



Chartres

Centre Val de Loire

Capital of Eure-et Loire, the northern-most department of the region of Val de Loire. Chartres, 57 miles southwest of Paris, is best known for its massive Gothic cathedral. The city is surrounded by 3 national parks and there are several spectacular chateaux in the Loire Valley, just a short drive away.



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| 1. | Centre International du Vitrail | 6. | Chateau des Comtes du Perche |
| 2. | Chapelle Royale St-Louis | 7. | Chateau de Diane de Poitiers |
| 3. | Chartres Cathedral | 8. | Chateau de Maintenon |
| 4. | Chartres Historic Preservation Area | 9. | Grottes du Foulon |
| 5. | Chateau of Chateaudun | 10. | Maison Picassiette |

1. Centre International du Vitrail

The only center of its kind in France. The International Stained-Glass Centre, opened in 1980 to promote the study, knowledge and conservation of stained glass.



2. Chapelle Royale St-Louis

Built in 1816 as the necropolis of the Bourbon-Orleans French Royal family. Features family statuary and outstanding stained glass.



3. Chartres Cathedral

Completed in the early 13th century is a high point in French gothic art. The vast nave, porches, sculptures and 800 year old stained-glass windows, make it a masterpiece.



4. Chartres Historic Preservation Area

With its cobblestone streets and "colombage" houses, it is the sort of place where you'll love getting lost for a little while. Some houses date back to the 11th century.



5. Chateau of Chateaudon

200 feet above the Loire River, features authentic elements of medieval, Gothic and Renaissance architecture. Seemingly suspended on its rocky promontory, the 12th-century "big tower" is one of France's tallest. and best conserved keeps.



6. Chateau des Comptes des Perche

Now a museum the original 10th century castle burned down in 1428. Rebuilt during the Renaissance, fell into disrepair but was restored in 1843.



7. Chateau de Diane de Poitiers

Built in the mid 16th century by King Henry II for his mistress Diane. She was used as a model for the statues "Diana, Goddess of the Hunt" and the "Nymph of Anet".



8. Chateau de Maintenon

Dating from the 13th century, gained notoriety in the 19th century as the home of the King's illegitimate children. The governess eventually married King Louis XIV.



9. Grottes Foulon

Natural caves dug for millions of years by rainwater, were inhabited since prehistoric times. A real open book on the history of the Earth,



they are the only and caves in the world where you can discover the KT layer: dating 65 million years.

10. La Maison Picassiette

The house of "millions of pieces"... because it is decorated with pieces of crockery, broken glasses, bottle caps and sort of then compiled into mosaics. Built in the 1930s and worth a visit.

