in the winegrowing region of Médoc close to Bordeaux, the race is a traditional marathon with a twist. The event has been labelled the world's booziest and longest marathon, due to it being interspersed with 23 wine tasting stops. Runners can also enjoy musical breaks along the way, as well as oyster tasting at the 38th kilometre and steak at the 39th kilometre. The race has grown over the years and now attracts a global audience, usually in fancy dress. To celebrate its 40 years, the 2026 edition is themed around the 1980s.



© YVES MAINGUY



© VENDÉE GLOBE

THIRD EDITION OF THE VENDÉE ARCTIQUE 7 June 2026

Les Sables-d'Olonne, Pays de la Loire

Major ocean sailing race the Vendée Arctique will return for its third edition in June 2026. Starting in the town of [Les Sables-d'Olonne](#), competitors will sail their IMOCA 60-foot yachts, which can reach speeds of 75km per hour, single-handed in a gruelling race that takes them into the rough waters of the Atlantic, before heading north up to the Arctic Circle and looping back again. Founded in 2020, the race sees skippers and their craft being tested to their limits by the elements and is a key qualifier for the world-famous Vendée Globe, which will next be taking place in 2028. Another race will set off from Les Sables-d'Olonne on 6 September: the Golden Globe Race, an old-fashioned solo sailing competition around the world using traditional navigation methods as per the original event held in 1968.



CYCLING

LE MARO 70': NEW GRAVEL BIKE ROUTE THROUGH THE MARAIS BRETON VENDÉEN
Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie, Pays de la Loire
September 2025

The Marais Breton Vendéen is a unique landscape of canals, wet meadows and marshes, a wild but inhabited area home to migratory birds, traditional livestock farming and salt production. This new 70km gravel route starts from France's sardine capital, Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie, winding its way through villages and Vendée countryside. Cyclists pass through Saint-Hilaire-de-Riez, Notre-Dame-de-Riez and the Pays de Monts national forest with its marked mountain bike trail, as well as beach resort Saint-Jean-de-Monts with its sweeping seafront. The return journey is via the Vélodyssée, returning to Saint-Gilles along coastal river La Vie. The Saint-Gilles Tourist Office has also developed [five other gravel routes](#) ranging from 50 to 160km.



© SIMON BOUCIER

THE 5TH 'NATURE IS BIKE' GRAVEL FESTIVAL
Angers, Pays de la Loire
30-31 May 2026

Following the success of the previous festivals, Destination Angers has announced the fifth [Nature Is Bike](#) at Lac de Maine in Angers, with the support of Angers Loire Métropole and the City of Angers. This new edition of the festival promises to be a celebration of the French lifestyle, reuniting gravel bike fans, nature lovers and foodies, with some new surprises. 'Angers Vélo Guinguettes', the ultimate friendly bike ride with routes punctuated by guinguettes (riverside cafés), will take place the same weekend. The department of Anjou now boasts an extraordinary 1,000km of [bikepacking gravel trails](#) rideable from March to November, taking in rivers, hedged farmland, forest paths and wetlands. Gravel bikes are available to hire from the Angers Tourist Office throughout the summer.





CYCLING

THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE TOUR DE FRANCE FEMMES

1-9 August 2026

Vaucluse, PACA

The Tour de France Femmes returns in August 2026 for its fifth edition starting off with a Grand Départ in Switzerland. Following its inception in 2022, the event has gained momentum to become the most important women's cycling event of the year, which in 2025 was won by French cyclist Pauline Ferrand-Prévo. This year's route will take the contenders through the heart of Provence, pedalling through [Vaucluse](#) for the first time before taking on the summit of Mont Ventoux two days before the grand finale. The nearby five-star [Hôtel Crillon le Brave](#), with its dominating views of the Mont Ventoux, will also be reopening in April following an expansion which includes a number of new rooms, two outdoor heated pools and a dedicated space for culinary workshops and wellbeing retreats.

MAYENNE TO HOST INTERNATIONAL CYCLE TOURISM FESTIVAL FOR THE FIRST TIME

Château-Gontier, Pays de la Loire

2-9 August 2026

[This festival](#) is a non-competitive event organised by the FFCT (French Cycle Tourism Federation), offering daily tours to discover its host region by road, mountain or gravel bike. It's open to everyone from cycling enthusiasts and amateurs to families, with 10,000 visitors expected. Offering 3,000 km of cycle routes, Mayenne is a nature lover's dream and a perfect host location for the 87th edition of the festival. Throughout the week, participants will cycle through nature, heritage and charming villages – and there will be spectacular opening and closing ceremonies at Espace St Fiacre, on the banks of the River Mayenne. Registrations open in January 2026.



NEW LONG-DISTANCE TRAIL IN ARDENNES

Ardennes, Grand Est

2026

Hikers, mountain bikers and nature lovers will be delighted by the new long-distance GRP trail, the [Ardenne Tour: In the Footsteps of Arduina](#), a 350 km loop through the captivating landscapes of Ardennes. Designed for experienced hikers, this route is divided into 15 stages of around 23km each and can be completed in full over two weeks or explored in sections, on foot or by mountain bike. Inspired by Arduinna, the Celtic goddess of the Ardennes forest, the trail blends mythology, powerful history and varied scenery. It passes through places such as Bouillon, Sedan, Rocroi and Les Hautes Rivières, with accommodation available near every stage.



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



CORSICA ACHIEVES A GOLD LEVEL IN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Corsica
September 2025

Corsica has become the first Mediterranean island to be awarded a 'Gold' level label by Green Destinations, an international programme that assesses sustainable tourist destinations according to environmental, socio-economic and cultural criteria, as part of their Green Destinations / QualityCoast Award. Over the past few years, Corsica has seen a rise in popularity as a tourist destination, especially with an international audience. The [Corsica Tourist Board](#) has since been redoubling its efforts to transition towards becoming a leader in environmentally friendly tourism, whilst maintaining its appeal to visitors.

MODERNISATION IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH ALTITUDE 3300 PROJECT Alpe d'Huez, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes End 2025 - 2030

The ski resort of [Alpe d'Huez](#) is set to see some changes over the next five years, undergoing a major transformation to modernise its infrastructure. The Altitude 3300 project has the goal of modernising and renovating six ski lifts and their stations, offering faster and better connections between all the resorts in the area and greater accessibility to the iconic Pic Blanc summit at 3,300 metres. The project represents a sustainable and innovative long-term vision for the mountain's tourism future, part of a commitment by the tourist board to offer an inclusive experience for all.

NEW RESPONSIBLE TOURISM TRADE SHOW Paris, Île-de-France 30 January - 1 February 2026

As January turns to February, a brand new trade show is taking centre stage at Paris' [Parc Floral](#). Taking place at one of the capital's famous botanical gardens, the Paris Randos Nature trade show has been created with the notion of responsible tourism in mind. The show will bring together enthusiasts of everything outdoors, wellbeing and activities including hiking, trail running, adventure cycling, gravel biking and campervanning. Over three days, the event will offer attendees the chance to discover both indoor and outdoor activities, witness demonstrations and product testing, and take part in meetings and discussions with leading figures. Exhibitors will include a variety of different associations and federations, iconic outdoor brands and various destinations from across France.





SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

NEW INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE BOAT SHOW

Nice, PACA

19-22 March 2026

Otherwise known for its scenic shores dotted with luxury yachts, Nice will be the centre of maritime sustainability in 2026. Having previously hosted the United Nations Conference on the Oceans (UNOC) in June 2025, Nice is building on this momentum with its new event Nice Boating Tomorrow. Taking place over four days in March in the new OcéaNice Convention Centre, the show will have a dedicated focus on sustainability and innovation in the boating industry. The event comes as nearby Cannes is to launch a new regulation, banning cruise ships carrying over 1,000 passengers to combat overtourism and its negative impact on the local environment.



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TWO NEW SPACE SHOWS IN TOULOUSE

Toulouse, Occitanie

12-13 May 2026

Toulouse is already known as the home of French aerospace, being the headquarters of Airbus and home to the Cité de l'Espace, a scientific discovery centre with a focus on spaceflight. The city is now hosting two separate events dedicated to the space industry. The inaugural 'Space Summit for a Resilient Future' will take place in May, hosted by Novaspaces and Région Occitanie, bringing together global leaders, policymakers and industry executives to discuss space's role in shaping a resilient, sustainable and innovative future. Later in the year, a new biannual show will take place in collaboration with major industry players and is set to become a flagship event.



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



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NEW ECO-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION IN THE ALPS
Tignes, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
November 2026

Set to open in Tignes ahead of the 2026/27 ski season is a brand new sustainable accommodation building exclusively for season workers. Taking its name from the Patois word for 'season', the Seyjourn building is currently under construction and will be made using sustainable materials, with a remit to be an eco-friendly hub. The Seyjourn will combine energy-saving strategies and minimise its carbon footprint significantly, to achieve the desired effect of becoming an example of sustainable construction in a mountainous environment. Seyjourn hopes to obtain dual environmental certification and once complete, will provide comfortable living space for up to 70 season workers, against the backdrop of beautiful Alpine scenery.

SUSTAINABLE REDEVELOPMENT OF JUAN-LES-PINS BEACHFRONT
Juan-les-Pins, PACA
Summer 2026

The iconic beachfront of Juan-les-Pins is undergoing a transformation as part of a sustainable redevelopment project. The project aims to enhance pedestrian flow in public spaces, open up sea views and restore a more natural feel to the beach. Parking areas will be reorganised and access points will be made safer. Plans include the creation of a landscaped pedestrian walkway and the preservation of public access to the coastal trail, with other key changes including transforming old concrete patios into green areas. One standout feature will be an amphitheatre-style staircase to the beach, inspired by the Jazz Festival held each July, which this year takes place from 9-19 July.

NANTES' ADDITIONAL CYCLE ROUTES AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY
Nantes, Pays de la Loire
2026

The first city in France to win the European Green Capital Award back in 2013, Nantes is on track to increase its network of bidirectional cycle lanes by 2026 as part of its ongoing project to transform local transport networks. Supported by EU funding, Nantes Métropole is undertaking a number of initiatives including upgrading three lines of the tram network, renovating rolling stock and extending a tramway line, in accordance with the city's sustainable mobility strategy and the EU's objective of being carbon neutral by 2050. In keeping with Pays de la Loire's reputation for cycling holidays, an additional 50 kilometres of cycle lanes will also be accessible by 2026.

EXPANSION OF PARC LIGAYA WITH A NEW GINGUETTE
Montlouis-sur-Loire, Centre-Val de Loire
2026

Following a successful first summer after opening in June 2025, the Parc Ligaya, formerly Aroo Arena, is planning new additions ahead of the 2026 season. Located on seven hectares of wetlands in Montlouis-sur-Loire, this family outdoor activities park was built with sustainability and responsible tourism in mind. All activities on offer are eco-friendly and avoid polluting the surrounding natural area, including their aquatic go-carts, which are made in France. For 2026, the park will be adding a new guinguette to its premises, offering entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings. The park is accessible by train, being only 800m from the Véréty/Montlouis station and only 10 minutes from Tours city centre.



© A. LAMOUREUX



HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION



© BEAUNE TOURISM - JOHN ATHIMARITISO

OPENING OF CHÂTEAU LA COMMARAINÉ:
HOTEL, SPA AND WINE CELLAR
Pommard, Burgundy-Franche-Comté
Autumn 2025

The recent transformation of Château La Commaraine, nestled in the heart of Pommard, marks a new era for this historic Burgundy estate, founded in 1112. Surrounded by the vast Clos Monopole within the Pommard Premier Cru appellation, the château has been reinvented into an exquisite five-star retreat offering 37 rooms and suites, a spa, swimming pool and two restaurants run by award-winning chef Christophe Roux. Guests can enjoy sweeping views over the vineyards, admiring the winemaking process from their rooms, and enjoy unique on-site winery experiences celebrating the estate's rich heritage and terroir.

FIRST ROSEWOOD HOTEL TO OPEN IN COURCHEVEL
Courchevel, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
December 2025

World-famous resort Courchevel will be welcoming a brand new hotel in December, just in time for the upcoming ski season. Rosewood Hotels & Resorts announced the opening of Le Jardin Alpin, the chain's very first footprint in the French Alps. The luxury hotel will feature 51 guest bedrooms and suites, spa, ski rental space and a cigar room, in a prime ski-in ski-out position in Courchevel 1850.



© Adobestock-gustavofraza0

FULL OPENING OF NEW HYATT HOTEL
Reims, Grand Est
February 2026

Hyatt Centric recently expanded its presence in France with its brand new, and first, hotel in the heart of Reims. Managed by the Alboran Hotels & Hospitality group, who also manage the Radisson in Reims, the new five-floor hotel spent a year being refurbished before a phased opening started in November. By February the final two floors will be completed and all 155 aesthetically designed rooms and suites ready to welcome guests. With its views of the Stade Auguste Delaune and the Aisne-Marne Canal, the hotel is ideal for corporate events with a number of large meeting rooms and also boasts a state-of-the-art gym. It's only a short walk from Reims' historic centre and a quick drive from champagne country.

RADISSON GROUP ADDING FOUR NEW HOTELS TO FRENCH PORTFOLIO
Across France
2025-2027

The Radisson Hotel Group is increasing its presence in France with the addition of four new hotels in key destinations. Two of the new additions are in Paris: the first scheduled to open at the end of 2025 opposite Terminal 3 of Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport, and the second, Banke Opera Paris, located on famous Rue La Fayette and opening towards the end of 2026. The third hotel will open in Cannes sometime in 2026, and the fourth in 2027 in Bourges, the city recently named European Capital of Culture for 2028.



HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION

NEW FIVE-STAR HOTEL TO OPEN IN FORMER CONVENT

Paris, Île-de-France
Early 2026

The global luxury hotels group The Crest Collection, a subsidiary of The Ascott Limited group, is set to open a new five-star hotel in Paris in early 2026. The new hotel, yet to be named, will be located in the picturesque 6th arrondissement on the unique site of the former Couvent des Grands Augustins, on the banks of the Seine and opposite the Île de la Cité. The historic building chosen for the latest addition to The Crest Collection was famously an Augustinian convent until the late 18th century, and more recently served as a market and offices.

LE PROVENÇAL REOPENING AHEAD OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Cap d'Antibes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
April 2026

Located on the Cap d'Antibes peninsula in the French Riviera, the Le Provençal hotel has been undergoing a transformation and is ready to re-open just in time for its 100th birthday. First opened in 1927 by American millionaire Frank Jay Gould, the historic hotel became the most exclusive destination on the Cap, welcoming such guests as Winston Churchill, Coco Chanel, Ella Fitzgerald, and Charlie Chaplin, and served as inspiration for F.Scott Fitzgerald's last novel, Tender Is the Night. The hotel closed in 1977 following a decline but is set to re-open as a luxury residential complex with boutiques and a restaurant following an 11-year £300 million refurbishment by the British billionaire John Caudwell.

ZANNIER HOTELS OPENS LATEST ADDITION ON ÎLE DE BENDOR

Bandol, PACA
1 May 2026

Zannier Hotels will be opening the doors of its brand new hotel on 1 May on an island on the French Riviera, following a five-year transformation. Zannier Bendor is located on the eponymous island, situated just off the coast at Bandol in Var and a 40-minute drive from Marseille. The island was bought by industrialist Paul Ricard - founder of the Ricard drinks brand - in 1950. Bendor has collaborated with the Ricard family to create this 93-room hotel infused with Mediterranean elegance and charm, with a vision to harness the nostalgic spirit of the 1960s French Riviera. Its secluded location is ideal for those wishing to escape the crowds, while enjoying a feeling of conviviality with other guests.

FRANCE'S HIGHEST HOTEL TO OPEN

Pic du Midi, Occitanie
Summer 2026

L'Hôtellerie des Laquets is scheduled to open in Occitanie this summer with the accolade of the highest hotel in France. At an altitude of 2,620m, perched just below the Pic du Midi at 2,877m (to which it will be connected by private cable car), the hotel will offer visitors an unforgettable, breathtaking experience above the clouds. The hotel will have 16 rooms with panoramic views, a gourmet restaurant and a bar with a fireplace from which to contemplate the Pyrenees. The hotel's design, blending a mix of contemporary with Pyrenean heritage, has led to the project being awarded the Occitanie Sustainable Building silver medal.





HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION

FRANCE'S FIRST VIGNETTE COLLECTION HOTEL Théoule-sur-Mer, PACA 2026

The Côte d'Azur will be welcoming a new hotel in 2026 as IHG Hotels & Resorts opens its very first Vignette Collection property in France. First established in 2021, the Vignette Collection is a luxury brand which currently boasts 10 properties in its European portfolio. The new hotel will be set across two separate buildings of the existing Tiara Miramar and Tiara Yaktsa hotels and will offer guests a scenic stay in the village Théoule-sur-Mer with picturesque views of the French Riviera and Mediterranean Sea. The exclusive amenities offered include Michelin-starred dining, swimming pools, a gym and a spa. This latest addition is one step further for IHG to hit its 10-year target of attaining 100 hotels worldwide.



© Unsplash-Shanna Camilleri

MOB HOTEL OPENING A FIFTH COMPLEX Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine 2026

Revolutionary hotel chain MOB HOTEL is expanding with the announcement of a new location in Bordeaux. First set up in New York in 2011 by its quirky founder Cyril Aouizerate, who also set up Mama Shelter and is a strong advocate for sensible tourism, MOB HOTEL focuses on the traveller and the sense of community spirit, as well as environmental responsibility. MOB's presence in France equates to two hotels in Paris, one in Lyon and one in Cannes, each with its own unique story and theme. The new hotel will open on the site of the former Halle Soferti fertiliser market, in the Quais de Brazza area opposite the Cité du Vin and near the Darwin activities eco-hub, and will feature 122 rooms. The hotel will be powered by 350 rooftop solar panels, and marks progress in the brand's vision of more sustainable hospitality in France.

NEW 4-STAR APART CITY SET TO OPEN Paris, Île-de-France 2026

Scheduled to open its doors in Paris' 15th arrondissement in 2026 will be the latest addition to the Apartment City portfolio of apart hotels in France. To be situated in an old office building first constructed in 1916, the new four-star property will offer 120 apartments and a rooftop with striking views of the City of Lights, including the Eiffel Tower. Its location offers guests easy access to some of the best Paris has to offer; the 15th, on the city's left bank, is a cultural hub and home to the Parc André-Citroën on the former site of the former eponymous automobile manufacturing plant and the Beaugrenelle shopping centre.



HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION

FUTURE FIVE-STAR HOTEL TO OPEN IN TOURAINE

Amboise, Centre-Val de Loire
Summer 2026

An ultra-luxurious hotel is currently under development in the town of Amboise in Indre-et-Loire, in the historic region of Touraine. Le Relais d'Amboise is scheduled to open in the summer of 2026, and is the brainchild of billionaire businessman and France's 137th richest person Frédéric Jousset, who bought two existing hotels in 2024, Le Choiseul, a four-star hotel, and Les Minimés, a five-star, with the idea of merging both into one five-star hotel. Le Relais d'Amboise will boast 63 bedrooms, a restaurant with breathtaking views of the Loire River, a rooftop bar, and a spa set within the region's distinctive 'troglodyte' caves. 'Les Greniers de César' will also be used for pop-ups, exhibitions, events and wine tastings, located deep within the historic wine cellars and surrounded by original barrels.



CROWNE PLAZA TO OPEN NEAR DISNEYLAND Paris, Île-de-France 2026

A new hotel in the vicinity of Disneyland Paris will open to the public in the second half of 2026. To be called the Crowne Plaza Paris - Marne-la-Vallée, this new hotel will be part of IHG Hotel & Resorts' ever growing leisure portfolio - Crowne Plaza - with more than 90 hotels in Europe and a further 17 in the development pipeline. The hotel will mainly attract families visiting nearby Disneyland Paris Resort, although its location in the small town of Magny-le-Hongre also offers access to an area also known for its picturesque landscape. There are scenic walks in the Grand Morin hills, as well as local heritage with landmarks such as the 11th-century Sainte-Geneviève church.



TRANSPORT



INTRODUCTION OF ENTRY EXIT SYSTEM (EES) AND ETIAS APPLICABLE TO NON-EURO NATIONALS

Across France
From 12 October 2025

Since 12 October 2025, third-country nationals (including those from the UK) wishing to enter or leave France and the entire Schengen Area have been required to comply with the [Entry Exit System \(EES\)](#). This is a new digital border system that will change requirements for British citizens travelling to the Schengen area and will replace the current system of manually stamping passports when visitors arrive in the EU. UK passport holders will now be required to register their biometric details, such as fingerprints and a photo, upon arrival.

**TRAVELSKI NIGHT EXPRESS:
NEW SLEEPER TRAIN LINKING PARIS TO THE ALPS**
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
From December 2025

The new [Travelski Night Express](#) will be launching in December, in time for the 2025-26 ski season and hopes to simplify access to Alpine ski resorts. Setting off from both Paris and Lille, the night express will chug a total of 660 passengers to Bourg-Saint-Maurice, in the Savoie region, in just eight hours. Departures will be every Friday evening, arriving on Saturday morning, with the route operating 14 round trips between 19 December 2025 and 20 March 2026. The new route is a fresh step in the direction of a sustainable and eco-responsible tourism future in the Alps.

EW NAVIGÔNE RIVER TRANSPORT TO BECOME ALL ELECTRIC
Lyon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
April 2026

Lyon's new Navigône water buses are becoming all electric as of April 2026. [Lyon](#)'s latest transportation system, Navigône, was first launched in June 2025 and utilises the Saône River for mobility across a 6.2-km route, ensuring passengers avoid traffic and enjoy a picturesque commute. The river line is fully integrated into the TCL network and will become completely environmentally sustainable, with the introduction of 100% electric catamarans with a capacity of 70 passengers and bicycles. Two temporary boats have been floated into service in anticipation of the rest of the fleet being incorporated.

NEW BRITTANY FERRIES ROUTES ANNOUNCED
Brittany & Normandy
From December 2025

A new route between Plymouth and [St-Malo](#) will be trialled by Brittany Ferries, with two pre-Christmas trips and more crossings planned in February 2026 – including a Valentine's Day special – before concluding in March. This follows higher customer demand, with an increase in forward sales for 2025 bookings up by 16% compared to 2024, and is part of Brittany Ferries testing the waters with new destinations and upgraded routes. Their newly released 2026 schedule also includes a year-round service on the popular Poole to Cherbourg route, and transforming the Rosslare (Ireland) to Cherbourg route into a daily service, as opposed to five times a week.





TRANSPORT

SNCF SET TO LAUNCH 5TH-GENERATION TGV Across France 2026

The fifth-generation TGV is on track to be launched in early 2026 and will have interiors made from recyclable materials. Differing from previous generations in a number of ways, the buffet car on the new trains will be split over two decks and will be completely self-service, with a barista on hand to assist passengers. The upper deck will serve as a convivial dining space. The new trains have increased capacity, with a maximum of 740 passengers per train. There is also a focus on greater accessibility for disabled passengers, including a dedicated coach with wheelchair-friendly facilities. Improved connectivity and stronger Wi-Fi will also be an added feature.



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50 YEARS OF UNIWORLD RIVER CRUISES Across France 2026

Luxury river cruise line company, Uniworld Boutique River Cruises, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2026. The cruise company will offer a 51-day Brussels to Amman adventure, including a mystery cruise section, travelling to a series of unknown surprise locations. Departing from Belgium, the cruise will have port of call in Paris, before following the Seine River through the Normandy countryside. Guests will then transit to Lyon, where their itinerary will see them sailing through Burgundy, before turning south to explore Provence with a final stop in Cassis, on the Mediterranean, before departing for Egypt.

CHÂTEAUROUX TO START OPERATING FLEET OF AUTONOMOUS MINIBUSES Châteauroux, Centre-Val de Loire 2026

A fleet of autonomous all-electric minibuses will be integrated into the Châteauroux Métropole public transport network in 2026. This is part of an ongoing project, led by six leading mobility companies which include Alstom, EasyMile, Equans, Keolis, Renault Group, and StatInf, to develop and increase automated public transport in France and the rest of Europe. The buses to be launched in Châteauroux will be a new, zero-emission public transport service, featuring Level 4 autonomous driving, which operates without an on-board supervisor.



LOOKING AHEAD

2027

- European year of the Normans: [William the Conqueror's Millennium](#)
- 120 years of [Montgenèvre](#), France's oldest ski resort - also a host location for the 2030 Winter Olympics
- France's fourth Cité de la Gastronomie to open at [Paris-Rungis](#)
- Reopening of [Musée Nissim de Camondo](#), historic house museum of French decorative arts, Paris
- Opening of a [new department](#) devoted to the Arts of Byzantium and Eastern Christendom, Louvre, Paris
- Opening of [La Villa Cose](#), five-star spa hotel in Colmar, Alsace, and sister establishment to the Relais & Châteaux La Cheneaudière
- Opening of the [CDG Express](#), linking Paris-Charles-de-Gaulle airport to Gare de l'Est in 20 minutes
- Two new hotels opening in the champagne capital, [Épernay](#), Grand Est
- Opening of the new [Musée des Sacres](#) in the Palais du Tau, Reims, Grand Est
- New Marcel Pagnol museum opening, [Allauch](#), PACA

2028

- [Bourges](#) to be European Capital of Culture





FRANCE IN THE UK

SEURAT AND THE SEA
The Courtauld, London
13 February – 17 May 2026

London's Courtauld is set to present the first ever exhibition dedicated to the seascapes of French artist Georges Seurat (1859–1891) – and the first devoted to Seurat in the UK in almost 30 years. 'Seurat and the Sea' will unite 27 paintings, oil sketches and drawings made by Seurat during the five summers he spent on the northern coast of France between 1885 and 1890. Working in port towns along the Channel including Honfleur, Port-en-Bessin and Gravelines, Seurat captured their seascapes, regattas and port activity in his distinctive neo-Impressionist technique, in which shapes and light are rendered by juxtaposing small dots of pure colour.



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THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY CROSSES THE CHANNEL
The British Museum, London
September 2026 – July 2027

It depicts one of the most pivotal moments in British history: following the announcement made by President Macron in July, the Bayeux Tapestry has been shipped across the Channel and will go on display at the British Museum from September 2026 until the following summer. The 70-metre-long tapestry, which is over 900 years old, tells the story of the 1066 Norman invasion of Britain and the Battle of Hastings and is set to attract swathes of visitors to the museum. The loan will mark the first time the Bayeux Tapestry has been in the UK since its creation. In return, the British Museum will loan the Sutton Hoo and Lewis Chessmen collections to France, among other items.





FRANCE IN THE UK

PAINTING THE FRENCH RIVIERA
Royal Academy of Arts, London
2 October 2026 – 31 January 2027

Matisse and Klein in Nice. Cezanne in L'Estaque. Signac in Saint-Tropez. Monet and Picasso in Antibes. Bonnard in Le Cannet. Renoir in Cagnes-sur-Mer. Since the 1870s, artists from regions rocked by industrialisation and unrest, felt their imaginations reawaken in the South of France. The azure sea and the sapphire skies were a far cry from the crowded, grey cities of the north. Monet described the experience as swimming "in blue air". [This exhibition](#) looks at how the French Riviera became a catalyst for creativity and, later, a travel destination and film location which helped define mid-century glamour. The story will come alive through more than 120 works, including paintings, sculpture, travel posters and film, from the 1870s to the 1960s.



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RENOIR AND LOVE
The National Gallery, London
3 October 2026 – 31 January 2027

Initiated by Paris' Musée d'Orsay, '[Renoir and Love](#)' will be the most significant exhibition of the French impressionist's work in the UK for 20 years. The exhibition will include 50 of the most experimental, ambitious and admired canvases, including the iconic 'Bal au Moulin de la Galette', displayed in the UK for the first time. The exhibition traces the evolution of the imagery of affection, seduction, conversation, male camaraderie and the sociability of the café and theatre, as well as merry-making, flirtation, courtship and child-rearing in Renoir's art. His dance compositions remain universally loved symbols of the French fin-de-siècle.

PUY DU FOU UK
Bicester, Oxfordshire
Expected opening 2029

The [multi-award-winning theme park](#) of historical live shows, originating in Vendée, is inching closer to laying its foundations on British soil. Following extensive public consultation, an outline planning application was submitted in August 2025 to open the new park near Bicester, Oxfordshire, at the end of three years of site works. Proposals include four period villages, 13 live shows and three on-site hotels, each themed to a different period of British history. This will be the third Puy du Fou location, the second having opened in Spain in 2021.



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