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NEWS 2027

WHAT'S NEW IN FRANCE?

2027: WHAT'S NEW IN FRANCE?

Welcome to 2027 in France! With a wide range of openings, reopenings, anniversaries, cycling and other sporting events, transport novelties and new accommodation, 2027 is another dynamic year to visit. Read on for the exciting news from France, including the upcoming ***European Year of the Normans***.

Building on a milestone year in 2025, **which saw France welcome more than 13 million British visitors**, 2026 has proven to be a more complex trading environment. Ongoing global instability has reshaped UK consumer behaviour, driving a marked shift towards late and last-minute bookings compared with historical patterns.

While economic pressures and lingering uncertainties have noticeably weighed on the family segment during peak periods, the outlook for late 2026 and 2027 reveals some encouraging trends. Most notably, the enduring appeal of the French ski season, with **France once again the world's leading ski destination with 56.1 million skier days in 2025-2026**, remains a reliable driver of winter demand, complemented by a particularly strong demand this autumn.

However, caution should be applied when travelling in 2027 in case of any issues at the border due to the planned implementation of ETIAS, as well as any potential political tensions with the upcoming presidential elections set to be held in spring.

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 and Atout France



Karim Mekachera
Director, Atout France
UK & Ireland

"With a record of 103 million international visitors in 2025, the British remain among our most loyal visitors with 13 million arrivals. In 2027, from the European Year of the Normans to the Tour de France beginning in the UK, British travellers will find no shortage of reasons to cross the Channel, with new places to stay and landmark celebrations to enjoy, as well as new ways to get there. Congratulations to our press team for this thorough and comprehensive news document."

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ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

Chronologically, by section

2026

- **1 September 2026 - 30 September 2027** - 200 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY, Arles, Région Sud
- **26 September 2026** - CHÂTEAU D'ANGERS' TOUR DU MOULIN REOPENS AFTER 20 YEARS, Angers, Pays de la Loire
- **10 October 2026** - REOPENING OF THE MUSÉE DE LA RÉSISTANCE ET DE LA DÉPORTATION DE L'AISNE, Tergnier, Hauts-de-France
- **28 November 2026 - 3 January 2027** - 10 YEARS OF CHRISTMAS IN THE LAND OF CHÂTEAUX, Centre-Val de Loire
- **2026-2027** - PARC ASTÉRIX TO INVEST €250M, CONFIRMING ITS PLACE AS FRANCE'S SECOND-LARGEST THEME PARK, Hauts-de-France

2027

- **March 2027** - REOPENING OF THE PALAIS DU TAU, Reims, Grand Est
- **30 April - 29 August 2027** - CIRCUS-THEMED EXHIBITION AT THE TOULOUSE-LAUTREC MUSEUM, Albi, Occitanie
- **11-22 May 2027** - 80TH EDITION FESTIVAL OF CANNES, Région Sud
- **May 2027** - 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROUTE DES GRANDS CRUS, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté
- **Spring 2027** - NEW LONG-DISTANCE TRAIL IN THE ARDENNES, Grand Est
- **7-11 July 2027** - VOILES & VIGNOBLES - BORDEAUX CELEBRATES WINE AND THE TALL SHIPS RACES, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- **2027** - 20 YEARS OF THE MACHINES DE L'ÎLE, Nantes, Pays de la Loire
- **2027** - FUTUROSCOPE TURNS 40, Poitiers, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- **2027** - 75 YEARS OF THE AMIENS ZOO, Hauts-de-France
- **2027** - 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MANAS, EUROPE'S FIRST AND ONLY MUSEUM DEVOTED TO THE NAÏF ART MOVEMENT, Laval, Pays de la Loire

OTHER NEWS SNIPPETS

- **2-3 February 2027** - PARIS TO HOST SLOWW! 2027, Île-de-France
- **17 April - 18 July 2027** - EXHIBITION BY SCOTTISH ARTIST TO MARK PALAIS GALLIERA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY, Paris, Île-de-France
- **June 2027** - NEW SHOW AT PUY DU FOU AS THE PARK PREPARES FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY, Pays de la Loire
- **2027** - 100 YEARS OF THE AVEN ARMAND CAVE, Lozère, Occitanie
- **2027** - 600 YEARS OF THE MAISON KAMMERZELL, Strasbourg, Grand Est
- **2027** - NEW SHUTTLE LINKING DIJON TO THE NEARBY VINEYARDS, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté

FOCUS ON NORMANDY

- **2027** - EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE NORMANS AND WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR'S MILLENNIUM, Normandy

FOCUS ON PARIS REGION

- **17 October 2026** - FORMER RENAULT FACTORY OPENS AS NEW CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE 'LARGE' ON ÎLE SEGUIN, Paris, Île-de-France
- **4 April 2027** - 50TH EDITION OF THE PARIS MARATHON, Île-de-France
- **15 April 2027** - REOPENING OF THE PALAIS DE LA DÉCOUVERTE AS IT TURNS 90, Paris, Île-de-France
- **Spring 2027** - CENTRE POMPIDOU FRANCILIEN – FABRIQUE DE L'ART TO OPEN ITS DOORS, Paris, Île-de-France
- **14-20 June 2027** - THE 2027 PARIS AIR SHOW: '100 YEARS OF TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT', Île-de-France
- **Autumn 2027** - SCHEDULED REOPENING OF YVES SAINT LAURENT MUSEUM IN 10TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR, Paris, Île-de-France
- **2027** - OPENING OF THE NEW TOUR TRIANGLE, Paris, Île-de-France

SKI & MOUNTAINS

- **5 December 2026** - 'NOMAD' - NEW DINING AND SOCIAL HUB TO OPEN IN MÉRIBEL, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- **15 December 2026 - 30 April 2027** - NEW ART EXHIBITION BENEATH LAKE TIGNES, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- **December 2026** - NEW WINE AND CHAMPAGNE BAR OPENING IN LES ARCS, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- **December 2026** - KANOPÉ AQUATIC AND WELLNESS CENTRE TO OPEN IN VALMOREL, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- **December 2026** - CHAMROUSSE CELEBRATES ITS WINTER OLYMPIC HERITAGE WITH NEW SPACE, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- **2026-2027** - ANNIVERSARIES IN THE ALPS, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Région Sud
- **16-30 January 2027** - 20 YEARS OF THE ALTITUDE JAZZ FESTIVAL, Briançon, Région Sud
- **2027** - MODERNISATION IN THE MOUNTAINS, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Région Sud

ALL NEWS AT A GLANCE

Chronologically, by section

CYCLING

- **March 2027** – LAUNCH OF 'LA BIKETTE BERRY TOURAINE' CYCLE ROUTE, Centre-Val de Loire
- **2 July 2027** – TOUR DE FRANCE 2027: GRAND DÉPART IN EDINBURGH WITH STAGES IN ENGLAND AND WALES, UK and France
- **24 August – 5 September 2027** – 2027 UCI ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN FRANCE, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Île-de-France

HOTELS, ACCOMMODATION & SPAS

- **24 September 2026** – 5-STAR LE RELAIS D'AMBOISE OPENS ITS DOORS, Amboise, Centre-Val de Loire
- **December 2026** – NEW SPA AND SUITES AT DOMAINE LES CRAYÈRES, Reims, Grand Est
- **December 2026** – FORMER MILITARY BARRACKS TRANSFORMED INTO 4-STAR HOTEL AND SPA, Briançon, Région Sud
- **Late 2026** – NEW PULLMAN ROYAL KEY WELLNESS RESORT TO OPEN, Le Moule, Guadeloupe
- **Late 2026** – REOPENING OF HÔTEL BANKE OPÉRA AS PART OF THE RADISSON COLLECTION, Paris, Île-de-France
- **Early 2027** – OPENING OF LA VILLA COSE, 5-STAR SPA HOTEL, Colmar, Grand Est
- **Early 2027** – NEW HÔTEL MAISON LITTÉRAIRE GEORGE SAND, Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- **March 2027** – OPENING OF TRIBE HOTEL IN CABOURG, Normandy
- **April 2027** – PLANNED OPENING OF 5-STAR NOLINSKI GOLFE DE SAINT-TROPEZ HOTEL, Gassin, Région Sud
- **Summer 2027** – HISTORIC 17TH-CENTURY BRETON FORTRESS TO OPEN AS A LUXURY HOTEL, Belle-Île-en-Mer, Brittany
- **September 2027** – OPENING OF LILY OF THE VALLEY IN COURCHEVEL 2000, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- **Second half of 2027** – LJ HÔTELS & CO EXPANDS ITS COLLECTION WITH A NEW HOTEL AND A NEW RESTAURANT, Béziers, Occitanie

TRANSPORT

- **2026-2027** – AIR FRANCE AND SNCF VOYAGEURS EXTEND TRAIN + AIR TO ALL OUIGO TRAINS SERVING PARIS-CHARLES DE GAULLE, Across France
- **28 March 2027** – OPENING OF THE NEW CDG EXPRESS, Paris, Île-de-France
- **May – October 2027** – NEW FLIGHT ROUTES BETWEEN MANCHESTER & BIRMINGHAM, AND LA ROCHELLE & PERPIGNAN, Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Occitanie
- **30 June – 4 September 2027** – NEW LONDON-AJACCIO AND MANCHESTER-BASTIA FLIGHT ROUTES, Corsica
- **2027** – TWO NEXT-GENERATION, ECO-FRIENDLY FERRIES TO CONNECT FRANCE TO CORSICA

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2028

- TWO NEW TUI SKI FLIGHT ROUTES FROM NEWCASTLE TO CHAMBÉRY AND TOULOUSE, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Occitanie
- MUSÉE ODYSSÉE DEDICATED TO VIDEO GAMES AND POP CULTURE SET TO OPEN IN BUSSY-SAINT-GEORGES, Paris, Île-de-France
- VAN GOGH AND GAUGUIN AT FABRE MONTPELLIER AS MUSEUM MARKS 200TH ANNIVERSARY, Occitanie
- 40TH 'RENCONTRES DE CHANTS POLYPHONIQUES DE CALVI' MUSIC FESTIVAL, Corsica
- BOURGES TO BE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE, Centre-Val de Loire
- NEW GIACOMETTI MUSEUM AND SCHOOL SCHEDULED TO OPEN ON ESPLANADE DES INVALIDES, Paris, Île-de-France
- OPENING OF THE MUSÉE DU GRAND SIÈCLE IN SAINT-CLOUD, Paris, Île-de-France
- MILLENNIUM OF L'ABBAYE DU RONCERAY IN ANGERS, Pays de la Loire

STORIES FROM OUR TRAVELS

- Marine in Cognac: 'Cognac story hunters'
- Rachel in Pays de la Loire: 'Curious caves'
- Katie in Corsica: 'Coast to Corte'
- Ben in Grand Est: 'Beyond Champagne'

FRANCE NEWS

Outside Paris, Normandy and the mountains

200 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Arles, Région Sud
1 September 2026 - 30 September 2027

Continuing on from this year, the bicentenary of photography will run into 2027, where in Arles the city is hosting a year-long programme of celebratory events which aim to explore the deep connections between photographic images and the memory of places. Nearly 200 years of images of the city will be showcased in a major exhibition, alongside an extensive programme of cultural events throughout the year, which will allow visitors to discover the city through a unique visual journey spanning two centuries. Home to the Rencontres d'Arles, one of the world's leading annual photography festivals, the city is now recognised as a capital of photography.


© FlyMProd

CHÂTEAU D'ANGERS' TOUR DU MOULIN REOPENS AFTER 20 YEARS
Angers, Pays de la Loire
26 September 2026

After 20 years of closure and nearly five of restoration, the Château d'Angers opened the terrace atop its Tour du Moulin to the public on 26 September 2026, offering the city's highest viewpoint. Visitors climb 83 steps through eight centuries of history to reach a 360° panorama over Angers and its surroundings, 40 metres above the River Maine. Built in the 13th century under Blanche of Castile, it is the tallest of the fortress' 17 towers, having retained its medieval height while the others were lowered in the 16th century. New for visitors is the restored schist paving floor dating back to the 17th-century.

REOPENING OF THE MUSÉE DE LA RÉSISTANCE ET DE LA DÉPORTATION DE L'AISNE
Tergnier, Hauts-de-France
10 October 2026

The Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation de l'Aisne opened its doors to the public on 10 October 2026 in Tergnier, in the Aisne department. After closing for refurbishment, the museum has been transformed through a modernisation project worth €3.5 million. Its permanent exhibition now follows a chronological path from 1939 to 1945, in four parts: defeat and occupation, the rise of the Resistance with a strong local focus, repression and deportation, and liberation and remembrance. Human stories take centre stage, passing solidarity and freedom on to younger generations. Around 300 of its many thousands of objects have been carefully selected for display, including a freight car from the Holocaust and a Beechcraft C-45 aircraft, one of only three left in Europe.



© Département de l'Aisne

FRANCE NEWS

Outside Paris, Normandy and the mountains



© ADT Touraine - Tom Besse

10 YEARS OF CHRISTMAS IN THE LAND OF CHÂTEAUX

Centre-Val de Loire
28 November 2026 - 3 January 2027

Christmas in the Land of Châteaux will celebrate its 10th anniversary from 28 November 2026 to 3 January 2027. The only event of its kind in France, it stages seven of Touraine's châteaux with floral compositions, light shows, immersive displays and giant-size settings, from magical forests to life-size storybook scenes. The 10th edition gives each château its own theme: music at Langeais, animals at Amboise, nature at Villandry, world Christmas traditions at Chenonceau, gastronomy at Azay-le-Rideau, fairies at Chinon, and Beauty and the Beast at Loches. New in 2026 is a children's pass for ages 8 to 17. Adult passes cover three to seven châteaux, from €43 to €87.

PARC ASTÉRIX TO INVEST €250M, CONFIRMING ITS PLACE AS FRANCE'S SECOND-LARGEST THEME PARK

Hauts-de-France
2026-2027

Parc Astérix, flagship of the Compagnie des Alpes group, reached 2.9 million visitors in 2025, strengthening its position as the second most visited theme park in France. It has unveiled a development plan backed by €250 million of investment through to 2030. The plan includes the 300-room Odyssée Hotel opening in 2027, which will take the park's accommodation to 750 rooms, and a renovated Greek zone the same year. In 2028, a new indoor zone called Londinium, inspired by the Asterix in Britain comic, will follow. As it is fully covered, it will allow the park to extend its opening season. Overall capacity is set to grow by 20%. The announcement also follows recognition for the new Cétautomatix family coaster, which was among the winners of the European Top New Attraction award at the 2025 Parksmania Awards. The park aims to break into Europe's top five most visited parks by 2030.



© Parc Astérix



© Casson Mann

REOPENING OF THE PALAIS DU TAU

Reims, Grand Est
March 2027

Following three years of renovations, the Palais du Tau, the former palace of the Archbishop of Reims, is set to reopen its doors to the public with the new Musée des Sacres. Taking its name from the French word for a coronation, the museum will celebrate a millennium of royal history. From 751 to 1825, 33 Kings of France resided at the Palais du Tau, ahead of their coronations in the adjacent Reims Cathedral. Visitors will be able to see the various stages of a coronation ceremony, as if they were experiencing it firsthand through a simulation, as well as see the various ceremonial robes from the epochs.

FRANCE NEWS

Outside Paris, Normandy and the mountains

CIRCUS-THEMED EXHIBITION AT THE TOULOUSE-LAUTREC MUSEUM

Albi, Occitanie
30 April - 29 August 2027

The Toulouse-Lautrec Museum in Albi will present the exhibition 'Toulouse-Lautrec and the Circus'. Located within the confines of the Episcopal City of Albi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the museum holds the largest public collection of works by the Albi-born artist. The exhibition addresses a subject that interested Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec from childhood and that he depicted throughout his career. Subjects include acrobats, clowns, animal training acts, equestrian performances and pantomime ballets, as well as the clown Cha-U-Kao and the duo Foottit and Chocolat. It follows a chronological order, from his early school drawings to the series of thirty-nine drawings he made from memory in 1899.

80TH EDITION FESTIVAL OF CANNES

Cannes, Région Sud
11-22 May 2027

The Cannes Film Festival will celebrate its 80th edition in 2027. Over eight decades, it has brought together film professionals, international stars and emerging actors, while focusing on a passion for cinema and the discovery of new talent. The anniversary also looks ahead, with the International Cinema Museum planned to open in 2028, dedicated to film history and the festival itself. Cannes is also expected to appear on screen in 2027, in the fourth season of HBO's *White Lotus*. Set during the festival, the season was filmed in the city and at various other locations along the Côte d'Azur.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROUTE DES GRANDS CRUS

Bourgogne-Franche-Comté
May 2027

In May 2027, the Route des Grands Crus de Bourgogne celebrates its 90th anniversary, marking nine decades since its creation in 1937 as the first wine route in France. Winding through the Côte-d'Or from Dijon to Beaune and then to Santenay, it serves 32 of Burgundy's 33 Grands Crus, and all its vineyards are classified by UNESCO. A major gathering in May will feature a gourmet cycling tour, a gastronomic village showcasing 100% Côte-d'Or producers and a concert, with further events spanning sport, gastronomy and culture throughout the year. The full programme, exact dates and venues will be announced shortly. The Route is also receiving subtle refreshing touches, from new signage to improved cycling links.


© Studio Intuive BFC Tourisme


© D.Truillard - ADTA

NEW LONG-DISTANCE TRAIL IN THE ARDENNES

Ardennes, Grand Est
Spring 2027

Following a soft opening in late 2026, the new long-distance GRP trail in the Ardennes will officially launch in spring 2027 to the delight of hikers and nature lovers. Named after the Celtic goddess of the Ardennes forest, the Ardenne Tour: In the Footsteps of Arduinna blends mythology, history and varied scenery, passing through Bouillon, Sedan, Rocroi and Les Hautes-Rivières, with accommodation available near every stage. Divided into 15 stages of around 23 km each, the trail totals 350 km, looping through the captivating regional landscapes, and can be completed in full over two weeks or explored in sections, on foot or by mountain bike.

FRANCE NEWS

Outside Paris, Normandy and the mountains

VOILES & VIGNOBLES - BORDEAUX CELEBRATES WINE AND THE TALL SHIPS RACES

Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
7-11 July 2027

Voiles & Vignobles Bordeaux 2027 will combine The Tall Ships Races and Bordeaux Fête le Vin in a single festival along the city's waterfront. Over 40 tall ships from 14 countries are expected to dock along three kilometres of Garonne quays, with over 800,000 visitors forecast. Visitors can board the vessels and meet crews from around the world, who will parade on 9 July. Wines from around 80 appellations will be served at pavilions run by over 1,000 winemakers and merchants, alongside regional cuisine, concerts and night-time shows. The festival closes on 11 July with a parade as the fleet sails for A Coruña, Spain.



© Guillaume Bonnaud



© Jean-Dominique Billaud - LVAN

20 YEARS OF THE MACHINES DE L'ÎLE

Nantes, Pays de la Loire
2027

In 2027, Les Machines de l'Île in Nantes celebrates its 20th anniversary. Created by artists François Delarozière and Pierre Orefice, this steampunk playground opened in 2007 in the Parc des Chantiers on the Île de Nantes, the site of the city's former shipyards. Here, a workshop of inventive builders draws inspiration from forests, savannahs and ocean depths to create a menagerie of giant mechanical creatures. The best known is the Great Elephant, which takes passengers on rides around the site. Alongside it are the Carrousel des Mondes Marins, a three-level marine-themed carousel, and the Galerie des Machines, where prototypes are displayed and demonstrated. 2027 is a major year for culture in Nantes generally, with its History Museum and the Estuary/Saint-Nazaire riverside art itinerary also celebrating 20 years, as well as 10 years of the Musée d'Arts and Le Chronographe. Each of them will be hosting special events throughout the year.

FUTUROSCOPE TURNS 40

Poitiers, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
2027

One of France's most celebrated theme parks, Futuroscope, turns 40 in 2027 and will mark the occasion with a full calendar of colourful festivities. The celebrations begin on 5 December 2026 with 'Nuits Magiques', a nightly experience running until 27 March, when 20 light installations and performances take over the park. The highlight is 'L'Allumeur de rêves', a 30-minute parade with five floats and 23 performers. In February 2027, the Kinemax will screen *Athos*, a 40-minute IMAX film about the Patrouille de France, the country's equivalent to the Red Arrows. A 1987-themed upside-down house will be on show throughout 2027, and the celebrations close with a finale of 'La Clé des Songes'. A new 4-star hotel is also planned to open at the end of 2027 or early 2028.



© Futuroscope

FRANCE NEWS

Outside Paris, Normandy and the mountains

75 YEARS OF THE AMIENS ZOO

Amiens, Hauts-de-France
2027

Amiens Métropole Zoo is celebrating its 75th anniversary, celebrating the zoo's longstanding commitment to species conservation. Its new Savannah zone, already home to giraffes, gazelles and ostriches, will soon welcome grey crowned cranes, marabou storks and guineafowl. In June, the zoo will host the General Assembly of l'Association Française des Parcs Zoologiques (AFdPZ), the professional body representing zoos and zoological parks across France. The association promotes high standards of animal welfare, supports coordinated conservation and breeding programmes, encourages scientific and educational work, and represents the sector in dialogue with public authorities. The Assembly will bring members to Amiens to share expertise and strengthen collaboration on biodiversity protection.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MANAS, EUROPE'S FIRST AND ONLY MUSEUM DEVOTED TO THE NAÏF ART MOVEMENT

Laval, Pays de la Loire
2027

MANAS, the Musée d'Art Naïf et d'Arts Singuliers in Laval, marks 60 years in 2027. Europe's first and only museum devoted to naïve art, a visual art style created by self-taught, untrained artists, it has been housed in the Château de Laval since 1967. Its centrepiece artist is Henri Rousseau, known as Le Douanier, a major figure of the Naïve Art movement who was born in Laval in 1844. Largely derided by critics in his lifetime, he is now internationally recognised and the museum proudly holds three of his canvases. The collection includes two works by Séraphine Louis (Séraphine de Senlis) and paintings by Jules Lefranc. Beyond its collections, the museum champions contemporary outsider artists, and the château's 34-metre keep commands sweeping views over the River Mayenne.



© Mayenne Tourisme

OTHER NEWS SNIPPETS

PARIS TO HOST SLOWW! 2027
Paris, Île-de-France
2-3 February 2027

CNIT Forest in Paris La Défense to host the 2027 edition of Sloww!, a B2B non-consumer trade show, as river tourism gains strategic importance across France.

EXHIBITION BY SCOTTISH ARTIST TO MARK PALAIS GALLIERA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY
Paris, Île-de-France
17 April - 18 July 2027

To mark its 50th anniversary, Paris museum Palais Galliera has teamed up with Scottish artist Lucy McKenzie to curate a special exhibition called *Dream Fashion*, exploring the history of fashion.

NEW SHOW AT PUY DU FOU AS THE PARK PREPARES FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY
Vendée, Pays de la Loire
June 2027

In June 2027, Puy du Fou's most ambitious creation yet, *Le Rêve de Louis XIV*, brings the Sun King to a new royal theatre, as the park celebrates 50 years since its conception in 1977.


© Puy du Fou - Martin Sylvos

100 YEARS OF THE AVEN ARMAND CAVE
Lozère, Occitanie
2027

Located in the heart of the Causses and Cévennes landscape, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Aven Armand cave celebrates its centenary in 2027. To mark the occasion, the *Aven Express* funicular has opened, carrying visitors down into the cave.

600 YEARS OF THE MAISON KAMMERZELL
Strasbourg, Grand Est
2027

One of Strasbourg's most iconic historic buildings, Maison Kammerzell, will celebrate its 600th anniversary in 2027. Now home to a restaurant, the building has been a listed Historic Monument since 1929 and is currently being considered for full classification.

NEW SHUTTLE LINKING DIJON TO THE NEARBY VINEYARDS
Dijon, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté
2027

A new tourist shuttle launching in 2027 will link Dijon to its surrounding vineyards, running from the city to Vougeot via the Dijon vineyards and the Route des Grands Crus, and ending with an optional guided tasting or workshop at the Cité internationale de la gastronomie et du vin.


© Destination Dijon

FOCUS ON NORMANDY

EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE NORMANS: WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR'S MILLENNIUM

In 2027, Normandy celebrates 1,000 years since the birth of William the Conqueror, born in Falaise in 1027. *MILLENIUM 2027, European Year of the Normans*, runs from 1 January to 31 December, with nearly 1,000 events across Normandy and seven other European territories, covering cultural, artistic, sport and gastronomy themes.



© Marie-Anaïs Thierry

The year opens in Caen with 'The Gates of the Millennium', a free immersive show in the cloister gardens of the Abbaye aux Dames from 20-27 February. Also here will be an exhibition, 'The Normans in the Middle Ages: A European Adventure (911–1204)'. A travelling street art performance will visit several Norman towns and cities, alongside a contemporary art trail and a scripted quest through Norman history. Ten venues will show 11th- and 12th-century manuscripts.

A major gathering of Viking ships along the estuaries begins on 11 June and builds towards Rouen Armada 2027, where the fleet will make a spectacular arrival. The Armada runs from 17 to 27 June in a special edition, with around 40 tall ships, free ship visits, parades, concerts and nightly fireworks. FÊNO, the Festival of Norman Excellence, returns in an extraordinary edition from 16-19 October.

The Bayeux Tapestry will remain on display at the British Museum until 11 July 2027, after which it will return to France ahead of the reopening of its home, the Bayeux Museum, in October, following extensive renovations.



© Ville de Bayeux

How to get there: Brittany Ferries sails from Portsmouth to Caen (Ouistreham), about 43 km and 37 minutes by road from Bayeux. The company also runs Portsmouth to Cherbourg and St Malo, Poole to St Malo, and Plymouth to Roscoff. Sailings from Portsmouth and Plymouth to Bilbao and Santander in northern Spain also give easy access with your own car to southwest France.

The missing scene of the Bayeux Tapestry, created by artist Hélène Delprat, will be exhibited at the Château de Falaise, William's birthplace, before heading across the Channel where it will be shown at Westminster Abbey, where William was crowned, from 1 May to 30 July.

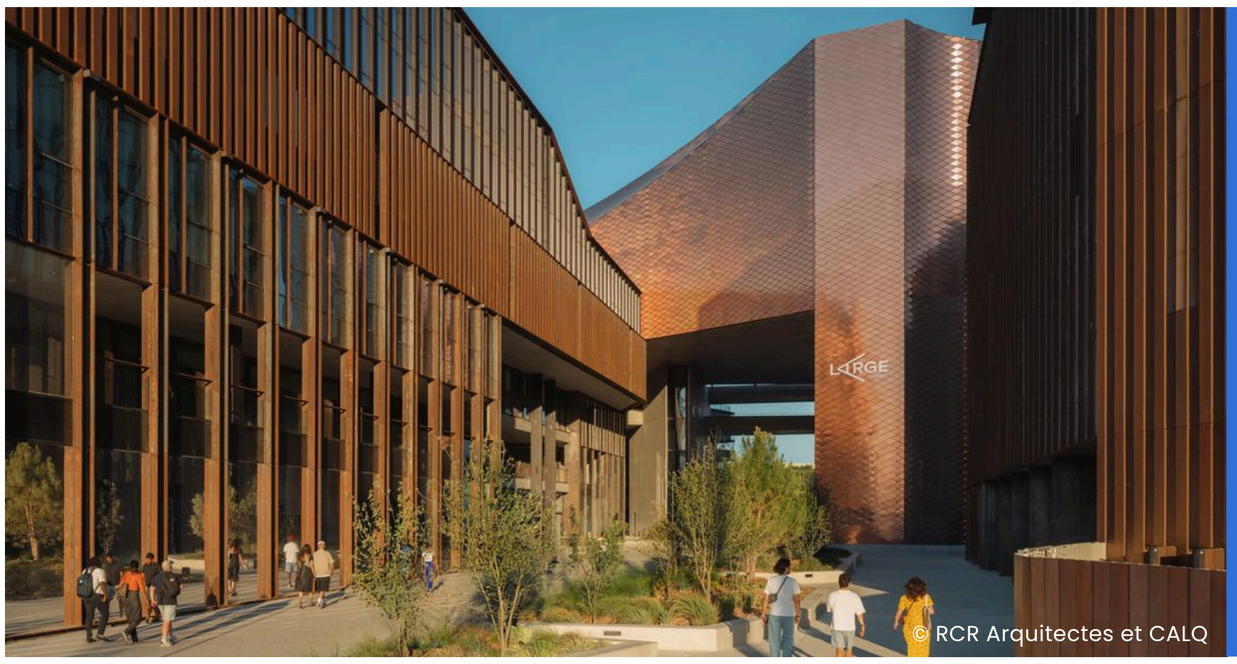


© Ibrahim Hendy

Elsewhere in the UK, the British Library will present an exhibition on the Norman Conquest, and cities including Canterbury, Norwich, Hastings, Battle and Colchester are planning reenactments, festivals and exhibitions, and the Battle Conference on Anglo-Norman Studies will be held in Normandy to mark its 50th anniversary.

In Ireland, an interpretation centre on the Normans will open in New Ross, County Wexford, and Dublin will host the international conference 'Normanitas' as part of the Dublin Festival of History.

FOCUS ON PARIS REGION



© RCR Arquitectes et CALQ

RECENT OPENING

FORMER RENAULT FACTORY OPENS AS NEW CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE 'LARGE' ON ÎLE SEGUIN

17 October 2026

Opened 17 October 2026 on Île Seguin, the former Renault factory site west of Paris, Large is a 5,000 m² contemporary art centre showcasing French artists, within the Vallée de la Culture alongside La Seine Musicale. Its opening exhibition, Moteur Imaginaire, runs until 7 March 2027.

50TH EDITION OF THE PARIS MARATHON
4 April 2027

The 50th edition of the Paris Marathon will see nearly 50,000 runners set off from the Avenue des Champs-Élysées on a journey through the city's most celebrated landmarks. Participants will pass the Palais Garnier and the Louvre, run beside Notre-Dame Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower, follow the quiet curve of the Seine, and slip beneath the trees of the Bois de Vincennes and Bois de Boulogne before reaching the finish near the Arc de Triomphe. Thousands of spectators will line the route to cheer the runners on. Asics joins the race as its new title partner, lending its support to this milestone edition.


© Sebastien Rabany - AdobeStock

REOPENING OF THE PALAIS DE LA DÉCOUVERTE AS IT TURNS 90
15 April 2027

After six years of refurbishment, the Palais de la Découverte reopens on 15 April 2027, as the science museum celebrates its 90th anniversary. Founded in 1937, it returns with new spaces and upgraded exhibits. A new Palais des Enfants welcomes visitors from age two to pre-teens, while seven live science rooms host experiments from physics to earth sciences, and five labs let visitors don a white coat and experiment themselves. Highlights include a 15-metre planetarium with 8K projections, a rooftop observatory streaming live images, the Electricity Hall, a Researchers' Space and 45 Discovery Pods on AI, genetics, quantum physics and climate.

CENTRE POMPIDOU FRANCILIEN – FABRIQUE DE L'ART TO OPEN ITS DOORS
Spring 2027

Following five years of development, the Centre Pompidou Francilien – fabrique de l'art opens in spring 2027 in Massy, south of Paris, close to Orly Airport. The 30,000 m² low-carbon building houses 150,000 works from the French State's modern and contemporary art collection, the largest in Europe. Visitors can discover recently acquired or rarely shown works, join guided tours, and workshops on how art is acquired, conserved and restored. The site also offers artist studios, workshops, public terraces and a panoramic belvedere over Parc de la Blanchette, where artists and experts share knowledge and co-create new experiences of art.

FOCUS ON PARIS REGION



© Joe de Sousa - Unsplash

THE 2027 PARIS AIR SHOW: '100 YEARS OF TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT'
14-20 June 2027

The Paris Air Show returns to Le Bourget, celebrating 100 years of transatlantic flight. This edition marks the centenary of Charles Lindbergh's 1927 crossing and landing at Le Bourget, a milestone in aviation history. Founded in 1909, the biennial event is regarded as the world's leading civil and defence aerospace gathering. The 2025 edition drew 305,000 visitors, 2,400 exhibitors from 48 countries and 2,200 journalists, with 173 flying demonstrations. Weekdays are reserved for trade professionals, while weekends open to the public, offering families and aviation fans a spectacular day out north of Paris.

SCHEDULED REOPENING OF YVES SAINT LAURENT MUSEUM IN 10TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR
Autumn 2027

The Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris reopens in autumn 2027, coinciding with its 10th anniversary year, after renovation works that began in May 2025. Since opening in October 2017, the museum has welcomed nearly a million visitors. The visitor area will double in size, with a redesigned layout linking previously restricted parts of the historic Second Empire mansion where the couturier's teams worked for three decades. For the first time, visitors will enter the private office of Yves Saint Laurent's partner, Pierre Bergé, and the studio where every collection was designed. A new documentation and research centre will offer privileged access to the museum's archive.

OPENING OF THE NEW TOUR TRIANGLE
2027

In summer 2027, Paris welcomes a new panoramic attraction occupying the top four floors of the Tour Triangle on rue de Vaugirard, in the 15th arrondissement near Porte de Versailles. Designed by Herzog & de Meuron, the 180-metre tower is served by panoramic lifts that rise to a 3,000 m² viewpoint with artistic installations, a skybar and a panoramic restaurant, offering breathtaking views of Paris from above. The tower will also house a 128-room Radisson Blu hotel, shops, a cultural centre and a health centre.

SKI & MOUNTAINS


© Tignes Officiel

NEW ART EXHIBITION BENEATH LAKE TIGNES

Tignes, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
15 December 2026 - 30 April 2027

This winter, Tignes will offer visitors a world first: an underwater exhibition by Laurence Chilin and Alban Michon entitled 'Ici commence l'océan' ('The ocean begins here'). The exhibition combines artistic, scientific and educational approaches to the cryosphere: the frozen parts of our planet. The exhibition will unfold in two stages, beneath and beside frozen Lake Tignes. Between 15 December and 13 February, it will be on show beneath the frozen lake, then continuing on the lake's shores until 30 April.

CHAMROUSSE CELEBRATES ITS WINTER OLYMPIC HERITAGE WITH NEW SPACE

Chamrousse, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
December 2026

Chamrousse will open a new 1968 Olympic Games Heritage Space dedicated to the legacy of the Grenoble Olympics, where the resort hosted the alpine skiing events. Housed in the former meteorological building at the resort's summit, the museum will offer an immersive exhibition combining archives, objects and educational activities for school groups, families and sports enthusiasts. The resort will also strengthen its Olympic identity with the installation of Olympic rings at Chamrousse 1650, a striking reminder of its place in Olympic history.

ANNIVERSARIES IN THE ALPS

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Région Sud
2026-2027

There are anniversaries to celebrate in the French mountains this winter, as several resorts reach major milestones. Leading the way is Montgenèvre, which celebrates 120 years in 2027. Standing at 1,850 metres beside the Col du Montgenèvre on the French-Italian border, the Hautes-Alpes resort hosted an international competition in February 1907 that earned it recognition as France's first ski resort. Its pioneering spirit lives on as the French Alps prepare to host the 2030 Winter Olympics. Courchevel, Société des 3 Vallées and Les 2 Alpes all mark their 80th anniversaries, while Notre-Dame-de-Bellecombe and La Toussuire celebrate 90 years. Le Dévoluy marks 50 years of La Joue du Loup and 60 years of SuperDévoluy.

20 YEARS OF THE ALTITUDE JAZZ FESTIVAL

Briançon, Région Sud
16-30 January 2027

The Altitude Jazz Festival will be returning to Briançon for its 20th edition. The programme will include over 40 jazz and contemporary music concerts at 27 venues across the Briançonnais area. Venues include concert halls and bars, as well as unconventional locations such as Briançon's Collegiate Church, Les Grands Bains du Monêtier and the ski slopes. Half of the concerts are free to attend. Billed as 'wild jazz', the festival offers a diverse line-up of artists and musical styles.



© Altitude Jazz Festival

SKI & MOUNTAINS


© mariakray - Pixabay

MODERNISATION IN THE MOUNTAINS

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Région Sud
2027

French ski areas are continuing to modernise their lifts for the 2026-2027 winter season, with a focus on comfort, accessibility and a lower environmental footprint, following €555 million of investment in 2025. Peisey-Vallandry's 10-person Télévillage links Peisey-Nancroix and Plan Peisey in 3 minutes 20 seconds, carrying up to 900 people an hour, retiring the red gondolas after 43 years. Le Dévoluy's new Jas gondola replaces a 1989 chairlift, halving ascent time. Les Contamines-Montjoie's Notre-Dame de la Gorge gondola will be fully accessible to people with reduced mobility, and Valmorel's Combelouvière gondola is designed to facilitate adaptive skiing. Sustainability is also in focus: Val Cenis is building a chairlift largely from reused components, halving the project's greenhouse-gas emissions, and La Rosière's former chairs are being recycled through a community scheme.

MOUNTAIN SNIPPETS

'NOMAD' - NEW DINING AND SOCIAL HUB TO OPEN IN MÉRIBEL

Méribel, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
5 December 2026

NOMAD, a new restaurant, après-ski and social hub will open on Méribel's Chaudanne snow front, evolving from breakfast to après-ski with DJs and shows, and becoming a lively restaurant in the evening.

NEW WINE AND CHAMPAGNE BAR OPENING IN LES ARCS

Les Arcs, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
December 2026

Clémence Vautrain and her partner Gauthier, winegrowers from the Marne, will bring their knowledge to Les Arcs when they open La Descente, a wine and champagne bar serving an array of different wines, including their own cuvées.

KANOPÉ AQUATIC AND WELLNESS CENTRE TO OPEN IN VALMOREL

Valmorel, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
December 2026

Aquatic and wellness centre Kanopé will be opening in Valmorel this winter, enhancing the mountain experience after skiing, with a 120 m² indoor balneotherapy pool, hammam, massage rooms, panoramic saunas and a fitness area.

CYCLING


© Rob Wingate - Unsplash

HIGHLIGHT

TOUR DE FRANCE 2027: GRAND DÉPART IN EDINBURGH WITH STAGES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

UK and France
2 July 2027

The Tour de France and Tour de France Femmes will begin in the UK in July 2027, the first time both Grands Départs have taken place in the same country outside France. They will visit three nations in one Grand Départ: Scotland, England and Wales. The men's race starts in Edinburgh on 2 July, with stages finishing in Carlisle, Liverpool and Cardiff, before transferring to France on 5 July. The women's race starts in Leeds on 30 July, marking the first Tour de France Femmes stage to be held in the UK. After stages finishing in Manchester and Sheffield, the UK leg ends in London on 1 August with the race's first team time trial. The full route has now been announced and is available to see here.

LAUNCH OF 'LA BIKETTE BERRY TOURAINE' CYCLE ROUTE

Centre-Val de Loire
March 2027

Launching in spring, 'La Bikette Berry Touraine' is a 171 km cycle route linking the Loire Valley with the historic province of Berry. From Chinon, with its Royal Fortress rising above the vineyards, the route heads to Argenton-sur-Creuse, known for its riverside houses. Passing through the Brenne Natural Park and along the Veude, Vienne, Claise and Creuse valleys, the route links 48 towns and villages, with almost 70% following traffic-free greenway, ideal for families. The route's name is a blend of 'biquette', French for a young goat, and 'bike', a nod to the region's goat's cheese heritage, while crossing the production areas of three goat's cheese PDOs. Designed as a restorative, gastronomic journey, it offers an unhurried way to explore France.


© Jean-Christophe Coutand

2027 UCI ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN FRANCE

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Île-de-France
24 August - 5 September 2027

The cycling focus stays in France after the Tour, with the UCI Cycling World Championships in Haute-Savoie Mont-Blanc. The region will host 20 world championships over 13 days, a first in history, with more than 13,000 athletes from 130 nations competing for 289 world titles. Road racing and time trials sit alongside gravel, mountain biking, BMX and para-cycling. The competition is spread across 17 venues, from Lake Annecy to the Mont-Blanc region, with track events at the National Velodrome in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, Île-de-France. Beyond the sporting events, the championships aim to boost cycling participation for years to come, while putting the spotlight on the landscapes, culture and heritage of Haute-Savoie.

HOTELS, ACCOMMODATION & SPAS

RECENT OPENINGS / SOON TO OPEN

24 September 2026: 5-STAR RELAIS D'AMBOISE, Amboise, Centre-Val de Loire

December 2026: NEW SPA AND SUITES AT DOMAINE LES CRAYÈRES, Reims, Grand Est

December 2026: FORMER MILITARY BARRACKS TRANSFORMED INTO 4-STAR HOTEL AND SPA, Briançon, Région Sud

Late 2026: NEW PULLMAN ROYAL KEY WELLNESS RESORT, Le Moule, Guadeloupe

Late 2026: REOPENING OF HÔTEL BANKE OPÉRA AS PART OF THE RADISSON COLLECTION, Paris, Île-de-France



© Villa CoSe

OPENING OF LA VILLA COSE, 5-STAR SPA HOTEL

Colmar, Grand Est
Early 2027

Set to open in early 2027, Villa CoSe will be a luxury 5-star hotel and spa in Colmar's historic Petite Venise district and will be the sister property of La Cheneaudière, the renowned 5-star hotel and spa in Colroy-la-Roche. CoSe, from 'Colmar Secret', will occupy a historic villa built in 1896 by industrialist Gustave Boeschlin, combining Art Nouveau and Art Deco influences across 23 individually designed rooms and suites. The hotel will also feature a spa and restaurant, set within a wooded estate where the Lauch River runs through the grounds, offering guests a peaceful sanctuary in the heart of Colmar.

NEW HÔTEL MAISON LITTÉRAIRE GEORGE SAND

Bordeaux, Nouvelle-Aquitaine
Early 2027

For literature lovers, the latest addition to the Hôtels Littéraires collection, Maison Littéraire George Sand, is planned to open in Bordeaux in early 2027, offering an immersive celebration of the life and work of the renowned French author. It was here, six years before adopting her famous pen name, that the young Amantine Aurore Dudevant embarked on a passionate romance with Bordeaux lawyer Aurélien de Sèze. The relationship proved formative, inspiring a series of letters and a personal journal that her granddaughter later gathered and published posthumously as *Le Roman d'Aurore Dudevant et d'Aurélien de Sèze*. Created by collector and bibliophile Jacques Letertre, the Hôtels Littéraires collection, with several properties across France, honours authors including Arthur Rimbaud and Gustave Flaubert, offering guests a refined, immersive journey into literature.


© Hotel George Sand



© Tribe 2026

OPENING OF TRIBE HOTEL IN CABOURG

Cabourg, Normandy
March 2027

Part of the Accor Group, Australian hotel franchise TRIBE is expanding its global footprint with a new hotel in the picturesque seaside town of Cabourg. TRIBE Cabourg will feature 79 stylishly minimalist rooms spread across four floors, including six rooms equipped for people with reduced mobility and four family rooms, as well as a fitness centre, sauna, bar and restaurant serving Australian-inspired cuisine. Guests staying at the hotel will only be a few minutes' walk from the famed Belle Époque-style houses that dot the town centre, as well as the Promenade Marcel Proust along the beachfront.

HOTELS, ACCOMMODATION & SPAS

PLANNED OPENING OF 5-STAR NOLINSKI GOLFE DE SAINT-TROPEZ

Gassin, Région Sud
April 2027

Following an extensive renovation, Nolinski Golfe de Saint-Tropez will see the iconic former Hôtel Mas de Chastelas reborn as a contemporary 5-star holiday retreat. Set among vineyards and pine trees near Saint-Tropez, the property will combine Riviera spirit with the relaxed art de vivre of the Mediterranean. Its 55 rooms and suites combine natural materials with carefully selected artwork, creating elegant and refined interiors. The hotel will feature generous communal spaces, swimming pools, padel and tennis courts, as well as dedicated kids' and teens' clubs. The result will be a sophisticated yet relaxed destination centred on connection and the pleasures of the south.

HISTORIC 17TH-CENTURY BRETON FORTRESS TO OPEN AS A LUXURY HOTEL

Belle-Île-en-Mer, Brittany
Summer 2027

Situated on Belle-Île-en-Mer off the Breton coast, La Citadelle Vauban, one of France's most remarkable coastal heritage sites, is set to become the country's first property in Accor's ultra-luxury Emblems Collection. Overlooking Le Palais harbour, the historic citadel dates back to the 1500s and over the centuries has been transformed, most notably by renowned military architect Vauban, and is today a listed historical monument. The future hotel, planned to open in summer 2027, will feature 49 rooms, 22 suites and nine apartments, alongside two restaurants, a bar and a wellness centre. The project will also revive the on-site museum, reinforcing the island's cultural heritage with a commitment to protecting the island's ecosystem.

OPENING OF LILY OF THE VALLEY IN COURCHEVEL 2000

Courchevel, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
September 2027

Lily of the Valley Courchevel will bring a new approach to luxury mountain hospitality in Courchevel 2000. Positioned beside the resort's iconic altiport, the hotel will feature 30 elegant suites designed by architect-designer Philippe Starck, each with a private terrace and spectacular mountain views. Guests will enjoy direct ski-in/ski-out access to the Trois Vallées, alongside personalised wellness programmes, sports activities and high-end treatments. The property will open on the site of the former Le Pilatus hotel and will be the sister property to Lily of the Valley in La Croix-Valmer, near Saint-Tropez, extending the brand into the mountains.



© Lily of the Valley Courchevel

LJ HÔTELS & CO EXPANDS ITS COLLECTION WITH NEW HOTEL AND RESTAURANT

Béziers, Occitanie
Second half of 2027

Since 2019, LJ Hôtels & Co. has become a leading name in Béziers' hospitality scene, guided by a single ambition: to celebrate the city, its heritage and art de vivre. Today, the group comprises seven establishments, including one Michelin-starred restaurant and one Bib Gourmand. In 2027, the group will continue to expand with two destinations, both opening in the second half of the year. Le Mas des Arènes will be a high-end urban resort offering suites, dining, event spaces, a pool and a 360° panoramic terrace. Le Château de Lignan, a restored 9th-century castle set in five hectares of parkland, will become a 5-star hotel with spa, pool and restaurant.

TRANSPORT



© Air France

AIR FRANCE AND SNCF VOYAGEURS EXTEND TRAIN + AIR TO ALL OUIGO TRAINS SERVING PARIS-CHARLES DE GAULLE

Across France
2026-2027

Air France and SNCF Voyageurs have extended their Train + Air intermodal service to every OUIGO train serving Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport. The service lets passengers combine a train journey and an Air France flight in a single booking. It also guarantees a seat on the next available train or flight, at no extra cost, if there is a delay or cancellation. The expansion builds on a first OUIGO extension in 2025 covering Aix-en-Provence TGV, Avignon TGV and Marseille-Saint-Charles, and comes as Train + Air traffic grew by 43% over the past six months compared with the same period in 2025. Air France and OUIGO both say the move widens departure time options and supports low-carbon travel to the airport, alongside the existing TGV INOUI offer. Bookings can be made through Air France channels or partner travel agencies.

OPENING OF THE NEW CDG EXPRESS

Paris, Île-de-France
28 March 2027

The new CDG Express will connect Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport and Gare de l'Est in just 20 minutes. This long-awaited line will make journeys between the capital and its main international gateway faster and more convenient, with non-stop services running every 15 minutes, seven days a week, from 5am to midnight. The 32 km route includes 8 km of newly built track, with dedicated trains offering generous luggage space, on-board flight information, Wi-Fi and accessibility features. At Gare de l'Est, passengers will benefit from easy connections to the Paris Metro and SNCF rail network, providing onward links across the capital and beyond.



© Sylvain Cambon

TRANSPORT

NEW FLIGHT ROUTES BETWEEN MANCHESTER & BIRMINGHAM AND LA ROCHELLE & PERPIGNAN

Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Occitanie
May - October 2027

From summer 2027, Jet2 will open up two new gateways to France, with direct flights to La Rochelle and Perpignan from the UK. La Rochelle will be served from Birmingham and Manchester with weekly Saturday services from 22 May to 25 September 2027, while Perpignan will be served twice-weekly by flights from Manchester between 2 May and 31 October 2027. The expansion will more than double Jet2's France programme for summer 2027 and will make it easier for British travellers to explore two distinctive corners of France.

NEW LONDON-AJACCIO AND MANCHESTER-BASTIA FLIGHT ROUTES

Corsica
30 June - 4 September 2027

easyJet will connect Ajaccio, birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte, directly with London Gatwick. The service will operate twice weekly, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, until 4 September 2027. The route marks the return of a direct Ajaccio-London link, which easyJet previously served in 2019. The airline is also launching a twice-weekly Bastia-Manchester service on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 29 June to 4 September, further strengthening Corsica's links with the UK.

TWO NEXT-GENERATION, ECO-FRIENDLY FERRIES TO CONNECT FRANCE TO CORSICA

Corsica
2027

French ferry operator La Méridionale, which connects mainland France with Corsica, will add two new vessels, the *Alba Nova* in spring and the *Azura* in summer, to its fleet, serving the Marseille–Ajaccio and Marseille–Porto-Vecchio routes respectively. The sister ships combine refined interiors and enhanced comfort with next-generation propulsion, reducing CO_2 emissions by up to 50%. Passengers can choose from a wider range of cabins, including new Balcony Suites, while dining includes a restaurant and Click & Collect service. A lounge bar, outdoor terrace and children's play areas offer space to relax, while accessible cabins and public areas improve comfort for passengers with reduced mobility.



© Stirling Design International

LOOKING AHEAD

2028

TWO NEW TUI SKI FLIGHT ROUTES FROM NEWCASTLE TO CHAMBÉRY AND TOULOUSE, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Occitanie

MUSÉE ODYSSÉE DEDICATED TO VIDEO GAMES AND POP CULTURE SET TO OPEN IN BUSSY-SAINT-GEORGES, Paris, Île-de-France

VAN GOGH AND GAUGUIN AT FABRE MONTPELLIER AS MUSEUM MARKS 200TH ANNIVERSARY, Occitanie

40TH 'RENCONTRES DE CHANTS POLYPHONIQUES DE CALVI', Corsica

BOURGES TO BE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE, Centre-Val de Loire

NEW GIACOMETTI MUSEUM AND SCHOOL SCHEDULED TO OPEN ON ESPLANADE DES INVALIDES, Paris, Île-de-France

OPENING OF THE MUSÉE DU GRAND SIÈCLE IN SAINT-CLOUD, Île-de-France

MILLENNIUM OF L'ABBAYE DU RONCERAY IN ANGERS, Pays de la Loire



© Les Coflocs - CRT Centre-Val de Loire

STORIES FROM OUR TRAVELS



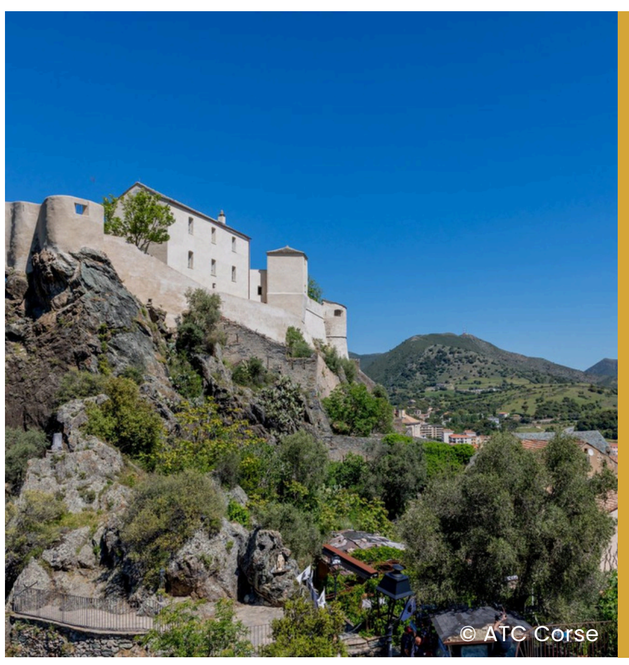
MARINE - COGNAC
Cognac story hunters

On a press trip a couple of years ago, I walked into Maison Grosperrin thinking I was visiting a cognac house and walked out realising I had met a story hunter. Nothing here is about a grand brand. Instead, the Maison Grosperrin team roams the vineyards and cellars of Cognac in search of forgotten casks, tiny growers and bottles with something to say, and every one they bring home arrives with its own tale. Each bottle on the shelf felt like a chapter: who made it, the year it was distilled, how it quietly aged in the dark for decades. The welcome was as warm as the stories were rich, unhurried and generous, more like being let in on a secret than being given a tasting. I left with the feeling that I had not simply tried cognac, I had read a small library of them, one glass at a time.

RACHEL - PAYS DE LA LOIRE
Curious caves

My recent trip to Anjou had a strong food and wine focus, but we didn't expect the local troglodytes to play such a crucial part. A limestone cave network lines the banks of the Loire, quarried to build the dazzling châteaux but also gastronomically significant. At Maison Ackerman, the Loire Valley's oldest sparkling wine producer, visitors wind through ethereal stone cellars. When phylloxera destroyed France's vineyards in the 1860s, the caves turned to pommes tapées ('tapped apples'), and mushrooms are still grown there for local restaurants. Wear loose clothing for dinner at Les Caves de Genevraie at troglodyte hotel Rocaminori, where all-you-can-eat fouées (cave-baked breads) come with rillettes, goats' cheeses and rillauds. You'll have just enough energy to crawl to your rock-carved bedroom to sleep it off.





KATIE - CORSICA
Coast to Corte

My trip to Corsica this year took us along the island's western coast, from Ajaccio, birthplace of Napoleon, to the historic town of Corte. Driving through the Calanques de Piana was a highlight, with hairpin bends and red granite cliffs plunging towards the glistening sea, while our guide pointed out mythical animals in the rocks and the legends behind them. Inland, Corte caught me by surprise: its strong mountain community, deep-rooted Corsican identity and lively student population give the town a special buzz. Exploring by e-bike, with Explorat'ours, we stopped at our guide's uncle's house to taste his first honey of the season and at artisan shops for local cheeses. Dinner at Osteria di l'Orta, the Guelucci family's home, saw Antoine and Marina serve Corsican dishes and their own estate wine, regaling us with stories of the local area.

BEN - GRAND EST
Beyond Champagne

Last December I went on my very first press trip, to the Champagne region in Grand Est. Over four days our group visited a number of champagne producers and enjoyed more tastings than I can count. Yet what stayed with us most was Les Enfants de Bacchus, a small artisanal vinegar maker in Hautvillers, the village where Dom Pérignon is buried. Run by four siblings, all Hautvillers natives, it turns excess champagne harvest quotas into high-end gastronomic wine vinegars. Our brief tour ended with a tasting of every flavoured vinegar they make. It wasn't just the delicious vinegars that stayed with us, but the sight of four siblings building something together in the village they grew up in. If you're looking for a different take on champagne, this might be it.



FRANCE - NEWS 2027

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