

TRIP TO LE MANS



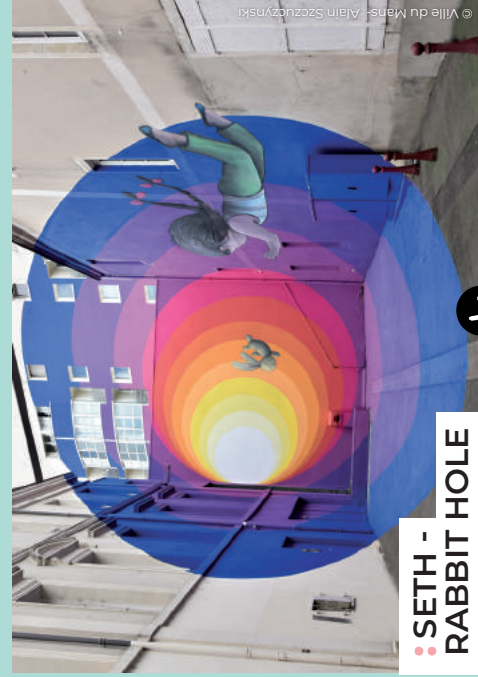
LE MANS A LAND of Art lovers



• WIA
Pi. Raymond Adelet

Le Mans is a city packed full of art exhibitions of all kinds. Whether annual (Les Photographiques, PulsArt, the Fine-Arts Fair, etc.) or temporary, you'll be amazed by the diversity and quality of artists on show and the number of exhibition venues across the city and surrounding area, from art galleries and museums to gardens and other institutional or unusual venues.

Every year, on the first weekend in July, the «Plein Champ» street-art festival takes over Gué de Maulny Park, as well as a number of other sites around the city. This celebration of street art offers up a host of original creations, adding a splash of colour to the streets of Le Mans.



• SETH -
RABBIT HOLE
Rue Janikowski

SETH - RABBIT HOLE Painted by the artist Seth, the fresco noticed by the specialized site Street Art Cities, was elected the 2nd most beautiful fresco in the world among those made in June 2022.

SCAN THE QR CODE

to view the interactive map and discover or re-discover Le Mans in a whole new light!



GASTRONOMY

• RILLETTES... and other specialties

These Le Mans rillettes enjoy a well-established reputation, and if you want to bring some back in your luggage, you'll find a great many delicatessens who have been awarded for their rillettes. Sold in sterilised jars, these rillettes can be transported even more easily.

Shortbread cookies, Jasnières wine, Coteaux du Loir and apple turnovers are also granted pride of place in grocery stores and bakeries. The "Le Mans" hen is an old breed that has recently regained its former glory. Find a fantastic range of products in our shop area.

• Le Mans MARKETS DISCOVER OUR LOCAL MARKETS AND PRODUCERS

- TUESDAY**
- Place E. de la Boussinière • morning
 - Les Maillets • morning
- WEDNESDAY**
- Place du Jet d'Eau • morning
 - Quartier de Pontleue, Pl. H. Vaillant • morning
- THURSDAY**
- Cité des Sablons, rue des Sablons • morning
 - Parvis de la Gare Sud • afternoon
 - Parvis de la République • afternoon
- FRIDAY**
- Place Washington • morning
 - Avenue de Paderborn • morning
- SATURDAY**
- Cité des Pins • morning
 - Pâtis Saint-Lazare • morning
 - La Butte, angle de l'avenue Boilée et de la rue de la Mariette • morning
- SUNDAY**
- Place H. Vaillant • morning
 - Place du Jet d'Eau • morning

IMPORTANT DATES

JANVIER

- LA BELLE BROCANTE
• Foire Antiquité et brocante
• Centre des Expositions

CROSS OUEST-FRANCE

- Arche de la Nature

GEEK LIFE FESTIVAL

- Centre des Expositions

FEBVIER

- PUCES DE PRINTEMPS
• Centre des Expositions

MARS

- SALON DE LA MAISON
• Centre des Expositions

LES PHOTOGRAPHIQUES

- Divers lieux

LES CARREFOURS DE LA PENSÉE

- Palais des Congrès

AVRIL

- LE MANS AUTO-MOTO RETRO
• Centre des Expositions

24H MOTOS

- Circuit Bugatti

PRINTEMPS AU PORT

- Parc du Mans

LES 5 ET 2 LITRES DU MANS

- Autour de la Cité Plantagenêt

MAI

- GRAND PRIX DE FRANCE MOTO
• Circuit Bugatti

FESTIVAL DE L'ÉPAU

- Abbaye Royale de l'Épau

JUIN

- ANIMATIONS AUTOUR DES 24H
• Centre-ville et Circuit des 24 heures

24H DU MANS

- Circuit des 24 heures

LE MANS FAIT SON CIRQUE

- Promenade Newton

24H ROLLERS

- Circuit Bugatti

JUILLET / AOÛT

- LA NUIT DES CHIMÈRES
• Cité Plantagenêt

LES SOIRS D'ÉTÉ

- Divers lieux

PLEIN CHAMP

- Gué de Maulny

24H VÉLOS

- Circuit Bugatti

SEPTEMBRE

- FOIRE DU MANS
• Centre des Expositions

24H CAMIONS

- Circuit Bugatti

OCTOBRE

- FAITES LIRE !
• Divers lieux et Salon du Livre aux Quinconces

ENTRE COURS ET JARDINS

- Cité Plantagenêt

NOVEMBRE

- LES PUCES SARTHOISES
• Centre des Expositions

FESTIVAL BEBOP

- Divers lieux

FORUM LE MONDE LE MANS

- Palais des Congrès

DÉCEMBRE

- MARCHÉ DE NOËL
• Place de la République

MARCHÉ DES POTTERS

- Quartier Étoile

NOËL AU PORT

- Port du Mans

CAPITAL of the AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Created in 1923, the 24 Hours of Le Mans is the greatest endurance race in the world, attracting millions of television viewers every year and more than 325,000 spectators on site (Centenary Edition, 2023). World-renowned as the toughest motorsport event, this race is above all a story of men and machines. The 24 Hours of Le Mans – a real human and technological challenge – is also a week of festivities and entertainment, all of which add to the charm and spirit of this great event.

• THE DRIVERS' HANDPRINTS trail

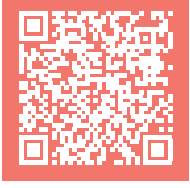
The initiative was launched in 1991 in the Saint-Nicolas district. 43 plaques featuring the handprints of 24 Hours winning drivers are now installed along a trail on Avenue du Général Leclerc.

All signs and plaques feature a QR Code. Scan them to find anecdotes, videos and archive images, as well as a quiz for endurance enthusiasts.



© AS OT Le Mans Métropole

Scan the QR Code
to consult our complete
tourist guide



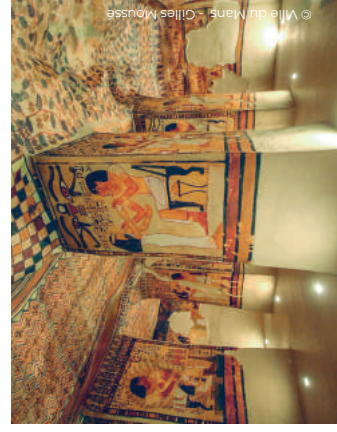
- Tourist Office
- Railway station
- Museums
- Cathedral
- Town hall
- Theatre
- Le Mans Harbour
- Gardens
- Cite Plantagenêt
- Tram stop
- Pedestrian area



The MUNICIPAL museums of Le Mans

• TESSÉ MUSEUM

2, Av. de Paderborn • Free admission



Set in a beautiful wooded park close to the Cité Plantagenêt, the Tessaé Museum occupies the site of the Tessaé family's former estate. The museum's rooms are organised around paintings and sculptures from the 14th to the 20th centuries, inviting visitors to discover the Italian Primitives, Caravaggesque painters and the French Classics of the 17th century. The Tessaé Museum also devotes an astonishing space to Ancient Egypt, the only one of its kind in France.

• JEAN-CLAUDE BOULARD Carré Plantagenêt Museum

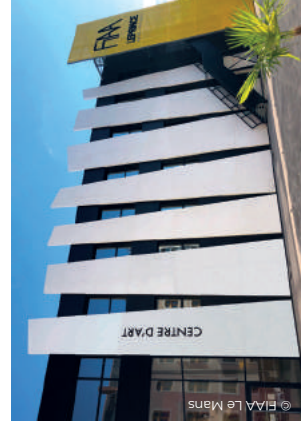
2, rue Claude Blondeau • Free admission



Discover the Jean-Claude Boulard-Carré Plantagenêt Museum at the intersection of the Cité Plantagenêt and the new town, with its collections of archaeological and historical objects. This building combines contemporary architecture with old buildings. In this unusual setting, visitors are offered a journey through time and history. Highlights include the Coëffort treasure and the Plantagenêt enamel.

• THE CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE

8 allée Leprince d'Ardeny



The FIAA is dedicated to the presentation of modern art in the heart of Le Mans. The exhibitions last between two to three months, with artist-hosted workshops for all audiences. The FONDS INTERNATIONAL D'ART ACTUEL is an international art centre located on the site of La Visitation in the heart of the city of Le Mans, focused on contemporary art. All art lovers, whether novices or enthusiasts, will find in the FIAA the opportunity to admire temporary exhibitions renewed every three months, as well as artist residences, a documentary space and a workshop for the general public hosting masterclasses or workshop visits.



OUTDOOR: leisure activities

If there's one place that's great for leisure activities, it's Le Mans and the Sarthe department in general!

Here, the generosity of nature has paved the way for a host of outdoor activities: high-ropes courses, walking, cycling, horse-riding, tourist train rides and a selection of water and river activities - ski lift, fishing, boat hire, cruises on the Sarthe and more.

This programme is enhanced by a range of sports facilities, including a lap around the 24-hour karting circuit, a visit to one of the two golf courses in the urban area or an introduction to hot-air balloon, microlight or helicopter flights! Relax with the family and meet the farm animals at the Arche de la Nature or in the zoos, or enjoy the benefits of water in the many swimming pools and water-sports centres, it's all possible... And now it's up to you!

And if the weather is bad, there's plenty to do indoors! Cinemas, skate parks, simulators, bowling, escape games, play parks and more. All you have to do is choose

• ROYAL ABBEY of Epau

Listed as a Historic Monument, the Royal Abbey of Epau is one of the finest examples of Cistercian architecture in France. This architectural gem was founded by Berengaria of Navarre, widow of Richard the Lionheart, whose recumbent remains are on display within the abbey church. The abbey became the property of the Sarthe department in 1959. An extensive restoration programme, which is still underway, has given the abbey a new lease of life, making it one of the most important cultural sites in the Sarthe.

The abbey's cultural calendar is now punctuated by a number of events: music festivals (jazz, classical and electro), temporary exhibitions (photography, comics, painting, etc.), workshops for young audiences, concerts, events, guided tours and the festive-period journey of light and sound.

• THE «24 HIKES AROUND THE BOULEVARD NATURE» walking guide

This guide to nature and heritage walks was produced upon the initiative of the Le Mans Metropolitan Area, in collaboration with the Pays du Mans and a number of walking associations and local stakeholders. It is organised into 24 fold-out sheets. 6 tours are accessible to wheelchairers and three-wheeled pushchairs. Each card presents a location and specifies the stages, time and length of the routes. The route markers have all been restored and checked. A few historical anecdotes and practical tips can also be found throughout the pages. It costs €9 and is available to purchase from the Tourist Office and most bookshops in Le Mans!



Once completed, the Boulevard Nature will form a 72 km loop.



To view the interactive map, scan the QR Code

CATHEDRAL SAINT-JULIEN

It was noted «most beautiful cathedral in France» in 2023 on the Henoo tourism app.

Experience a Cathedral moment! Discover the exceptional features of one of the most remarkable cathedrals in France. This site is open all year round for guided or self-guided tours.

Built in the 11th and 12th centuries upon ancient foundations, the nave features a set of Plantagenêt-style vaults created during a period of stylistic transition at the end of the Romanesque and the beginning of the Gothic period. It has been the scene of many events: it was here that Geoffrey V The Fair – the first member of the long Plantagenêt dynasty – married Matilda, a granddaughter of William the Conqueror. Henry II Plantagenêt, the future king of England, was baptised here and had a mausoleum built in memory of his late father. The Gothic choir dates back to the 13th century and comprises a ring of thirteen radiating chapels opening onto a



double ambulatory. The exceptional chevet is counterbalanced by a fine set of simple and inverted Y-shaped buttresses. The transept came to complete the construction in two stages: in the 14th and 15th centuries.

The church's furnishings are particularly varied: the Ascension stained-glass window (circa 11th-12th centuries) in the nave, alongside a fine collection of stained-glass windows in a variety of styles (12th-20th centuries); large Renaissance organs; monumental paintings of angel musicians in the Chapel of the Virgin; and terracotta dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. And, of course, the 21st century has not been forgotten: the Christ in Glory by the goldsmith Coudji has been installed at the entrance to the choir.

• PARKS & GARDENS in Le Mans

These spaces - real green lungs within the city - can be found across Le Mans.

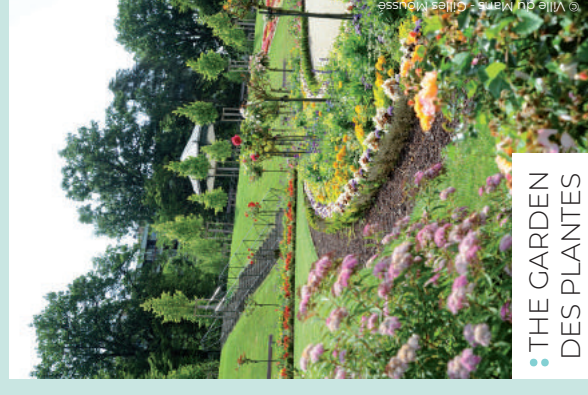
From the Quinconces des Jacobins to the Fourrage Park, via the Jardin des Plantes, the art of gardening has been developing in Le Mans from the end of the 18th century to the present day with the creation of Monod Park near the hospital, Banjan Park, the Île aux Planches and more... All great places to stroll, relax or play with your children.

The Gourdaïne and Les Tanneries gardens beautifully decorate the banks of the Sarthe and showcase remains of the medieval wall.

From the most romantic to the most contemporary, from the smallest gardens to the vast expanses of the Plaine du Gué de Maulny and the Les Gentiannes Park, discover a green town that gives nature pride of place. So, take a deep breath, you're in Le Mans!



• JARDIN DE GOURDAÏNE



• THE GARDEN DES PLANTES

LE MANS Metropolitan Area

The Le Mans Metropolis Tourist Office at your service • 02 43 28 17 22 office@tourisme@lemans-tourisme.com

- Aigné
- Allonnes
- Aragne
- Champagné
- Coulaines
- Faimes
- Fay
- La Chapelle-Saint-Aubin
- La Milesse
- Le Mans
- Mulsanne
- Pruillé-le-Chétif
- Rouillon
- Ruaudin
- Saint-Georges-du-Bois
- Saint-Saturain
- Sargé-lès-Le Mans
- Trangé
- Yvré-l'Évêque

Created in 1972, the urban community of Le Mans, now known as the Le Mans Metropolitan Area, is a historic land.

The urban community of Le Mans is made up of 20 communes and extends over an area of 273.12 km². Here are the 20 municipalities, listed in alphabetical order:

FESTIVE & GOURMET in a place steeped in History...



• LÀ VISITATION

Là Visitation, a former cloister, has recently been converted to house shops, craftspeople, restaurants and bars. Right in the heart of Le Mans city centre, Là Visitation is a unique place in which to stroll and shop as you explore the various businesses. Come and enjoy the friendly atmosphere, with friends or family, and discover the shops before extending your visit with a trip to the Contemporary Art Centre or the surrounding bars and restaurants. A timeless place you'll come to visit and never want to leave!