



CENTRE DES MONUMENTS NATIONAUX

PRESS KIT 2025



[CMN - International press](#)

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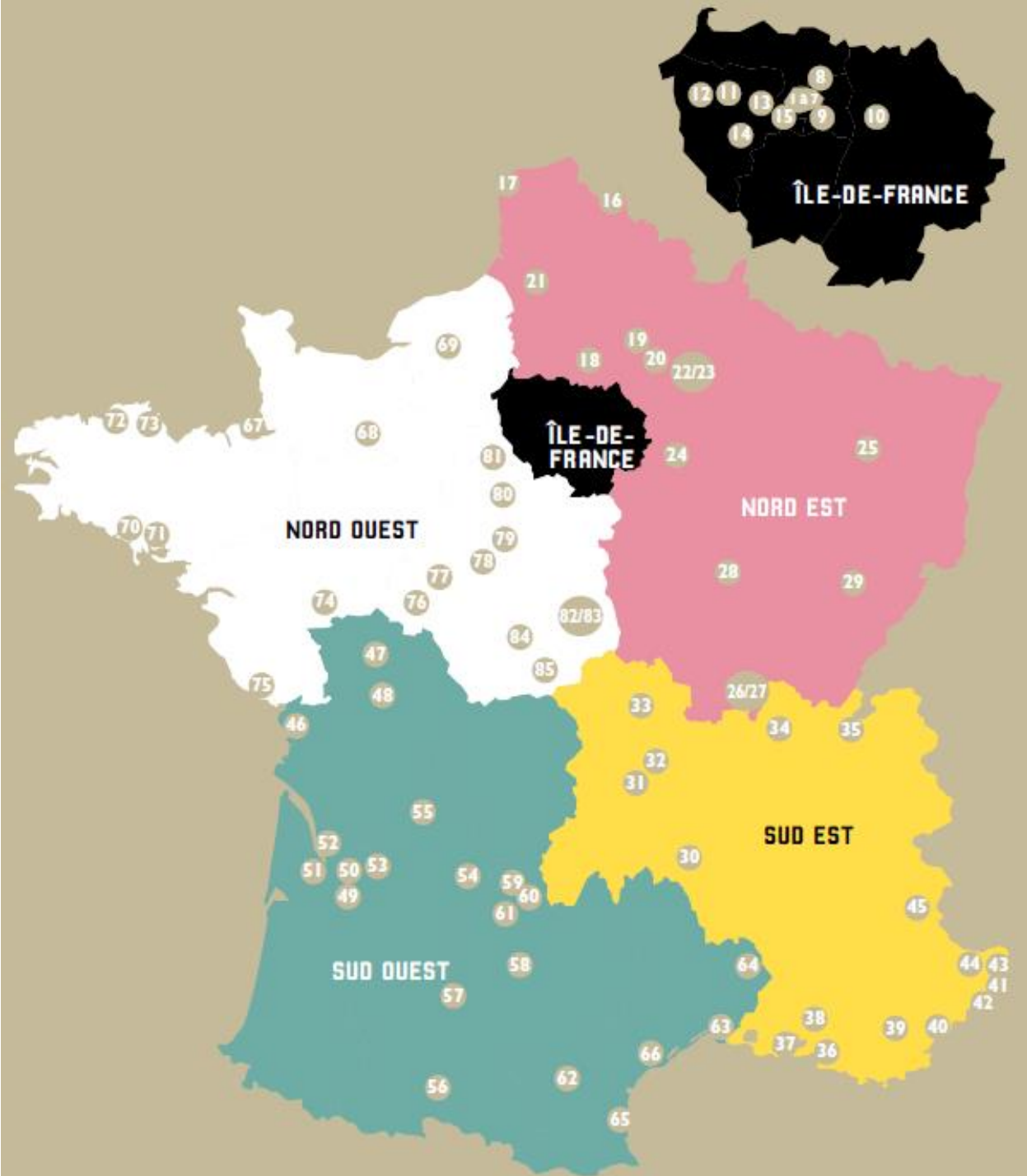
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The Centre des monuments nationaux:



More than **11 million visitors** in 2024

More than **110 monuments**

Free admission for under-18s and under-26s from EU countries

81 gift and book shops

450 events per year

79 monuments available for e-ticketing

130 restoration works in progress (from diagnosis to acceptance)

National and UNESCO monuments

19 French national monuments inscribed on the World Heritage List: Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel, Abbey of Sauve-Majeure, Amiens Cathedral, Bourges Cathedral, Chartres Cathedral, Notre-Dame Cathedral, Reims Cathedral, Conciergerie, Cathedral Complex of Le Puy-en-Velay, Carcassonne castle and ramparts, Château of Azay-le-Rideau, Palais du Tau, Sainte-Chapelle, Tower of Pey-Berland, Cap Moderne, Villa Savoye, Mont-Dauphin Stronghold, Prehistoric sites in the Vézère Valley

The Apocalypse Tapestry at the Château d'Angers national estate was included in UNESCO's Memory of the World register in 2023.

Did you know...?

The first French sites were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979. They included the Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel, Chartres Cathedral and the prehistoric sites of the Vézère Valley.



[Find out more](#)

The 5 most visited monuments

1. Arc de triomphe

1,758,087 visitors

2. Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel

1,480,031 visitors

3. Sainte-Chapelle

1 234 676 visitors

4. Panthéon

922,426 visitors

5. Carcassonne Castle and Ramparts

643,882 visitors



A closer look at some of the increases in visitor numbers

Basilica Cathedral of Saint-Denis

147,718 visitors (+ 9%)

Château de Rambouillet

79,139 visitors (+28%)

Angers castle

318,206 visitors (+11%)

Château of Carrouges

33,551 visitors (+20%)

Château d'If

116,299 visitors (+ 9%)

Villa Kérylos

61,708 visitors (+18%)

Visitor numbers at major temporary exhibitions

"Revelation! Contemporary Art from Benin" at the Conciergerie

- 172,992 admissions

"Paralympic History" at the Panthéon

- 270,312 admissions

"It's a song that's just like us" at the Cité internationale de la langue française

- 28,424 admissions



2025

Highlights

The towers of Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral

The towers of Notre-Dame will be open to visitors in the summer, with a new and improved visitor circuit

Made famous by Victor Hugo's novel published in 1831, today the cathedral fascinates more than ever, thanks to its architecture and its central role in the history of France.

Meticulous work is currently being carried out on the towers by architects and craftsmen. Teams from the Centre des monuments nationaux are preparing for the next stage in the redevelopment of the tour, with a redesigned scenography, which will offer both sensitive mediation and breath-taking views of the reconstructed spire and the roof structure!

This summer, they'll be ready to welcome back visitors from all over the world who will also be able to admire the exceptional panoramic view of Paris from the top.

Find out more about the iconic towers of Notre-Dame Cathedral, a Gothic masterpiece listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site:

<https://www.tours-notre-dame-de-paris.fr/en/actualites/visit-the-towers-of-notre-dame-de-paris-in-2025>



A path worth walking!

Discover the complete tour of Carcassonne castle and ramparts

Since autumn 2024, the Centre des monuments nationaux (CMN) has been offering visitors the chance to explore the entire 1.5 km of inner ramparts of the medieval city of Carcassonne. This exceptional tour, the result of two years' work, comprises 300 metres of restored fortifications and 9 iconic towers, offering a fresh look at this UNESCO World Heritage site.

An immersion in history and spectacular panoramic views

This unique tour invites you to explore the Cité's architectural wealth and landscapes that surround it.

Breath-taking views of the count's castle, the glacis and the 52 towers incorporated in the city walls

Breath-taking views over the Minervois and Corbières vineyards, the forests of the Montagne Noire and, on a clear day, as far as the Pyrenees. The tour takes you back in time, with enhanced content including films, explanatory signage, models and an immersive audio guide. With an estimated duration of 2 hours, the tour incorporates two intermediate exits (Porte Narbonnaise and Tour des Prisons), allowing visitors to tailor their visit to their requirements. The project also includes facilities for the mentally and hearing impaired, underlining its commitment to inclusive tourism. The tour takes in the wall paths and climbs the towers, involving many steps. A good level of fitness is recommended to take full advantage of this exceptional experience.



10 An enhanced visitor experience on the ramparts of Carcassonne

In summer 2025, the Centre des monuments nationaux will be rolling out new tools to enhance the visitor experience at the city de Carcassonne. A **revamped tour route** will include interpretation tools (a film, a model, cultural signage) and new directional signage. The newly opened rampart walk will be accompanied by explanatory lecterns, covering key themes such as the church of Saint-Sernin, the baileys, water in the Cité and the Tour de la Vade.

At the same time, an immersive virtual reality experience entitled *Les Derniers Remparts, Carcassonne 1304* will be launched in April 2025, in partnership with Excurio. Using a VR headset, participants will be able to move around freely in a faithful reconstruction of 14th-century Carcassonne, interacting with historical figures and helping to defend the ramparts.

Finally, a brand-new audio tour (headset), designed with author Jean-Christophe Piot, will plunge visitors into the history of Carcassonne through a dynamic and humorous narrative inspired by the podcast format. The tour will shed new light on the medieval city, deconstructing pre-conceived ideas and bringing the past closer to the present.



Cité de Carcassonne, west ramparts, the Aude rise © Colombe Clier/ Centre des monuments nationaux

5th centenary of the Château of Azay-le-Rideau

Summer 2025

A multi-disciplinary programme to celebrate the 5th centenary of the Renaissance château and bring everyone together: exhibitions, theatre, Shows and an illumination of the castle will all punctuate a summer of festivities!

From 28 June to 2 November 2025, Volker Hermès revisits the historical portraits of the Marquis de Biencourt with a contemporary and playful twist. His works are integrated into the paintings in the permanent collection, evoking the inhabitants of Azay whose faces have been lost over the centuries. An original encounter between the past and modern art.

In summer, discover an artistic work that combines tradition and innovation: glass light. Thanks to a glass slide projected by an intense light source, a poetic light painting sublimates the architecture of the château, offering a unique visual experience.



Château d'Azay-le-Rideau



2026: The reopening of the Palais du Tau, future Museum of the Coronations of the French kings

State-owned since 1905, the palace was damaged during the First World War, and in 1972 became the museum of the cathedral and the coronations of the French kings.

In 2022, the CMN launched an ambitious €36 million restoration and redevelopment project. Under the artistic direction of Claude d'Anthenaïse, the aim is to renew the scenography around the royal coronations, key moments in the history of France and Reims.

The museum will showcase exceptional treasures such as Charlemagne's talisman, the coronation chalice, the Holy Ampoule and Charles X's royal cloak. An immersive scenography will immerse visitors in the emotion of the coronations, complemented by interactive and educational features.

In 2026, the Palais du Tau will reopen its doors to the public. In the meantime, discover the future Museum of Coronations of the French kings here: <https://www.palais-du-tau.fr/decouvrir/le-futur-musee-des-sacres>



13 **BIENS VENUS! With the Centre national des arts plastiques**

A dialogue between contemporary art and national monuments

In 2025, the Centre des monuments nationaux and the Centre national des arts plastiques (CNAP) are joining forces to offer the public the experience of a dialogue between heritage and contemporary creation at 7 of the network's monuments throughout France. The emblematic works from the CNAP collection chosen for this project, entitled Biens venus!, stand out for the special relationship they have with the history and architecture of the sites that host them. This encounter invites the public to (re)discover the monuments through a sensitive and poetic artistic approach.

This operation is a continuation of the long-standing links that have united the CMN and the CNAP for many years, one of the most emblematic of which is the Château of Oiron and its contemporary collection designed for the site. This collaboration, which will be renewed in 2025, will enable the two institutions to combine their expertise and skills to offer a powerful programme that will be seen throughout the country for a large part of the year, while at the same time highlighting the richness and diversity of their missions, which are so essential to heritage, art and culture.

The 7 emblematic national monuments that will host works from the CNAP collection from spring 2025 are: the Château of Cadillac, the Towers of La Rochelle, the Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel, the Château of Pierrefonds, the Château of Châteaudun, the Hôtel de la Marine and the Château of Oiron.



Interior Natures exhibition at the Villa Savoye, Miss Blanche armchair by Shiro Kuramata © Benjamin Gavaudo - CMN



Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel: Cildo Meireles

Marulho (1991-1997), a major work by **Cildo Meireles**, will find a unique space for activation in the majestic refectory of the Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey. The installation will offer a sensory and poetic experience, echoing the history, maritime environment and spirituality of Mont-Saint-Michel.

This unprecedented encounter will celebrate **the Brazilian season in France**, by associating one of Brazil's greatest contemporary artists with one of France's most visited monuments.



[Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey](#)



10th anniversary of the public opening of Villa Cavrois (Lille/Croix)

13 and 14 June 2025

In 2025, Villa Cavrois will be celebrating three anniversaries: the 10th anniversary of its opening to the public after restoration, 80 years since the death of its architect, Robert Mallet-Stevens, and 100 years since the International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts.

In addition to the '1925 Legacy' exhibition presented in partnership with the *Manufactures nationales - Sèvres & Mobilier national* from 13 May to 14 September 2025, a festive weekend will be organised on 13 and 14 June. On the programme: entertainment from the Ballet du Nord, tours, actions and participative workshops, dance, concerts...

Detailed programme to follow at www.villa-cavrois.fr/en



Villa Kérylos © Colombe Clier / Centre des monuments nationaux

2025

Cultural programming

Colour speaks all languages. Selected works from the Al Thani Collection

Hôtel de la Marine, from 3 October 2024 to 5 October 2025

From **Autumn 2024**, the **Hôtel de la Marine** will host a temporary exhibition exploring the use and interpretation of **colour** in art across different civilizations. Featuring **80 works** from **The Al Thani Collection**, many displayed at this venue for the first time, the exhibition spans **five continents** and covers a vast timeline from the **Neolithic period to the 21st century**.

Organized into **six sections—black, white, red, yellow, blue, and green**—the exhibition showcases a diverse array of objects, including **sculptures, ceramics, textiles, engravings, and objets d'art**.

Highlights include a **Fang-Betsi reliquary sculpture (black)**, a **Roman marble piece (white)**, a **Mughal hookah base (red)**, an **Egyptian inlay (blue)**, an **Olmec jade axe (green)**, and the **Saint Louis Reliquary (yellow)**.

Through this classification, visitors can explore **materials, techniques, and symbolic meanings** associated with colour across cultures. The exhibition, which takes its title from a quote by **Joseph Addison (1676 - 1719)**, will be displayed in **Gallery 3**, while **Renaissance masterpieces** from the collection remain in **Galleries 1, 2, and 4**.



View of the exhibition Colour Speaks Every Language. Selected works from the AlThani Collection © The Al Thani Collection 2024. All rights reserved. Photography by Marc Domage.



L'Or du temps

Discover Gabriel Léger at Villa Kérylos, from 18 May to 21 September 2025

For several months, discover a series of new works by Gabriel Léger created especially for Villa Kérylos! These artistic proposals come face to face with Théodore Reinach's Hellenic vision. 'Shrinking the distance of centuries*', rediscovering the closeness of antiquity in the broadest sense, and thereby experiencing the malleability of time, is the singular experience that Gabriel Léger invites us to enjoy through his work.

More precisely, he is interested in the **relationship between the precarious present and the permanence of long time**, linked to the tutelary figure of the Greek Chronos.

To this end, he frequently draws on the ancient world to accentuate the confrontation between these two notions. In his work, the theme of the survival of antiquity is more a means than an end: it recalls the essential faculty of art, which possesses the strength to oppose the decay of things, offering a salutary respite from the infinite passage of time.

* Marguerite Yourcenar



Villa Kérylos © Laurent Lecat / Dist. Centre des monuments nationaux



One artist, one monument *Carte blanche* to Nicolas Daubanes

Panthéon, Autumn 2025

Following on from a series of residencies he has carried out across France at each of the ten High Places of National Remembrance, Nicolas Daubanes is bringing his memories of these places to the Panthéon through a series of works of great intensity.

From his immersion in these environments, Nicolas Daubanes has drawn fragments of landscapes, architecture and motifs, revealing their evocative power in monumental compositions. Made with iron filings and steel powder, his 'magnetised drawings' are sensitive surfaces onto which are projected both the material of the work and the memory of an event, that of the artist as well as that of the beholder.

The creations by Nicolas Daubanes presented in the exhibition resonate directly with the memories of the Republican temple that is the Panthéon. While one was created specifically to evoke the monument, others recall the passage of Great Men through some of the High Places. For example, the artist shows the Mont-Valérien of Missak Manouchian and his Resistance comrades, and the Montluc prison where Jean Moulin was held.



20 Treasures and secrets of writing. Manuscripts from the French National Library from the Middle Ages to the present day

Cité internationale de la langue française (Hauts-de-France) in partnership with the BnF, from 5 November 2025 to 2 March 2026

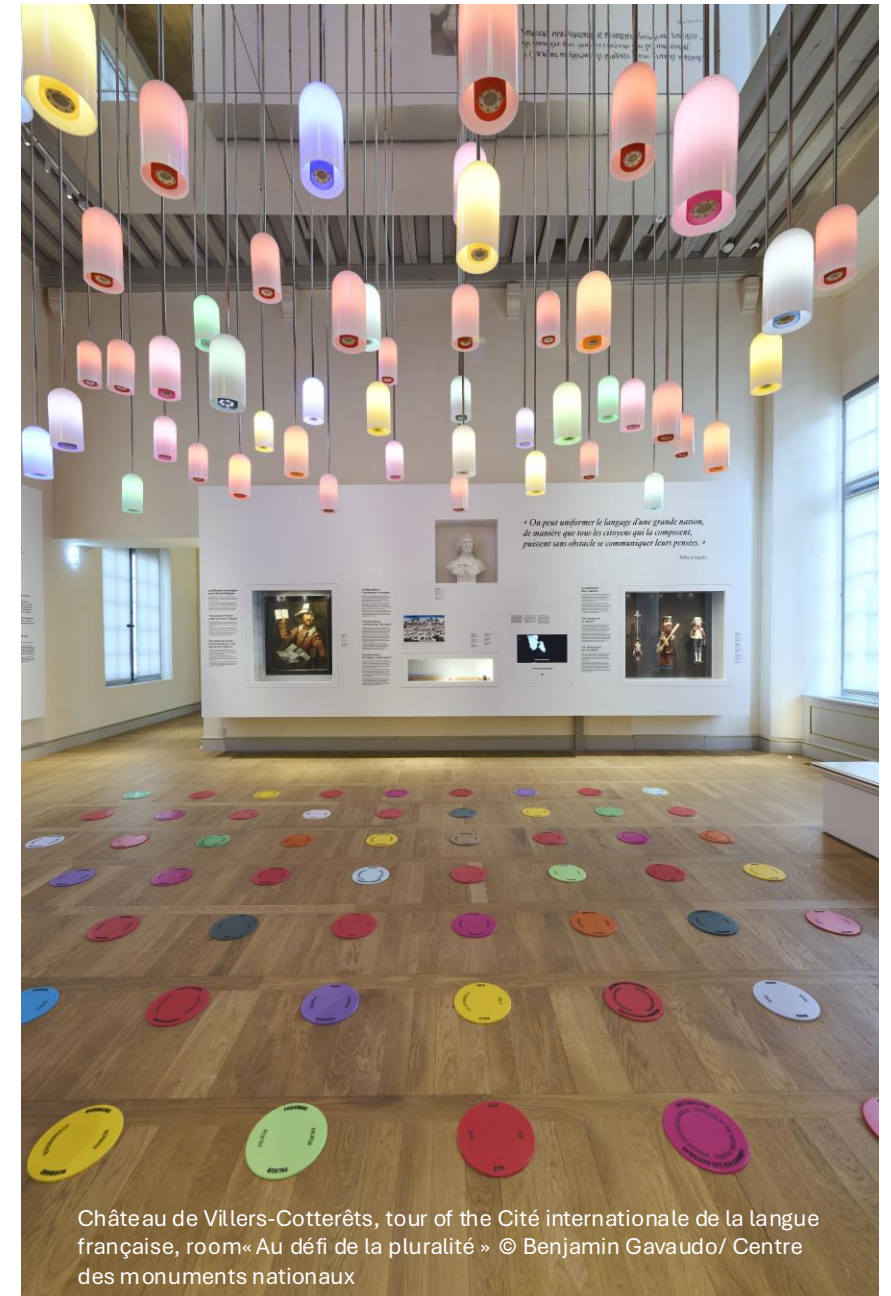
This exhibition will explore the **evolution of the French language through the history of manuscripts**. By presenting 100 exceptional documents from the collections of the BnF from the 12th century to the present day, it will highlight the diversity of media, scripts, page layouts, annotations and erasures, illustrating the singularity of the manuscript as a witness to its era.

Visitors will discover works from Chrétien de Troyes to Marguerite Yourcenar, revealing the manuscript in different forms: medieval copy, preparatory draft, intimate writing or correspondence.

Curated by Thomas Cazentre and Graziella Pastore, the exhibition is divided into five sections:

- **The medium of thought and knowledge**
- **The primary vehicle for texts in French**
- **The literary draft**
- **A place for expressing intimacy**
- **Correspondence**

Through these themes, the exhibition will highlight the richness and individuality of each manuscript, a living reflection of the use and transformation of the French language over the centuries.



Château de Villers-Cotterêts, tour of the Cité internationale de la langue française, room «Au défi de la pluralité» © Benjamin Gavaudo/ Centre des monuments nationaux



The Count of Artois, prince and patron. The youth of the last King of France

Exhibition at the Château de Maisons in partnership with the Public Establishment of the Palace, Museum and National Estate of Versailles, from 14 November 2025 to 2 March 2026

The exhibition will look back at the youth of the Comte d'Artois, the last owner of the château during the Ancien Régime and the future Charles X, from his birth to his departure into exile in 1789. The most important aspects of the Count's life will be explored through a variety of works and documents, most of which come from the collections of the Palace of Versailles, as well as from other French public and private collections.

The aim of the exhibition is to give visitors a better understanding of the Count of Artois as a figure and some of the most important aspects of his artistic legacy, such as the prince's relationship with architecture.

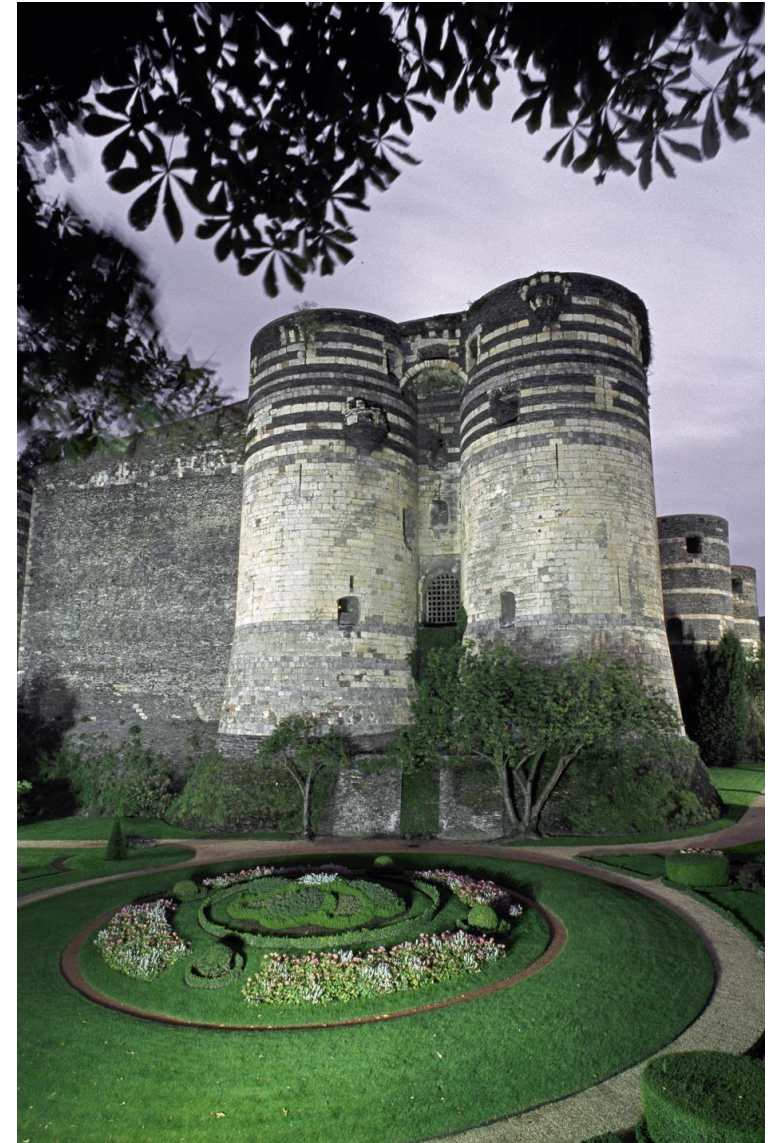


The Apocalypse and beyond

Château d'Angers national estate, from 1 March to 1 June 2025

The works, casts, drawings and facsimiles on display come from the municipal libraries of Angers and Nantes, as well as from the Université Catholique de l'Ouest. They show how the anonymous sculptors of the arches of cathedrals, Albrecht Dürer, Gustave Doré and even contemporary artists interpreted the Apocalypse. These works, which sometimes include images not found in the Angers tapestry, such as the Christ of the Last Judgement or the elderly musicians, complement the discovery of the tapestry and its extraordinary destiny up to its UNESCO listing in 2023, thanks to the efforts of city's council.

This new exhibition runs in parallel with *Apocalypse, Hier et demain*, an exhibition at the Bibliothèque nationale de France (4 February-8 June 2025) where three fragments of the Angers tapestry, usually kept in storage, are on display.



Angers castle © Philippe Berthé / Centre des monuments nationaux





2025

**5th centenary of the
Château d'Azay-le-Rideau**

Hidden Portraits - Volker Hermes

From the 28th of June until the 2nd of October 2025

The exhibition features some thirty works by the German artist Volker Hermes.

In a mischievous nod to the large collection of portraits belonging to the Marquis de Biencourt, who owned the château in the 19th century, the photo-montage works by Volker Hermes are integrated with the historical paintings in the château's permanent collection.

A quirky encounter between the past and contemporary art through the faces of men and women who have lived through history.



Musical performance - *La Roulotte d'Arlequin* - Douce Mémoire

11th of July 2025

Douce Mémoire presents a Renaissance musical loosely inspired by the madrigal comedy *La Pazzia Senile* by Adriano Banchieri (1603) and Italian songs from the 1960s.

La Roulotte d'Arlequin will be performed in the main courtyard of the Château, complete with its trestles and sails. It will be joyful and irreverent and speak to our collective imagination of the itinerancy of theatre and opera troupes in the 16th and 21st centuries, the popular Italian songs of the 60s, the *Dolce Vita*, the rediscovery of *commedia dell'arte* and the Renaissance.

It will also illustrate the extent to which Italian popular music, whether it dates from 1560 or 1960, has the same immediate charm, the same energy and the same emotion.



Aerial view of the Château of Azay-le-Rideau and its water mirror, south facade © Christian Gluckman / Centre des monuments nationaux

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Immersive performance - *La Conjuraton d'Azay* - Le Théâtre des Minuits

From 16 July to 23 August 2025, Wednesday to Saturday evenings

On 27 June 1619, the Marquise Françoise de Lansac welcomed into her home at the Château of Azay-le-Rideau the man who had shared her childhood games, Louis XIII, King of France and Navarre.

From the kitchens to the attics, stewards, cooks, head chefs, valets and linen maids were busy preparing the finest of celebrations for the monarch.

Meanwhile, in the Great Hall, Father Athanase Kircher was presenting his new invention, a magic lantern, to Charles de la Vieuville. Captain of the King's bodyguards, he hastily recruited new members to his company, as rumour had it that the intriguing Duc d'Epéron, favourite of the disgraced Queen Mother, was trying to take young Louis' life.

The new recruits to the King's guard would have their work cut out to guarantee his safety and ensure that the festivities were a success.

Visitors are invited to follow the protagonists of this story, brought to life by actors from the Théâtre des Minuits and local residents from Azay-le-Rideau and the surrounding area, who volunteer their time for each performance.



Château d'Azay-le-Rideau, Biencourt salon © Thomas Jorion / Centre des monuments nationaux



A night-time stroll- Glass light

From 16 July to 23 August 2025, Wednesday to Saturday, from 9.30pm until 11 pm

While the façades of the château are illuminated by Lumière de Verre visitors will stroll through the park lanes lit by torches and lanterns to the sound of Baroque and Renaissance music.

In contrast to the all-digital, virtual world and constant movement, glass light is an artistic innovation with a long history of image projection and glasswork.

It is created by diffusing of a glass slide through a lens from a high-intensity light source.

By the company Lumière de verre



[Château d'Azay-le-Rideau](#)



Château de Pierrefonds © Christian Gluckman/ Centre des monuments nationaux

2025

Major restoration projects

On-going restoration of the stained glass windows of the Sainte-Chapelle



The iconographic programme of the Sainte-Chapelle, commissioned by Louis IX under the influence of Blanche of Castile, asserts the political and spiritual power of the king through two major cycles: the Old Testament in the nave, establishing a continuity between the biblical and Capetian kings, and a prophetic cycle in the apse, depicting the life of Christ and his role as a spiritual guide.

Following the restoration of the porch in 2022-2023, a new phase of work began in January 2025 to restore the Ezekiel bay, one of the last choir bays not to have been restored recently. The aim of the work is to preserve the medieval elements and the 19th-century additions.

The stained glass windows, set within a network of lead and a metal frame embedded in the carved stone, show various levels of deterioration, including pollution deposits, cracks and structural damage. Restoration will involve cleaning, consolidation in the workshop and the installation of a thermoformed glass protection system, as was the case with the bays restored in 2012-2014. The stone facings, capitals and gargoyles will also be restored to ensure the long-term survival of this exceptional ensemble.

Reinforcing the Saint-Nicolas Tower in La Rochelle



Stabilisation work is currently under way on the Saint-Nicolas Tower, in response to the development of cracks and structural movements. Built in the 14th century on marshy ground, the tower has been subject to subsidence, requiring closer monitoring since 2019.

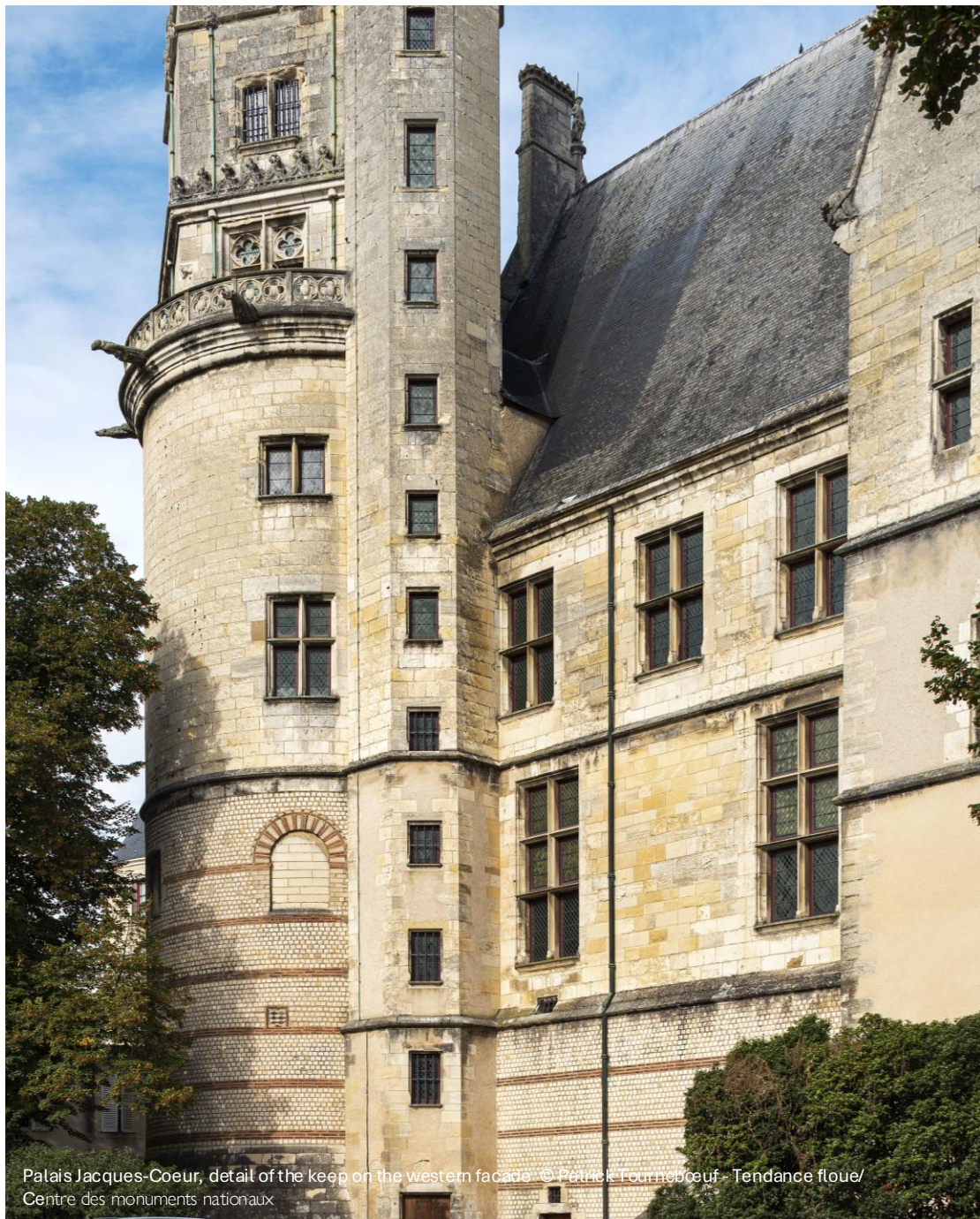
Geotechnical studies carried out in 2024 revealed an acceleration in movements, requiring urgent action to preserve the monument. The project will involve installing tie rods, strapping and a metal corset to limit deformation. Other work will include repointing the masonry and internal reinforcement with lime and fibreglass.

31 Restoration of the décor in the Salle des Preuses of the Château of Pierrefonds

The château of Pierrefonds, rebuilt under Napoleon III and inspired by the research of Eugène Viollet-le-Duc, benefited from a major restoration of the Preuses wing between 2022 and 2024. The work involved roofing, insulation, waterproofing and restoration of the façades and painted decor.

The completion of these works paves the way for a new campaign to restore the painted decor of the Salle des Preuses, a vast ballroom of monumental proportions. The restoration work will focus on the walls, fireplace and polychrome sculptures, with meticulous consolidation and restoration of the original colours using the techniques of Viollet-le-Duc.





Palais Jacques-Coeur, detail of the keep on the western facade - © Patrice Fournebœuf - Tendances floues / Centre des monuments nationaux

Restoration of the Causeway tower of the Palais Jacques Coeur

The Palais Jacques Cœur, a jewel of medieval civil architecture, incorporates older remains, that include the Tour de la Chaussée ("Causeway Tower"), which is marked by a wide variety of facings due to successive restorations. Its worrying condition is the result of faulty roof design and poor rainwater management, leading to seepage and erosion of the softer stones.

The works planned from February 2025 to the summer of 2026 are aimed at restoring the roof, framework and downpipes to make the building watertight. Restoration of the sculpted facings and woodwork, as well as consolidation of the interior structures, will complete this major operation. The Dassault Group is contributing €300,000 to the restoration.





Cathedral Basilica of Saint-Denis, visitor looking up at the vaulted ceiling while listening to an audio guide © Benjamin Gavaudo / Centre des monuments nationaux

2025

New and improved
visitor circuits



Pantheon, dome © Benjamin Gavaudo/ Centre des monuments nationaux

A new audio tour at the Panthéon

Since January 2025, visitors have been able to immerse themselves in the history of the monument using **new headsets**. How did the Panthéon come into being? What values are conveyed by the personalities honoured there? Guided by the voice of a narrator and interviews with historians Dominique Massounie and Patrick Garcia, visitors can explore the changes that led the former church of Sainte-Geneviève to become the temple of the Nation's Great Men. In the crypt, a selection of sound archives allows them to hear the voices of these Great Men and their contemporaries.

The tour offers a fresh take on the traditional audioguide and a **new approach to audio mediation at the monument**. Its editorial line is **inspired by current podcast listening practices**, offering an embodied, polyphonic immersion in the highlights of the Pantheon's history. Enriched with archives and numerous personal accounts, the headsets are supported by a themed sound environment to punctuate the visit and reinforce the narrative.

The visitor experience has also been enhanced through introduction of new equipment. Thanks to the semi-automatic release, **visitors can keep their hands free to immerse themselves in the richness of the story**. For this production, the Centre des monuments nationaux has teamed up with Alto, a company specialising in the production and installation of audio-visual aids, and producer Jean Dubrel.

Headset price: €4

Languages: French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Japanese, Chinese, Korean

The treasures of Cluny

Spring 2025



Cluny Abbey, abbey church seen from the main entrance ©Patrick Tournebœuf - Tendances floues/ Centre des monuments nationaux

In September 2017, archaeological digs carried out by Lyon 2 University - CNRS revealed an exceptional monetary treasure in the gardens of Cluny Abbey: more than 2,200 silver denarii and obols and 21 gold dinars. Discovered on the site of the former infirmary, which was destroyed in the 18th century, the treasure raises questions about its ownership and burial. After restoration, a large part of the treasure will be on display in the Passage Galilée from spring 2025, enhancing the visitor circuit. The gallery's scenography will be redesigned to better integrate these historic pieces with the existing collections.

The treasure includes a leather-lined cloth purse containing Cluniac denarii, a sigillary ring and gold dinars minted in North Africa and al-Andalus between 1120 and 1144, bearing witness to exchanges between Cluny and the Muslim world. These rare coins confirm Cluny's importance in medieval economic networks.

The exhibition will also feature the crosier of Saint Hugues (abbot from 1049 to 1109) and its shrine, alongside the reliquaries of saints deposited in 2019 by the DRAC Auvergne. A new presentation will explain the discovery and study of the treasure, with enhanced conservation and security measures.

This unique treasure illustrates the influence of Cluny and its role in medieval monetary exchange, offering visitors a fascinating insight into its history.

Improved visitor circuit of the Basilica cathedral of Saint-Denis

Spring 2025



Cathedral Basilica of Saint-Denis, blurred visitors looking at a recumbent corpse coloured by the light filtering through the stained glass windows © Benjamin Gavaudo/ Centre des monuments nationaux

From spring 2025, the Basilica of Saint-Denis will be embarking on a major project to rebuild its north spire, which has been missing since 1846. This historic project, initiated in 2016 by the association *Suivez la Flèche*, will offer visitors a unique behind-the-scenes look at the restoration work. From September 2025, a single ticket will grant access to the royal necropolis and the Spire Factory, an interactive space where visitors can discover the work of the craftsmen and the technological innovations used.

At the same time, a new visitor circuit will be set up within the necropolis. Organised around the themes of architecture, history and the necropolis, it will incorporate multimedia devices, tactile aids and an enhanced interpretation area. The museography has been designed to guide visitors and make the site more accessible, with touch-sensitive models and content tailored to different audiences.

Particular attention will be paid to showcasing the recumbent figures, with a new scenography combining aesthetics and conservation. Black steel elements will protect the works of art and make them easier to understand. This ambitious project will restore some of the basilica's original architecture while modernising the visitor experience.



Public opening of the keep of the fortress of Salses

Summer 2025

From summer 2025, the Hommage Tower at Salses fortress will be open to the public, offering a new perspective on this most protected area of the site. Once the residence of the governor and a place to retreat to in the event of a siege, the tower was also used as a prison under Louis XIV before being converted into a gunpowder magazine in 1817.

The tour will begin on the parade ground and pass through the various levels of the tower, allowing visitors to explore the governor's chamber, provisions store and main rooms. Visitors will be able to move around more easily thanks to a safe layout with stairs, handrails and adapted lighting.

The work, scheduled for to take place in spring 2025, will improve the monument's accessibility and signage, offering visitors an immersive experience at the heart of the fortress's defensive architecture.



Fortress of Salses





2025

A new range of services

A new restaurant and shop at the Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel



The Centre des monuments nationaux has opened a new restaurant in the Logis Sainte-Catherine at Mont-Saint-Michel, in collaboration with the the Mauviel 1830 factory company, in order to improve the welcome for visitors by creating an accessible, high-quality catering offering that is available for much of the day. The restaurant's culinary signature has been designed by chef Jean Imbert in line with the values shared by all those involved, pushing the boundaries of creativity and innovation while remaining faithful to tradition.

The menu gives pride of place to local produce, offering traditional French cuisine based on key ingredients from Normandy and Brittany and from both land and sea.

In spring, the Centre des monuments nationaux will also be opening the doors of a new off-site shop at the heart of Mont-Saint-Michel, in the Tour Boucle. This is the second off-site shop to be opened by the CMN, following the success of the one at Carcassonne castle and ramparts. A wide range of products will be on offer to visitors, focusing on themes relating to Mont-Saint-Michel and its surroundings (history, nature, region), such as textiles (clothing, cookery and tableware), crockery, home decor, delicatessen, coffee-table books (Éditions du patrimoine, tourist guides, fine books), games and local produce.





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For detailed information on the monuments in the CMN network, download our 2025 sales manual.

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Photo library

The CMN's Images Division, the *Pôle Images*, has a diverse collection of over 500,000 photographic documents. Regularly updated, the photo library is of interest to professionals as well as private individuals, art historians, and architects eager to discover a wealth of architectural iconography and images from prehistoric sites to the present. It also offers the chance to see photographs of the collections held by the monuments.

 [Access to the photo library](#)

Topic sheets

Take a fresh look at our monuments with our topic sheets and piece together a central theme for your future article or trip!

- Monuments on the waterside
- Parks and gardens
- City trips
- Family outings
- 1930s villas
- Cycle touring
- Wine tourism
- ... and much more



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Château of Fougères-sur-Bièvre © Léonard de Serres / Centre des monuments nationaux

More to the CMN

Venue hire

The Centre des monuments nationaux has made its extraordinary locations available for private hire, with a unique range of prestigious heritage venues (châteaux, abbeys, fortresses, gardens, etc.) from which to choose the perfect location for any event, be it a dinner, a cocktail reception, a wedding reception, a performance or concert, a conference or seminar, or a cultural event.

The venues available for hire range in capacity from 50 to 3,000 people, depending on the venue.

A special private hire brochure is available. Don't hesitate to contact us and request a copy: location@monuments-nationaux.fr

This will be sent to you free of charge on request.



Hôtel de la Marine – Salons Rue Royale © Cindy Chao



More to the CMN

Brand policy

To boost the visibility and renown of its monuments both nationally and internationally. Through spin-off products in particular, this policy will help promote the network's monuments while protecting their image. The CMN is proud to present its first partnerships with Saint-James, Garnier-Thiebaut, and Marius Fabre.

The *Éditions du Patrimoine*

The *Éditions du Patrimoine* publications report on the latest research findings in movable and immovable heritage, architecture, art history and archaeology. They also disseminate knowledge of heritage to a broad audience. Thanks to some fifteen collections – guides, illustrated books, theoretical texts, scientific publications –, they reach both amateurs and professionals, students and researchers, but also children and specific audiences.

<https://www.editions-du-patrimoine.fr/>



More to the CMN

Our gift and book shops

Our gift and book shops will take you on a journey into the rich history of our regions through our monuments.

You'll find a wide range of books on offer, including some from *Editions du Patrimoine*.

You'll also find a large number of original products that can't be found anywhere else, thanks to the CMN's relationships with various partners renowned for their superior expertise and award the *Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant* (Living Heritage Company) label.

Each of our gift and book shops stocks a different range of products to complement your visit to the monument in question.

If you run out of the time on the day, you can also find us at www.boutiquedupatrimoine.fr

Your purchases help to safeguard France's heritage.




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