



Blois

City of art and history, Blois is guaranteed to surprise you



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City of art and history



In 1986, Blois was given the "Ville d'art et d'histoire" label, a description awarded by the Ministry of Culture to cities that undertake to enhance and protect their heritage. The agreement linking the State and the local community through this label was renewed in 2010.

The "Ville d'art et d'histoire" label guarantees the quality of the tours and events through the skills of approved guides, and the scientific authority of the heritage and architecture expert, the manager of the Ville d'Art et d'Histoire department.

Forming part of a national network of 147 towns and cities, Blois has made a commitment to ensure its inhabitants become more aware of their surroundings, promote high quality tourism, organise events for the young public and help to spread its image.

You will discover the history of the city, over one thousand years old, illustrated by a rich heritage: half-timbered houses, Renaissance mansions, 18th century episcopal palace, 19th century town planning system, industrial heritage represented by the POULAIN chocolate factory, and Loire heritage highlighted by the fact that the Loire Valley is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.



The Château Royal de Blois is a unique example of French architectural evolution. From the Middle Ages to the present day, the States Room, the Loges façade and the Gaston d'Orléans wing give you an idea of the great periods of French history: the power of the Comtes de Blois in mediaeval times, Jeanne d'Arc leaving to set free Orléans, the magnificence of the royal court in the Renaissance era.

To enable visitors to discover the heritage of Blois, all year round the Ville d'Art et d'Histoire department arranges **themed tours** with commentary by lecturer-guides, signs pointing out the heritage, walking circuits marked by "p'tits clous" (little nails) and "Laissez-vous conter..." brochures available free from the Tourist Office.





Information

Office de tourisme Blois-Pays de Chambord

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>> www.bloischambord.com/en

The Ville d'Art et d'Histoire **education department**, working closely with teachers, offers the **young public** a chance to learn about architecture, town planning and heritage through general or themed tours, such as "L'Habitat à la Renaissance" (Renaissance housing), "Blois Memory", and with workshops showing how to construct a rib vault or learn craftwork techniques like stained glass windows.

Every year, the City of Blois participates in the annual **European Heritage Days** on the third weekend in September, giving both inhabitants and visitors the opportunity to look at unusual aspects of Blois' heritage.

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