

2016

NORMANDY News & Events



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NORMANDY IMPRESSIONIST FESTIVAL

16th April – 26th September

Now an established event in Normandy's cultural calendar, the *Festival Normandie Impressionniste* returns in 2016 with Impressionist Portraits as its central theme. From April to September, Normandy will come alive to the sight and sound of Impressionism with some 450 different projects showcased throughout the region. Not only will Impressionist masterpieces from around the world be on display but contemporary interpretations of the art movement will be specially commissioned. The festival will also celebrate Impressionism through music, dance, theatre, literature and sound and light shows.

www.normandie-impressionniste.eu



© A.S.O

GRAND DÉPART OF THE TOUR DE FRANCE

July 2016

In 2016 the Grand Départ of the world's greatest cycling race returns to France. The setting is the spectacular UNESCO-listed Mont-Saint-Michel and its bay which, in 2015 was restored to island status at high tide. The week prior to the big day will see festivities take place throughout the Manche region of Normandy where the first three stages will be held. Stage 1 (2nd July) will run from the Mont-Saint-Michel to the D-Day Utah beach, stage 2 (3rd July) will run from Saint-Lô to the port town of Cherbourg along the Côte des Isles. Finally, stage 3 (4th July) will set off from the lively seaside town of Granville.

www.tourdefrance-manche.co.uk

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April - December

MEDIEVAL FESTIVITIES TO MARK THE 950TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

2016 marks the 950th anniversary of the Norman invasion of England and William the Conqueror's crowning at Westminster. Born and raised in Normandy, William was Duke here before the fateful battle of 1066. To celebrate this occasion, from April to December, medieval themed festivals will take place throughout the region. Medieval street markets, music, dance, theatre, workshops, sound and light shows and special exhibitions will be held in many towns and villages associated with William the Conqueror and his momentous expedition.

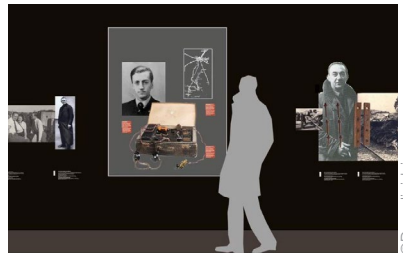
www.medieval-normandy.co.uk

Opening May 2016 - Falaise

NEW: MUSEUM TO CIVILIANS OF WAR

Dedicated to civilian victims of war, both past and present, the main focus of this museum will be the lives of the Norman people during World War II. Through archive footage, an interactive tablet tour and immersive film, visitors will discover both the tragedies and the trivialities of every day life under German occupation, the Allied liberation, subsequent bombings and post-war reconstruction. Located in Falaise where 80% of the town was destroyed during its liberation, the museum pays homage to the 20,000 civilians killed in Normandy during the war. Beyond the stories from Normandy, the museum will address how civilians have been affected by conflict across Europe and the wider world.

www.memorial-falaise.fr



From 28th May 2016 - Rouen

NEW: GOTHIC ROUEN, PANORAMA XXL

From May, Rouen's latest cultural attraction, the giant 31-metre high rotunda, will show a specially commissioned work by the artist Yadegar Asisi. The year is 1431, the Hundred Years War is nearing its end and from atop the spire of Rouen's cathedral, the visitor will look down on the city and see craftsmen busy in their workshops, bustling streets and a crowd forming in the main square to watch a young girl await her fate on the stake. The young girl is Joan of Arc who would later become France's national heroine. As the sound and light-scape passes from day to night, visitors will become immersed in the action and be transported to the heart of the Middle-Ages.

www.panoramaxxl.com/en/expositions/rouen



New Accommodation



© Stephaneleroy

Self-Catering & B&B: LE DOMAINE D'ABLON – Pays d'Auge

Combining the 5* service of a top hotel with the warmth of a family home, Le Domaine d'Ablon in the Pays d'Auge offers a new take on luxury accommodation. Guests can stay in one of two suites or in a charming 14th century half-timbered cottage which sleeps up to 4. Chef Jérôme Billochon looks after guests' culinary needs with à la carte room service while the estate's 5 hectares invite guests to stroll through the manicured gardens, apple orchard and vast parkland.

bit.ly/domainedablou



© Laqueurie

B&B: LA QUEURIE – Suisse Normande

Overlooking the Orne river and surrounded by views of uninterrupted countryside, la Queurie's idyllic setting invites guests to switch off and slow down. The estate's 15th century barn has been painstakingly restored and transformed into stylish, modern and sustainable accommodation. The stripped wooden floorboards, minimalist furniture and huge windows offer a sense of space and tranquillity in keeping with the natural surroundings.

laqueurie.wordpress.com



© Château du Bec

B&B: LAKESIDE CABIN, CHÂTEAU DU BEC – Etretat

Just a short drive from the spectacular cliffs at Etretat and the buzzy city of Le Havre, the Château du Bec estate is an oasis of calm. The new lakeside cabin immerses guests into the tranquillity of its surroundings and offers a secluded countryside getaway. Inside the cabin the nature theme continues with contemporary wood panelled walls and ceiling and floor to ceiling windows that open out from the bedroom to the private lakeside terrace.

bit.ly/lakesidecabin



© Giles de France Manche

Self-Catering: LA VIEILLE DAME – near Villedieu-les-Poêles

This 19th century country house boasts rustic wooden beams, exposed stone walls and original fireplaces. The property is spacious with a master suite and twin room. A river runs at the foot of the grounds and a lake and woods are both a few hundred metres away. This is the perfect spot for enjoying the outdoors and exploring the nearby medieval village of Villedieu-les-Poêles, the Mont-Saint-Michel and the seaside at Granville.

lavilledame.com

2016 More dates for the diary

5th – 9th February

Granville Carnival, Granville

Normandy's longest running street carnival

bit.ly/GranvilleCarnival

19th – 21st March

Annual Black Pudding Festival, Mortagne-au-Perche

Black pudding competition, eating contests, cooking demonstrations and art exhibition

foireauboudin.free.fr

30th April – 7th May

Jazz sous les Pommiers, Coutances

The biggest Jazz Festival in Western France with over a hundred concerts featuring international artists

www.jazzsouslespommiers.com

May – September

Les Jeudis du Pin, Le Haras du Pin

Weekly shows with displays of dressage and show-jumping in the Colbert Courtyard of this national stud

www.haras-national-du-pin.com/en.html

28th May – 12 June

D-Day Festival, Normandy Bessin

Selection of celebrations around the anniversary of D-Day including firework displays and parades

www.ddayfestival.com

June (dates t.b.c)

Open Air Opera, Château du Champ-de-Bataille, Le Neubourg

The courtyard of honour at this 17th century château is a magnificent setting for summer opera

www.chateauduchampdebataille.com

July – August

Le Mont-Saint-Michel by night

Night-time tours, musical concerts and light shows throughout the summer

www.ot-montsaintmichel.com

30th June – 3rd July

Beauregard Festival, Hérerville-Saint-Clair

Music festival previously pulling in big names such as *Alt-J*, *Lenny Kravitz*, *The Pixies*, *Seasick Steve* and *Blondie*

www.festivalbeauregard.com/en

24th June – 3rd July

Medieval Festival, Bayeux

Medieval market, concerts, parades, exhibitions, workshops and performers will fill the streets for the 30th anniversary of this festival

bit.ly/BayeuxMedievalFestival

10th August – 22nd August

Les Traversées Tatihou, Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue

This annual folk music festival is scheduled over days of low tide when the island of Tatihou can be accessed by foot

bit.ly/TravTatihouFest

2nd – 11th September

American Film Festival, Deauville

Première screenings of the latest US film releases, this festival pulls in big name stars such as Orlando Bloom, Keanu Reeves and Ian McKellen

www.festival-deauville.com

15th – 16th October

Fête du Ventre, Rouen

A farmer's market on a massive scale with 140 stalls and producers from across the region, cooking demonstrations and street entertainment

feteduventre.com

