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AUBE
en Champagne

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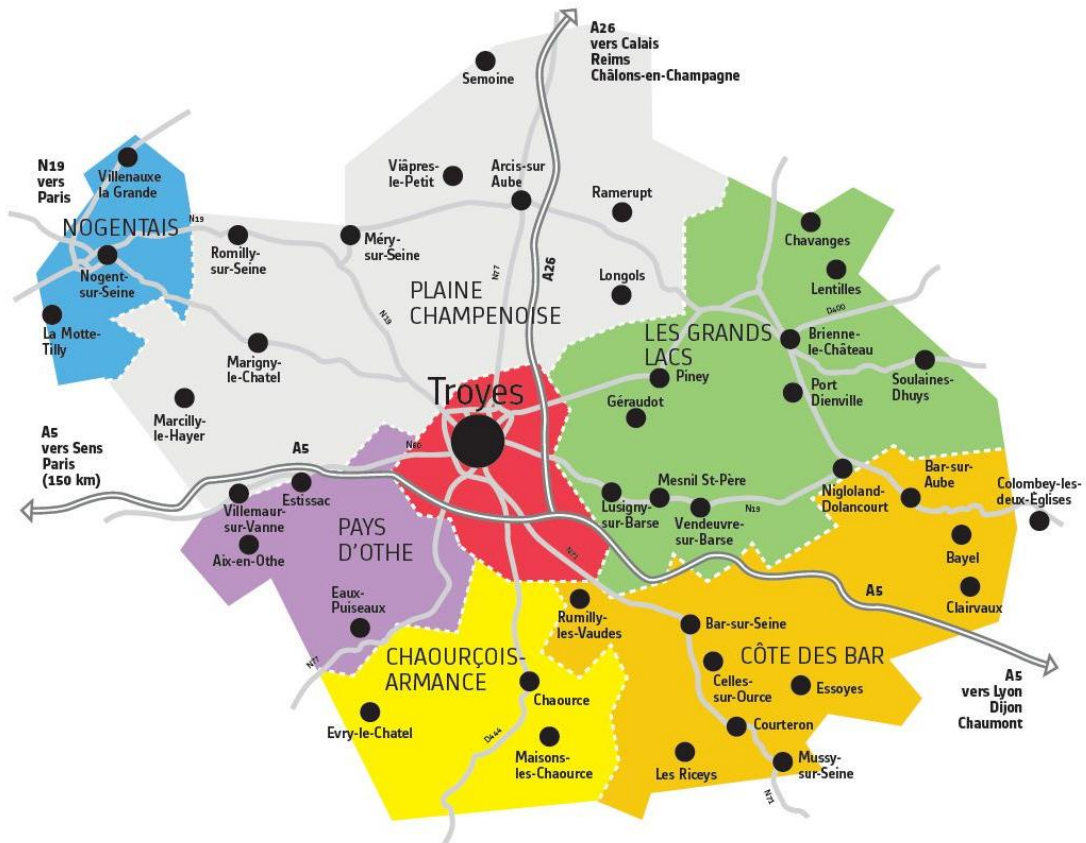
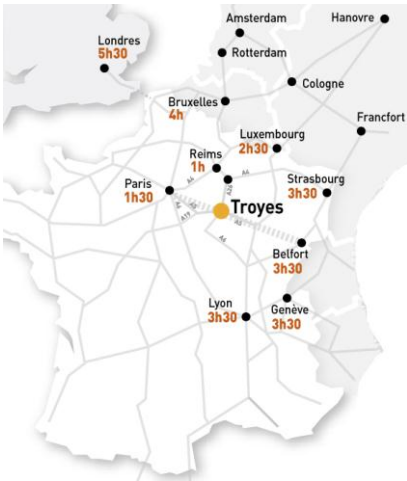
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INTRODUCTION

AUBE, A SURPRISING AND AUTHENTIC TOURIST DESTINATION

An artistic crossroads, Aube has a remarkable heritage: half-timbered churches and houses, abbeys, castles, stained-glass windows and artist and craftsmen workshops continue to enchant people as they always have. In Aube you will find a sumptuous and dense heritage, especially in the **medieval city of Troyes, the historical capital of Champagne**, classified a city of art and history. In order to promote the treasures of its territory, every year Aube develops cultural themes that reveal the unappreciated faces of its fascinating history. Accordingly, several themes have been brought to light, like the jewels of Champagne sculpture in the 16th century, the fascinating history of the **Templars who arose in Aube** and the sumptuous stained-glass windows in its numerous churches, which make **Aube the European capital of stained-glass**. 2014 was dedicated to the bicentennial commemoration of **Napoleon's France campaign** and last year the department celebrated the 900 years since the founding of the **Cistercian abbey in Clairvaux**.

The Aube vineyard covers more than 8,000 hectares and the **Côte des Bar**, predominantly planted in Pinot Noir grapes, is the most southern vineyard in Champagne. The department forms with its neighbouring departments **the destination "La Champagne"**, one of the 20 French tourist destinations of excellence. Since last July, **"Coteaux, maisons et caves de Champagne"** are now listed amongst **UNESCO's world heritage sites** in the living cultural landscapes category. This is additional recognition for the king of wines, already appreciated and recognised around the world.

Revealing a mosaic of landscapes comprised of forests, plains, orchards, vineyards and lakes, Aube is a vast playground for multiple outdoors activities. The **Orient Forest Regional Natural Park**, the **Pays d'Othe Armance** or the **Nogentais** lands are a genuine breath of fresh air for outdoor enthusiasts. The environment is one of the department's great strengths in terms of attracting tourists. Well aware of the importance of conserving this appeal, **Aube has embarked on the path of sustainable development**. It was the **first department to start an environmental labelling approach for hotels** and to be granted **the ISO 20121 norm** for the **responsible management of its events**. The vineyard and wine producers as well as the department's tourism professionals take to heart the development of sustainable tourism.

WINE TOURISM

THE GREAT HISTORY OF THE KING OF WINES

Aube's climate, its exceptional "terroir" and the passion of its wine growers gave birth to a rare wine, a golden and sparkling wine whose name is synonymous with celebration: champagne! Classified as a label of guaranteed origin (AOC) since 1927, **the Aube vineyard covers 8,015 hectares and produces nearly one quarter of the 300 million bottles of champagne sold every year around the world.** Aube has several wine growing "terroirs" including **the Butte de Montgueux** located at the edge of Troyes, **Villenauxe-la-Grande**, located in the north west backing onto the Coteaux du Sézannais, but the largest Aube "terroir" is in the south west of the department, **the Côte des Bar.**

The Côte des Bar, predominantly planted in Pinot Noir, is also the most southern Champagne vineyard, thereby providing an aromatic range that is quite specific to the champagne of this territory. **There are 564 wine growers-producers, 55 wine traders and 8 wine cooperatives and producer unions (CIVC figures 2014).** Since July 2015, **"Coteaux, maisons et Caves de Champagne"** are now listed amongst **UNESCO's world heritage sites in the living cultural landscapes category.** All Residents of Champagne raised their glasses to this recognition!



WINE GROWERS IN CHAMPAGNE: A PASSION

The most prestigious of beverages is **the fruit of an exceptional alliance between a "terroir" and know-how.**

To each his champagne, such is the current trend that the Aube producers were able to respond to. The wine growers of the Côte des Bar often produce **distinctive and characteristic champagnes**, which are the expression of the wine grower's personality and the reflection of the distinctiveness of the "terroir." Patience, perseverance and tenacity are the key qualities to delicately vinify and blend in order to produce this subtle wine.

In the intimacy of their estate, the owner wine-growers, with stars sparkling in their eyes, personalise the tastings and **recreate moments of unforgettable sharing.** Because they are often family operations, the visits and **tastings keep their authenticity and remain warm and friendly moments.**

To offer quality wine tourism experiences, the Aube wine growers participate in the national label **"Vignobles & Découvertes"**, which promotes tourism on the theme of wine and the vineyard.

On **the Champagne Tourist Route, 39 wine cellars** have joined this quality approach and offer visits and original and sparkling activities.

The wine growers of the Côte des Bar are committed to **the development of sustainable agriculture and tourism** and are involved in many labels and certifications, like **the Terra Vitis approach**, the HVE (High Value Environmental) standard, the **"Viticulture Durable en Champagne"** (Sustainable Wine-growing in Champagne), **the Organic Agriculture label** and even **biodynamic agriculture.**





SPARKLE WITH PLEASURE ON THE CHAMPAGNE TOURIST ROUTE

Fans of authenticity and delicate bubbles, you will like the Côte des Bar and its Champagne Tourist Route! With its wine-growing "terroirs", picturesque villages, exceptional vineyard, vaulted cellars and typical cadoles (wine-grower stone sheds), you will discover a unique region full of spirit. Along an approximately **220 km marked route** around Bar-sur-Aube and Bar-sur-Seine, the Champagne Tourist Route leads to **friendly and hospitable partner wine growers**, who talk about their passion for the vineyard and their knowledge to make each visit original and unforgettable... Between **green hills and valleys, rivers and forests, superb panoramas, small church steeples and pretty villages**, this route takes you on an initiation trip that will reveal the secrets of this prestigious and inimitable beverage. The itinerary takes you from historic discovery to artistic discovery at many must see sites like **the village of Essoyes and the history of the famous painter, Pierre-**

Auguste Renoir, the Cistercian Abbey of Clairvaux, which celebrated its 900 years in 2015 or the towns of Bar-sur-Aube and Bar-sur-Seine.

Les Riceys, the largest wine-growing village in Champagne, has won many awards.

Its vineyard of nearly 900 hectares makes it the **largest terroir in Champagne** and the only territory with 3 AOC: champagne, coteaux-champenois and the famous rosé des Riceys, a unique and prestigious champagne production.

Over the months, the picturesque villages on the Champagne Tourist Route come alive: Saint-Vincent celebration, concerts and exhibits in the wine cellars, Route du Champagne en fête (Champagne Route celebration), grape pickers for a day operation or Global Champagne Day... to experience unforgettable moments!

Out of the ordinary and authentic experiences...

According to your desires, styles and passions, champagne can be discovered in all kinds of activities:

- Champagne dinner on a hot-air balloon
- Discovery of the "terroir" and the work in the vineyard
- Walks led by wine growers in the vineyard, in an electric car
- Fly over the Côte des Bar in a small plane with a wine grower pilot
- Promenade by foot, on a horse, electric bicycle or Segway® in the vineyards
- Brunch at the estate, lunches with local terroir products or even a sparkling picnic in the heart of the vineyard
- Experience being a grape picker for a day
- Day of golf and champagne

The wine grower spirit, from the vineyard to the cellar...

Throughout the year, the wine growers offer wine-tasting visits and initiation courses, including:

- Visits and tastings with commentary
- Tastings of still wines, reserve wines and old vintages
- Tastings with food/champagne combinations
- Tastings of famous name vintages
- Discovery of the champagne method based on the seasons
- Discovery of aromas and vintages in the form of games
- Demonstration of blending and dosing
- Recognition of aromas and comparison tastings
- Oenological workshops on still wines and the magic of bubbles

Find all the activities and workshops at:

www.aube-champagne.com



LOCAL KNOW-HOW



AUBE TRIANGLE: TELLURIAN-TERROIR-TRADITION

In the Tellurian-Terroir-Tradition category, **Aube inhabitants are very attached to local know-how and their culinary heritage.** All fans of rustic and refined cuisine will be delighted by the quality of Aube gastronomy and the variety of its specialities!

It's impossible to ignore champagne because it is perfectly aligned with the 3 Ts. You will discover that **champagne goes perfectly with Aube cuisine.** **Brienne sauerkraut** cooked with champagne or the **Troyes andouillette** sausage with champagne sauce are Aube specialities you will find on many local menus. There are also many explosive combinations like champagne and chocolate, straight from the shops of local chocolate makers, like **Pascal Caffet, elected meilleur ouvrier (best worker) of France and world champion dessert maker.**

Another emblematic wine of Aube, **the rosé des Riceys, a unique and prestigious Champagne production,** this still wine is produced with pinot noir grapes from steep, well-exposed hillsides. Harvested traditionally, the wine is only produced in sunny years. Fans understandably rate it among the best rosés of France. Legend says that this wine was the preferred wine of king Louis XIV, who discovered it at his Palace of Versailles thanks to the diggers from Les Riceys.

The Pays d'Othe, a favourite "terroir" for the production of cider, is home to ten producers. This naturally sparkling farm-produced cider, neither pasteurised nor sterilised, is still produced in the purest tradition. Some producers have even established "refuge orchards" to save the more than 300 ancient varieties of apples. Each year in September you can discover the traditional-style press.

Distilled since 1840, Prunelle de Troyes, a liqueur at 40°, is produced from sloe berry stones. It is

made in the distillery of the Cellier Saint Pierre, facing the cathedral of Troyes, and obtained a gold medal at the universal exhibition of Paris in 1900.

Chaource, a pretty village located at the source of the Armanche river, is known for its ladled **cow's milk cheese, which was already produced in the Middle Ages.** Classified as a Label of Guaranteed Origin (AOC), this delicious cheese can be recognised by its bloomy rind and soft creamy centre, which is also used to prepare local recipes.

L'andouillette 5 A (Association Amicale des Amateurs d'Andouillettes Authentiques) (The Friendly Club of Lovers of Authentic Andouillette) pays tribute to the pork butcher tradition in Troyes, appreciated for ages by Great men: Louis II, the Duke of Guise, Louis XIV, Napoleon... As required by tradition, the 5 A is "prepared by hand."

Are you looking for a fine dining locale where you can discover the cuisine of Aube's great chefs? Discover the refinement of **"Distinguished Tables."** Selected by culinary experts, these recognised gastronomic tables raise fine dining to its **highest level of excellence to ensure you enjoy a unique experience:** the Hotel-Restaurant "Beau Rivage" in Nogent-sur-Seine and "Auberge du Lac" in Mesnil-Saint-Père.

Ambassadors of their region, multi-service relays and cultural life settings, the **"Bistrots de Pays"** are all this and lots more. The "Bistrots de Pays" of the Pays d'Othe et d'Armanche are part of the local heritage and actively participate in a quality approach that promotes the **many cultural events, tourist attractions and gastronomic riches** of the Pays d'Othe et d'Armanche.

AUBE ARTISTS AND CRAFTSMEN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Aube en Champagne is **the vault for artistic know-how and talents**. By travelling the streets of Troyes, the voyager revisits medieval history. **Troyes' museum of modern art** is one of the largest and most beautiful in the French provinces. Its collections are from a donation from Pierre and Denyse Levy, great lovers of art.

It houses a remarkable selection of paintings, sculptures, drawings, glassware and ceramics, providing a singular panorama of major currents in French art, between 1850 and 1960. It is set in the former episcopal palace, next to the cathedral. Located across the road from the cathedral, the former Saint Loup abbey houses two museums: **the museum of fine arts and archaeology and the museum of natural history**.

From the Troyes Cathedral to the rural churches, discover **a unique collection of stained-glass windows in Europe!** No other region offers such abundance, such quality and such density. Spread over some 200 churches, its **9,000 m2 of classified stained-glass windows** offer a complete panorama of the stained-glass art from the 12th to the 21st century with an exceptional representation of the Beautiful 18th Century. **The stained-glass route** is an invitation to discover 50 churches selected for their remarkable stained-glass windows. Several stained-glass interpretation centres highlight this heritage treasure.

The Cité du Vitrail, located inside **the Hotel Dieu le Comte in Troyes**, presents a permanent exhibit of "centuries of stained glass at eye level...", several temporary exhibits and initiation and awareness building workshops designed for children and adults. **The Maison du Vitrail d'Armanche** (from obscurity to light) opened its doors in July 2015. Here visitors can explore the technicality, tools, and know-how used on the churches of the Pays d'Armanche and Evry-le-Châtel.

The period, which covers the end of the 15th century to the second half of the 16th century, a period of great economic prosperity for Troyes and its region, favoured artistic production and imposed southern Champagne as one of the outstanding regional artistic centres in France. Through its national and international reach, the exhibit "The Beautiful 16th century: sculpture masterpieces in Champagne" made Aube known for **is unique collection of 16th century sculptures**. **The Museum of Vauluisant**, located in one of the most beautiful stone Renaissance buildings of the 16th century in Troyes, houses a remarkable collection of painted panels, statues and stained-glass windows that illustrate the subtle transition from the Gothic aesthetic at its height to the emerging and more precious aesthetic of the Renaissance.



The *compagnons du devoir et du tour de France* (French association of craftsmen and artisans) remains well established in Troyes, where its presence has been attested since 1419. In 1974 they created **the Maison de l'Outil et de la Pensée Ouvrière (Tools and Trade Museum)** in the Hotel de Mauroy, a magnificent building erected during the Renaissance. This museum, unique in France, presents a **fabulous collection of hand-shaping tools** (wood, iron, leather and stone) dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The Maison de l'Outil et de la Pensée Ouvrière showcases past and present trades for everyone who is interested in craft trades and industrial technologies, in history as well as in trades.

The Cristallerie Royale de Champagne in Bayel perpetuates the tradition of master glass-makers through the crystal museum. Installed in three small worker houses, it presents the history of glass and crystal since Antiquity, their manufacturing process and the different decoration techniques.

The museum has a **collection of crystal specimens made by the Best Labourers of France** and offers **blowing demonstrations**.

The hosiery trade is another know-how that continues in Aube. Aube inhabitants have left their mark, making significant contributions to the worldwide reputation of French textiles. In the 1770s, the department had more than 2,000 looms. The sector continued to grow, expanding production to bonnets, stockings, socks, undergarments and gloves. **The museum of Vauluisant** in Troyes presents the history of production and fashions with a collection of 5,000 items and **the living museum of hosiery in Romilly-sur-Seine** offers demonstrations on how to use looms.

Today, **many artists and craftsmen open their doors to visitors or put on workshops** to discover the different know-hows: **pottery, ceramics, tile kilns, manufacture of wooden pens, knives moulded on a vine stock, umbrellas, weather vanes, etc.**



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

With its **great lakes, the Seine River, its plains, forests and vineyard**, the environment is one of the department's great advantages in terms of tourist appeal. Aube invites you to come and discover its **natural riches** and savour an **invigorating cocktail of nature and culture!**

The **Orient Forest Regional Natural Park**, a vast area covering 70,000 hectares with a varied landscape, is a breath of fresh air in the heart of Aube. People who like outdoor activities will be won over by its forests, its three lakes, its beaches and its remarkable ecological richness. Further to the west, **the Chaource region, the Pays d'Othe and the Val d'Armance** offer visitors a natural environment that lends itself to relaxation and outdoor leisure activities like walks in the forest, bucolic valleys and countless orchards.

AUBE ALPHABET OF NATURE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

A...Animal Observation Park:

Located on an 89 hectare peninsula of the Orient Lake, the **Espace Faune** lets you discover mammals living in the forests of yesterday and today: deer, roe deer, wild boars, tarpan, auroch, elk and bison. Living in semi-captivity in their natural milieu, the animals are more easily seen at the end of the day.

B...Breakfast Cruise on Orient Lake aboard the **Bateau Ivre** for a 2-hour interlude. The meal is served by "La Mangeoire" restaurant, which offers a few regional specialities.

C...Cycling: The department's cycling network is comprised of **2 greenways totalling nearly 80 km** of marked itineraries that

cross the department West to East, through Troyes up to the Orient lakes. In addition to the greenways, **24 bicycle tour loops** for all levels have been created, totalling nearly **1,500 km of itineraries** along the Orient Forest's great lakes, in the Côte des Bar's Champagne vineyard or in the Pays d'Othe.

D...Dosches

Reconstructed according to traditional 18th century techniques, it dominates the village and offers a beautiful panorama of the Orient Forest Regional Nature Park. Flour is produced in the mill. Visit the **mill and the grange aux dimes** (barn used to store tithes) and stroll through the **medieval gardens.**

Mill:

E...Equestrian outings: To visit the Orient Forest or the neighbouring Champagne vineyard, the **Belley stables** let you share a unique experience. The **Chant'Equi** equestrian centre offers the opportunity to discover the surrounding nature on horseback in the heart of the Regional Nature Park.

F...Fishing: With its protected lakes and rivers, the department offers an ideal playground for "**fishing**". In particular, Aube has developed a "hébergement pêche" label to promote a qualified selection of accommodations for fishermen located near fishing locations.

G...Gardens: Public or private, in cities or fields, historical or

contemporary, they offer a range of unexpected ambiances and promenades that vary with the seasons: **Troyes' medieval gardens, the gardens at the**

Dosches mill, the botanical garden of Marnay-sur-Seine, etc.

H...Hidden Templar treasure: To discover the history of the Templars in Aube, test **the new 5 km walking circuit** marked by several explanatory and illustrated panels in the heart of the Orient Forest, which still houses, according to legend, the Templars' treasure.

I...In water: The **four fine sand serviced beaches** in Mesnil-Saint-Père, Géraudot, Dienville and Lusigny-sur-Barse invite you to relax and bathe in the heart of the Orient Forest Regional Natural Park.

K... Kilometers: 1,700 kilometres of strides in the great outdoors. Numerous itineraries are available for hikers keen on new experiences who want to discover a palette of beautiful landscapes. After having crossed the Orient Forest Regional Nature Park, head for the Aube plain and the Seine River, the wooded valleys of the Pays d'Othe or even the plateaux sculpted by the deep valleys of the Côte des Bar vineyard.

L...Lakes: 3 lakes for all passions... **Orient Lake:** dedicated to sailing, gentle watersports and bathing, **Temple Lake:** paradise for small sails, fishermen and nature lovers and **Amance Lake:** the meeting place

for power-boaters, bathing and family leisure.

M...Microlight Flights and other aerial activities: **Hot-air balloons, parachutes, paragliders,**

gliders and small planes all take you high for a better view of Aube's changing landscapes (Orient Forest, great lakes, vineyards and villages), where you can take your own aerial photos.



N...Nigloland: One of the largest French amusement parks. Immerse yourself in four stunning worlds and find **39 attractions and shows** for young and old, as well as 8 themed restaurants. **New attraction for 2016:** the Donjon de l'Extreme, the highest rotary drop tower in the world and the Tour des Petits Fantômes (Tower of Small Ghosts).

O...Our Golfs: Golfers, Aube offers you **three golf courses for a total surface of 475 acres!** Two of them are set amidst the Orient Forest Regional Nature Park: one small

corner of paradise, just a short ways East of Troyes. The third one is located in Chaource at the Château de Cordelière, transformed into a club-house, which serves as an idyllic backdrop for the course.

P...Pedagogical Farm: In the heart of the Orient Forest and its lakes, Claudette, Alain and Vivien share with you their passion for, and love of, nature and animals at the **Marque pedagogical farm,**

where milk products are produced and workshops are held for children. In Romilly-sur-Seine, the **Béchère farm** welcomes you in the centre of the Béchère activities park.

Q...Quietness: What could be more pleasant than an outing in the great outdoors to recharge your batteries? Throughout the year the **Orient Forest Regional Nature Park** organises **theme-based outings** to introduce you to this vast area of 70,000 hectares with varied landscapes (Bird watching, walks to discover the

fauna and flora, mushroom picking, etc.).

R...Rivers and Canals: Glide along the water for peaceful getaways amongst nature. Aube offers **270 km of navigation** in canoe or kayak on the Aube and Seine rivers and the Haute Seine canal. If one takes a break from the descent for a picnic, a snack or why not a champagne tasting, there is certainly the material here for unforgettable souvenirs!

S...Scavenger hunt: This is an original, fun and instructive way to discover an Aube city or village through an exciting **treasure hunt** for young and old, on a mission to discover a hidden and always surprising heritage; to explore Troyes and Essoyes.

T...Tree Climbing: Rendez-vous at a Tarzan rope from the

Troyes city centre to **Lusigny-sur-Barse and Rouilly-Saint-Loup!** The different itineraries located in the Orient Forest Regional Natural Park offer giant Tyrolean zip lines, suspension bridges and Tarzan swings for enthusiasts of strong sensations.

U...Unusual: To fully profit from fresh air holidays, discover unusual accommodations and attempt the **Glamping experience**, to combine glamour and camping! This is what the caravans, tree houses, yurts and teepees offer in the great outdoors in Aube.

W...Wine tourism: Discover unusual wine tourism activities as you explore the Champagne vineyard differently: on a Segway, electric bicycle or small planes. Also don't miss the opportunity to experience picking grapes for a day or

enjoying a sparkling picnic, golf and champagne.

X and Y...Geocaching GPS coordinates, the 21st century treasure hunt! Using a GPS or your cellphone through medieval alleys, vineyards or picturesque villages, discover the clues and solve the riddles to experience sharing, rediscover childhood emotions and enjoy a unique experience!

Z...Zoom in on all other activities at:

www.aube-champagne.com



THOUSAND YEARS OF ART AND HISTORY



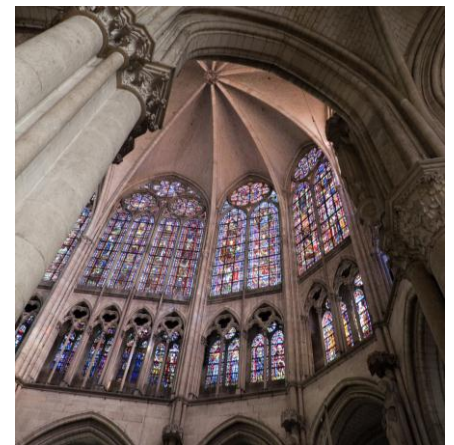
CLAIRVAUX, AN ABBEY WITH A REMARKABLE DESTINY

Hidden away in the old French forest of Val d'Absinthe, **the Clairvaux Cistercian abbey is a timeless place.** It was built here in an isolated and swampy clearing in 1115 at the order of Etienne Harding, the abbot of Citeaux. Under the drive of **Bernard, its charismatic founder**, the abbey experienced an unequalled spiritual and economic influence in medieval Occident, to the point of becoming the most influential Cistercian abbey. Affected by the 100 Years War, the abbey was rebuilt in the 18th century, when it was transformed into a veritable monastic palace. Sold as a national asset during the Revolution, it was repurchased by Napoleon in 1808 and became the largest prison in France. **Today Clairvaux retains this dual identity of abbey and prison.** In 2015, for the 9th centennial of the

abbey's founding, Aube organised a year of festivities with conferences, exhibitions, concerts and guided visits. Several Cistercian barns are still visible today like the wine cellar in Colombé-le-Sec, which now houses **Champagne Monial**. In Urville, a cellar built in the 12th century by the abbey, belongs today to **Champagne Drappier**. **The Clairvaux library** constitutes the leading medieval content and is listed in the World **Memory register by UNESCO**. The archives are kept at the Greater Troyes' media library and can be consulted on the Internet.

TEMPLARS, A HISTORY BORN IN CHAMPAGNE

The history of **the Order of the Temple is closely tied to the history of Champagne and especially that of Aube.** Founder and first master of the Temple, Hugues de Payns was a native of a village near Troyes. At the council of Troyes of 1129, the Order's rules were drafted and adopted under the auspices of Bernard de Clairvaux. Champagne provided major figures of the Order of the Temple and the crusades. In the Middle Ages, under the impetus of the counts of Champagne established in Troyes and Provins, it was the quintessential land of Orient adventurers. Several sites testify today to the history of the



Templars in Aube. The treasure of **the Saint-Pierre and Saint-Paul cathedral** of Troyes harbour the most precious liturgical objects stored by members of the clergy. **The Templars museum** in Payns recounts the life of Hugues de Payns, the saga of the Templars and the discovery of the commandery of Payns and holds more than 100 archaeological relics. **The Clairvaux abbey** is the place where the rule of life of the Order of the Temple was meditated and codified. **The Orient Forest**, in the heart of the Regional Nature Park of the same name, belongs to the mythology that was woven around the Order of the Temple. It supposedly houses its secrets and even its treasure. At its peak, the order had many possessions in this part of humid Champagne: land, woods, ponds, vineyards, villages and commanderies, especially the **Avalleur** commandery currently being restored.

THE ART OF STAINED-GLASS AND HALF-TIMBERED CHURCHES

The Beautiful 16th century in Champagne was a true golden age for sculpture and stained-glass throughout the department. The **stained-glass route** is an invitation to discover 50 churches selected for their remarkable stained-glass windows.

Aube has a unique heritage in France of half-timbered churches. Concentrated in the north-east of Aube, in the Great Lakes Country of the Orient Forest, these exceptionally charming churches, like in Lentilles, Chauffour-lès-Bailly or Longsols, bear witness to the perfection of half-timbered construction. Nowhere else in France will you find such a coherent collection. Indeed, it involves an architecture completely related to its

region. The lack of high quality stones and the abundance of forests explains that wood construction developed in this part of the department. Made simply from wood filled with clay and straw (known as wattle and daub), like the homes in the local villages, these churches will surprise you by the talent of Champagne's master carpenters who built them. **Aube's Half Timbered Church Trail**, a small journey on country roads marked by ponds and lakes, forests and prairies, will take you to villages and their original churches with unique architecture. These prestigious sanctuaries are the ultimate success of the carpenter's art, which is only found here!



LAND OF GREAT MEN

From the Middle Ages to today, Aube has revealed over the course of its history men and women who have forged its heritage and marked their generations.

If there is a man who has carried Troyes' colours high and far around the world, it is **Chrétien of Troyes**. He is believed to have "invented" the novel in the 12th century and therefore to be the first novelist in history. The Troyes author excelled in chivalry and romance novels and his work is still read and taught in classrooms today. In addition to Chrétien de Troyes, **Bernard de Clairvaux** and **Hugues de Payns**, another great figure of the Middle Ages remains profoundly attached to the history of Aube: **Rachi**. At this time Troyes was home to a large Jewish community and one of its children was to become the most famous Jew in the world. Philosopher, intellectual and grand commentator of the Bible and the Talmud, Rachi like Chrétien de Troyes participated in the prodigious growth of French literature in the Middle Ages. The memory of Rachi remains especially fresh in Troyes today, where the **European Rachi Institute** opened its doors facing the synagogue. This centre of Hebrew study and research gives courses open to everyone and is also a setting where conferences and exhibitions are held.

More recently, in the 19th century, famous artists left their imprint as testified to by many tourist sites in Aube. **Camille Claudel**, living with his family in **Nogent-sur-Seine** between 1876 and 1879, met the sculptor Alfred Boucher, who introduced him to sculpture and to Auguste Rodin. Rodin succumbed before his exceptional gifts and an artistic complicity formed between them. The two artists then began a passionate and tumultuous love. This romance marked Camille Claudel's work. A museum entirely devoted to the internationally renowned artist will present soon in Nogent-sur-Seine the largest collection in the world of the sculptor with several major works: *La Valse*, *L'Abandon*, *L'Age mûr*, *L'Implorante*, *Les Causeuses*, etc.



Pierre-Auguste Renoir, one of the great impressionist masters, lived some of his best seasons in his home in **Essoyes**, a small wine grower village where his spouse was born and where he appreciated the calm and tranquillity. Charmed by the landscapes and the villagers' way of life, he found his inspiration and models through the village's laundresses, its children and Gabrielle, who became his model. Today one can still feel the presence of Renoir at the corner of each street: his home, his workshop, the cultural centre "Du Côté des Renoir", the frescoes scattered throughout the village for your pleasure and even the cemetery, where the painter, his wife and his sons lie, is charming!



Another famous person of 19th century Aube is Napoleon the 1st. In 1779, **the young Napoleon Bonaparte, 10 years old, arrived at the Royal Military College of Brienne.** He spent five years studying to acquire the basics of his future profession as an artillery officer. Throughout his life he kept a nostalgic memory of this small town close to his heart. The France campaign brought him one last time to Brienne-le-Château at the end of January 1814, where he fought two of the last battles of his long military career: the battle of Brienne and two days later 5 km away, the battle of Rothière. Inside the compound of the former military college of Brienne-le-Château, the

Napoleon museum recounts in detail Bonaparte's youth and the France campaign of 1814.

A few years later, another famous political character appeared on the Aube scene at the **Château de Vaux.** Napoleon III's chief of police, **Charlemagne de Maupas, a child of Aube,** acquired the Vaux estate in Fouchères in 1854. He was one of the three men who organised the coup d'etat in 1851 that enabled Louise-Napoleon to become emperor of the French. The family castle in Vaux, purchased by a young manor owner in 2015, is now open to the public and serves as the backdrop for a historical police investigation in the form of trials and games for all the family.

TROYES, HISTORICAL CAPITAL OF CHAMPAGNE



THE CITY OF A THOUSAND COLOURS

Troyes, the historical capital of Champagne, invites visitors to get lost in its **maze of paved alleys bordered by half-timbered houses decorated in rich colours**. Among all the cities of France and Navarre that have kept quality half-timbered buildings, Troyes is perhaps the one that has the most extensive, densest, the most homogeneous and the best kept or best restored heritage. After having almost disappeared, this **incredible collection of half-timbered houses** inherited from the Middle Age and the Renaissance is today the pride of the Champagne city. Its picturesque style and patch-work of rainbow colours also describe the metamorphosis of a city, which still has some chapters to be written.

Troyes, "**City of Art and History**," the only city in the world whose city centre is shaped like a Champagne cork, glistens with the multiple riches handed down by its history. In addition to its exceptional collection of half-timbered houses of a thousand colours, it has 10 classified churches from Gothic to the 20th century, 2,800 classified sculptures, numerous museums and sumptuous private mansions. Sacred art is everywhere. Essential visits include **the Saint-Pierre Saint-Paul cathedral, the Saint-Urbain basilica, the Sainte-Madeleine church** and its imposing stone reed screen as well as the **Saint-Pantaléon church** with its rich statuary and wood roof.



FROM THE HOSIERY TRADE TO FACTORY OUTLET CENTRES

Recognised for its **textile activity** or "**weaving plants**" as early as the 12th century, Troyes continued to develop this industry in the 1745s with the arrival of the knitting machines. In 1770, the city had more than 40 hosiers. Thereafter, large manufacturing plants developed, setting up in Troyes and its outskirts. For more than a century, Troyes reigned as the master over the French production of knitted articles: stockings, socks and undergarments. In the 50s, the industry transformed with the appearance of new synthetic fibres. This industrialisation gave birth to plants, train stations, worker houses and bourgeois

houses, which today have become museums, cultural centres, offices or apartments.

A visitor circuit to discover Troyes shaped by industry is offered. So if big names like Devanlay-Lacoste, Coq Sportif or Petit Bateau perpetuate the tradition, the city of knitting now owes its reputation to a speciality taken straight from the golden age of textile. Today it is considered to be the **European capital of factory outlet centres**, which used to be called factory stores. Accordingly, four factory outlet centres have been developed and modernised since the 90s for the pleasure of fans of shopping and good deals.

SURPRISE AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE CENTRE OF MEETINGS

Easy access from Paris (1hr30) and from Lyon or Strasbourg (less than 4hr), Aube en Champagne is a department full of surprises and unexpected discoveries. Aube has multiple assets to attract a seminar and conference clientele, with a very rich architectural and cultural heritage, a diversified selection of places and services and a wide choice of cultural, wine tourism or unusual activities. Aube is **an eco-responsible destination at the crossroads of prestige, authenticity, the unexpected and technology, so surprise can be at the centre of your meetings!**

Its Conference Centre, inaugurated in 2014 and located in the heart of the medieval city of Troyes, is built with safe and natural materials (wood, glass, concrete and aluminium) inspired by the medieval period. This is an exemplary model of modernity and low consumption, at the leading edge of technology. The auditorium, the highlight of the Conference Centre, offers 800 numbered seats (including 17 for mobility-impaired people). Benefiting from exceptional acoustics, the auditorium is home to the Aube symphonic orchestra. It is also equipped with a modular stage, a retractable central control desk, magnetic loops for hard of hearing people, 2 simultaneous translation booths and projection onto a giant screen.

A forerunner in the implementation of **an environmental labelling system for hotels**, with a third of the hotels already labelled, Aube en Champagne Tourism and Congress is also the first congress office **certified ISO 20121** for the responsible management of its events.

Aube en Champagne provides organisers a dedicated and experienced team to organise **custom events**: personalised reception in the train station, champagne offered (in collaboration with 10 partner cellars), hotel charter with 23 participating hotels to host events (preferential hotel rates, free for the accompanying spouse in the room, breakfast and standardised general terms of sale), partners selected for the quality of their services and collaboration with local incoming agencies in order to offer a selection of varied and turnkey services.

Numerous major reception areas are available to organisers, including **the Espace Argence and Troyes expo Cube, the Best Western Golf & Spa hotel in the Orient Forest or more atypical the Western City, a reconstituted Far West village** in Barberey-Saint-Sulpice. Aube offers a range of fun and incentive activities including commented tastings in Champagne wine cellars or during your business evenings, wine tourism experiences in the vineyards, visits in the form of rallies or games, sporting and watersport activities, VIP shopping trips, the Nigloland amusement park, etc.

Find all of the places and activities at:
www.congres-champagne.com



WHAT'S NEW



NEW ATTRACTIONS AT NIGLOLAND PARK

Discover Nigloland, **one of the largest French amusement parks**. 2 new attractions this year: the Donjon de l'Extreme, the highest rotary drop tower in the world and the Tour des Petits Fantômes (Tower of Small Ghosts). Immerse yourself in four stunning worlds and find **39 attractions and shows for young and old**, as well as 8 themed restaurants. A few steps from the amusement park, the Hotel des Pirates**** invites you to extend your stay in a setting inspired by the greatest legends of piracy.

CAMILLE CLAUDEL MUSEUM

In Nogent-sur-Seine, a **new museum** will be **entirely devoted to Camille Claudel**. Currently under construction, it will present **the largest collection in the world of this artist**, whose talent was revealed during her youth in Nogent-sur-Seine at the end of the 19th century. A place sized for Camille Claudel where one will also be able to discover the works of Paul Dubois, Alfred Boucher or the painter Boeshwillwald.

MAISON DU VITRAIL IN ERVY LE CHATEL

Just renovated, here one discovers **the technical skill, tools and know-how of the master glass-makers**. The village was recently labelled "**Petite Cité de Caractère®**" (Small City of Character) and "**Village of tradition.**"

INVESTIGATION AT THE CHÂTEAU DE VAUX

One of the most intriguing castles in Aube, for the first time open for visits! Last year, Edouard Guyot, young 23-year old manor owner took up the challenge of saving Vaux! The first objective was to restore the roof. To do this, his established a form of socially responsible tourism: One entry = one slate roof tile. The 6 euro fee will be used to replace the castle's roof tiles and visitors can inscribe their name of the tile in order to lease their trace on this place of memory. Drawing inspiration from the life of Maupas, Napoleon III's Minister of the General Police who owned the castle in the 19th century, Edouard Guyot has conceived an original way to discover Vaux. **The visit is structured around a police investigation** that reconstitutes the events marking the coup d'etat that enabled Napoleon III to be crowned emperor of the French!



AUBE SEEN FROM THE SKY WITH WINE GROWERS

The **wine grower pilots** of the Celles sur Ource flying club offer **air baptisms with small planes**. The 30-minute flight flies over the great lakes of the Orient Forest or loops over the Côte des Bar vineyard. Personalised flights can be arranged. €35/person for 30 minutes.



ACCOMODATIONS

• **New Kyriad hotel in Troyes:**

Located next to the city's historical centre, the hotel offers 77 rooms and 1 seminar room with a capacity of 60 people.

• **New hotel***/restaurant "Au Cœur des Bulles" in Loches sur Ource.**

Located in the heart of the Côte des Bar vineyard, the hotel offers 10 rooms, including some with terraces and an on-site restaurant.

• **New bed & breakfasts in Troyes:**

• **"Le Clos Guivet"**

In the historical centre of Troyes, discover an unexpected accommodation, a bed & breakfast between the past and the present, light and interiority, minerals and plants.

• **"La Maison M"**

Restored with the firm intention to retain its authenticity and its soul,

discover 5 bed & breakfasts in a large bourgeois home formerly inhabited by the historian Albert Barbeau.

NEW BARS IN CHAMPAGNE

The Millésimé in Troyes

Didier and Franck have partnered to create a **new concept around wine**. On site or to take away, they offer bottles from producers whose history they know. The sommelier, Olivier Henry, presents his selection weekly.

"Chez Philippe, Bulles et douceur" in Troyes

Philippe Ulryck has partnered with 10 Champagne producers in the village of Celles-sur-Ource. On a rotating basis, the wine producers who represent the wine-producing tradition tell their champagne history around a tasting.

RESTAURANTS

Chez Félix in Troyes

A **chic bistro and friendly restaurant** located in the heart of Troyes' historical centre, it offers traditional cuisine prepared from fresh seasonal products. Opened in April 2016.

Aux Oiseaux de Passage in Troyes

A warm reception and friendly ambience are assured. Family cuisine with **local products and flavours from abroad** to let your taste buds travel. There is a free exchange **library** to spark discussions, learning and sharing. The **games** on the shelves entertain, bring together and enrich guests. **Weekly workshops** are offered for young and old as well as **show dinners, readings** and sometimes even **yoga** and **humanitarian collections**. Opening planned for the end of May 2016.

EXPERIENCE THE ENERGY OF EVENTS 2016!



THROUGHOUT THE YEAR – BECOME AN APPRENTICE WINE EXPERT!

The department's wine growers offer introductory tasting courses. On the programme: tastings of still wines and reserve wines, blending and dosing demonstration, comparative tastings, discovery of aromas, vintages in the form of games, tastings of old vintages, food and wine pairings, etc.

NOW UNTIL 31 AUGUST – MOPO IN TROYES: CHEF D'OEUVRE, THE GENIUS OF A SON OF TROYES

The **chef d'oeuvre** of François Roux, known as François le Champagne, carpenter compagnon du devoir (French association of craftsmen and artisans), is an exceptional work that can be seen exclusively in **the Maison de l'Outil et de la Pensée Ouvrière** (Tools and Trade Museum), which houses the largest collection of ancient tools in Europe.

28 MARCH TO 18 SEPTEMBER – HÔTEL-DIEU-LE-COMTE: "SI PRÈS DES TRANCHÉES...L'AUBE EN 1916" (SO CLOSE TO THE TRENCHES...AUBE IN 1916)

Through this exhibition, **discover the lot of a fictitious Aube family confronted with the upheavals in its daily life.** This original exhibition organised by the Aube Departmental Council was labelled by the 14-18 Centennial Mission.

EVERY SUNDAY, FROM MAY TO SEPTEMBER: VISIT AND TASTING IN ESSOYES, THE VILLAGE OF THE RENOIRS...

The time of a morning, let yourself be tempted by a **narrated visit "in the steps of Renoir"** accompanied by a **sparkling and gourmet tasting** on the theme of Champagnes of Renoir in the workshop garden. What a privilege to be able to enter into the intimacy of this famous family of artists thanks to a visit of the "Espace des Renoir" and the painter's workshop!

FROM 30 APRIL TO 28 AUGUST AT THE TROYES MUSEUM OF MODERN ART "A DUTCH MODERNITY, THE SINGER COLLECTION"

Exhibition of **80 artists and 100 works from the Anna and William Singer donation** (Laren - Netherlands).

FROM 1 MAY TO 31 OCTOBER – EPHEMERAL GARDENS – TROYES

Every year, spring is synonymous with the renewal of ephemeral gardens. The City of Troyes offers, starting in May, opportunities to **discover or rediscover gardens nested in the heart of the city**: the garden of innocents adjoining the Sainte-Madeleine church, the dyer's garden at the Hotel du Vauluisant and the garden of medicinal plants at Hotel-Dieu.

END OF JUNE TO END OF JULY – 25TH EDITION OF VILLE EN MUSIQUES IN TROYES

Every year, Troyes vibrates to the rhythm of a major music festival with **a hundred free concerts organised in different locations around the city**. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening.

JULY/AUGUST – VISITS AND ORGANISED ACTIVITIES WITH VOLUNTEER GUIDES

For this new season, the Aube department's volunteers step up once again for a summer season rich in events, visits and organised activities. On the programme: **cultural activities, including narrated visits** (adults and children), **music and theatre programmes, outdoor activities and night activities**.

30 - 31 JULY: ROUTE DU CHAMPAGNE EN FÊTE

The department's largest event celebrating the king of wines will be held in Champagne villages from Barsur-Aube to Colombey-Les-Deux-Églises! The champagne glass is your key to the champagne tastings. Purchased at the entrance to the first village, it lets you **visit each cellar and taste the different wines**. **Many activities** will light up the celebration in the villages carefully decorated for the occasion.

BECOME A GRAPE PICKER FOR A DAY! SEPTEMBER 2016*

What could be more different than a day of picking grapes in Aube en Champagne? In September, the wine growers of the Côte des Bar offer you the opportunity to **discover their estate bubbling with activity**.

*Date depends on the wine harvest

9 - 11 SEPTEMBER: 48H EUROPÉENNES D'AUTOMOBILES ANCIENNES DE TROYES

Organised by Kiwanis International and the Rétro-Club d'Automobiles de Champagne since 1986, **the 48 Hours Automobiles is today one of the largest European rallies for old and prestigious vehicles** with nearly 400 vehicles from all over Europe.

23 - 29 OCTOBER: "LES NUITS DE CHAMPAGNE" FESTIVAL IN TROYES

Every year, authors and composers of French songs are honoured at the Nuits de Champagne festival in Troyes. The entire programme and the rhythm of the event are **organised around an author composer who becomes the emblem of the city and the region for a week**.

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES IN TROYES

This year again, **many activities** will be offered daily throughout the month so you can experience the enchantment of Christmas! On the programme: video projections, shows, storytelling and workshops for young and old.

Photo credits:

From left to right: P4: Champagne René Jolly (c) René Jolly | Cellier aux Moines (c) Didier Guy P5 : Wine grower of the Côte des Bar (c) Xavier Lavictoire | Chervey, Côte des Bar (c) Didier Guy P 6: Grape pickers for a day (c) CDT Aube P7: Picnic (c) CDT Aube | Grape pickers for a day (c) CDT Aube P 8: Ambiance Chocolate (c) Pascal Caffet shop | Andouillettes de Troyes (c) Philippe Pralraud Old fashion press (c) Stéphane Herbert | Sparkling picnic (c) Champagne Rémy Massin et fils | Chaource (c) Mussy cheese dairy | Dosches Mill bread (c) Erwin Shriever | Rosé des Riceys, Pascal Morel (c) CDT Aube P 10 et 11: Sainte Geneviève, Saint Rémi church, Troyes (c) Aube en Champagne | Cécile Boel, stained glass (c) Stéphane Herbert | Plasterer - fibrous plasterer display (c) Maison de l'Outil et de la Pensée Ouvrière (Tools and Trade Museum) P 13: PNRFO (c) Jean Marc Gourdon P 15: Orient Lake canoe (c) Stéphane Herbert | Dosches Mill (c) Pierre Garraud | Champagne Air Show (c) CDT Aube | Pointe de Charlieu, Temple Lake (c) Pascal Bourguignon | Canadian River Nigloland (c) C. Frajman | Sailing on Orient Lake (c) PNRFO | Western city Barberey Saint Sulpice (c) Western city | P 16 et 17: Lay brothers dining hall, Clairvaux Abbey (c) Sylvain Bordier | Cathedral of Troyes (c) Nicolas Dohr | Half-timbered church, Lentilles (c) Pascal Stritt | Half-timbered church, Longsol (c) CDT Aube | P 18 and 19: Camille Claudel, La Valse (c) Richard Journet, city of Nogent-sur-Seine | Renoir cultural centre (c) Du côté des Renoir | P 20 and 21: OT Greater Troyes, statue Lili (c) D. Le Névé | OT Greater Troyes - Rue Emile Zola (c) D. Le Névé | Factory outlets (c) McArthurGlen Troyes | Vauluisant Museum (c) CDT Aube | P 23 Aube Conference Centre (c) Olivier Douard | P 24-25 Nigloland amusement park (c) Nigloland | Château de Vaux (c) Edouard Guyot | Voigny, Côte des Bar (c) Didier Guy | P 26: Troyes by night (c) City of Troyes.



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