

LA CHARITÉ-SUR-LOIRE

UNESCO PROPRIÉTÉ

FASCINATING

SOME GEMS TO DISCOVER IN THE AREA



RAVEAU BOUGERS FOUNTAIN
Formerly, fountains in the woods were staging sites where humans and animals could have some rest and drink.
The Bougers fountain is impressive because of its 3 basins. The site was recently prepared with a picnic area.
In the Bertranges forest, in the village of Raveau.



LA CHAPELLE-MONTLINARD ARBORETUM ADELINÉ
This arboretum presents more than 2000 different species of plants and wants to preserve the botanical wealth. Visiting the arboretum, you will see 53 species of magnolias (between 3 and 5 meters tall) or American and Asian dogwoods.
Open for the European Heritage Days and "Rendez-vous in the gardens" and visits on appointment year-round.
31 chemin du port de la batte, 18140 La Chapelle-Montlinard -
Tel : +33 2 48 79 47 18
<http://arboretum-adeline.blogspot.com>



NANNAY JANLARD'S MILL
Main defenders of the heritage, the owners are working hard to restore the mill (from 1850) since more than 25 years.
Its water-wheel - 5 meters diameter - has been fixed and returned to service.
Open for the European Heritage Days and Small Heritage and Mills Days.
Bed and breakfast
58350 Nannay (follow the signalisation on the road N 151). Tel : +33 7 82 30 79 45
www.moulin-de-janlard.fr



NANNAY CONTEMPORARY ART
Creative and friendly : that is the best adjectives to describe the village of Nannay. Every summer, the festival "Ni vu, ni connu" (about art and rural life) takes place here.
Many contemporary art can be seen in the village, with different styles, technicals and materials. Some are ephemeral and other appear every year. There is a guide with information about arts and artists.
In the village, www.nannay.fr



RAVEAU DOMAINE DES FORGES
The large buildings in the Area are a great testimony of the steel heritage of the Bertranges hill and dependences.
Nowadays, the Area is a tourist site (hotel, cottage, restaurant) and a cultural lugar : classical concerts, master class, art exhibition during summer with great arts in the garden.
Chemin Fontaine de La Vache - GR 654 58400 Raveau - Tel : +33 3 86 70 22 96.
www.forgesdelavache.com



WANDERLUST

Wanna visit the villages around La Charité-sur-Loire ? Wanna enjoy a walk along the Loire or along the Canal ? Wanna appreciate the Loire à Vélo (the veloroute) or a stroll in the Bertranges forest ?
Ask for a tourist map of the area, including hiking routes.



Wanna discover more hiking and biking paths ?
You can buy guides with different levels of difficulty and laps (in French).



Wanna visit other cities ?
Ask for the tourist map of Guéigny, Prémery or the Mardelles.



Need for information about accommodation, restaurants or tourist attractions and visits ?
Have a look on the practical guide.



In the mid-11th century, the Cluniac monks founded the priory of La Charité. The church was devoted to Our-Lady in 1107 by the Pope Paschal the Second. Soon, the priory played a key role in the Order of Cluny expansion.
In the 12th century, Notre-Dame church was 120 meters long, the tower-bell was 72 meters tall and the nave was 27 meters tall.
With more than 400 outbuildings, the priory of La Charité was considered as the eldest daughter of Cluny.

After the French Revolution, the priory was sold to inhabitants. The buildings were changed into private apartments, courtyards, gardens and shops. Today, some inhabitants still live in the old part of the priory.

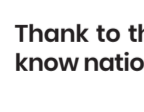


In 1998, Notre-Dame church became a UNESCO World Heritage site as it is a major stage on the "Route of Santiago de Compostela".

The tradition requires that pilgrims enjoyed the good father's charity, that is why we called the city "La Charité".



In 2011, La Charité-sur-Loire won the label "Ville d'Art et d'Histoire" in recognition of more than 10 years of heritage restoration. This is fixing new quality targets for the coming years.



In 2012, La Charité-sur-Loire earned the title "Centre Culturel de Rencontre" (15 sites in France). It links a remarkable place - the Priory - to a strong theme - word and creation, thanks to a first-class cultural program.

Thank to these honours, La Charité is increasingly well-know nationwide.

SINCE 2001 : MORE THAN 15 YEARS OF RESTORATION WORK !

- 1 2001-2004 : Benedictines Garden planning and protection of the Saint-Laurent church archeological remains
- 2 2003-2004 : restoration of the Priory's Eastern facade

- 3 2005-2008 : restoration of the east wing ground floor
- 4 2007-2008 : Priory's ground floor restoration (18th century rooms and northern wing of the cloister)

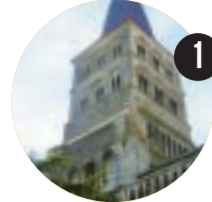
- 5 2010-2011 : restoration of the Northern wall and cloister planning
- 6 2012 : restoration of the western gates
- 7 2015 : restoration of the east wing's roof and structure

- 8 2016 : development of the Prosper Mérimée passageway.
- 9 2018 - 2019 : restoration of Notre-Dame church's roof and renewal of the ramparts

Conception - creation - Credits photographiques : Couverture : C. Jorandon - Double page intérieure : BN, Chagny - Couverture des documents : H. Brouant, R. Scopin - Plan : H. Brouant, Villa - Découvertes : P. Barnaud, Al Nordr Behroz, C. Gouplif, Chateaux, C. Jorandon, M. Copoles, E. Grivot et les portanaires et prestataires sites, Décembre 2018. Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique.

SIGHTSEEING ROUTE

The tour starts downstairs, near the towerbell and the gothic gates.



1 THE SAINTE-CROIX TOWER-BELL AND THE GOTHIC GATES

Built during the 12th century, the towerbell is the only surviving feature of the Romanesque western front of the church. There were 2 doors with tympanums. One of these is still in place: the Virgin tympanum. The Transfiguration tympanum was taken down and put inside the church for a better conservation. You will see it in the South part of the transept.

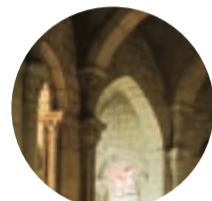


2 NOTRE-DAME CHURCH

In 1695, Prior Colbert had 4 spans of the nave rebuilt along with the transept pillars. The roman choir was reworked and enhanced during successive restoration campaign in the early 12th century. The columns and capitals of the ambulatory, the sculpture on the pilasters, the bestiary on the choir (eight stones carvings including the Eastern lamb) and the lofty arcades are all typical of the Cluny's richly inspired architecture.



Taking the right side of the transept, turn into the Magdeleine passage and then walk around the apse on your left.



Contemplate the apse, the Romanesque apse chapels and the Gothic Chapel. Wedged between two chapels, the so-called "dwarf house" is open to many interpretations.



3 BENEDECTINES' GARDEN

Saint-Laurent church was built the same time the greater one was. It was dedicated to the commemoration of the Dead.

The church was almost burned during the great fire of 1559 and then became a garden. The ruins were covered with earth and vanished: the memory of the church was lost until the city council decided to build a social center here in 1975. The Benedictines' garden is a wonderful example of architecture which uses the present to bring the past to life.



The Prosper Mérimée passage joins the garden to the cloister.



4 THE CLOISTER

Today, only the North and East wings remain, in a neo-classical style of the end of the 18th century. The gothic cloister remains visible thanks to two "archeological windows", it serves the chapter house, Notre-Dame church and the dining hall.



5 THE CHAPTER HOUSE

The Chapter House and the adjoining Mérimée hall were among the rooms to be rebuilt in the gothic era. They have been recently restored and you can now admire their vaulted ceiling reflecting the splendour and elegance of the 12th century. Contemporary stained-glass windows, work of the New-Yorker artist Christopher Wool in connection with the Burgundian master glazier Pierre-Alain Parot, were installed at the beginning of the 2010's.



6 THE 18TH CENTURY ROOMS

A magnificent staircase in wrought iron led to the first-floor dormitories. On the ground floor were the refectory, the kitchen, a reception room and the priors living room, decorated with scenes of leisure pursuits.



On the opposite side of the cloister, down the stairs under a house. You will be in the Castle Courtyard.

7 THE CASTLE COURTYARD

This was the only public part accessible via the Monastery gates. There never was a castle at La Charité, this was actually the Prior's House Courtyard.

That's a great example of private and public ownership cohabitation. The courtyard is a mix of different architectural style as the Priory was sold to inhabitants after the French Revolution.

You can go to the ramparts crossing the Champ Baratté street. Take the dirt track to reach the upper part of the fortifications. You will enjoy a wonderful view on the Priory, the city and the Loire.



8 THE RAMPARTS

Raised to protect the priory from 1181, the ramparts have undergone successive alterations, being dismantled and rebuilt during the Hundred Years War and religious wars. The North side is well preserved and many vestiges can be seen around the city.

Follow the walls towards the river. See the round tower and down the stairs to reach the Adam Park.



9 THE ADAM PARK

The terrace of this former private mansion allows a lovely view over the river and roofs of the former bargemen's district. You will see a statue on the esplanade: the sculptor Cormier offered it to the city in 1935.

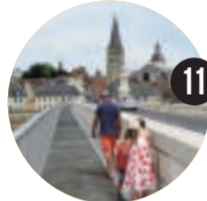
Down the stairs thanks to the gently sloping meandering stairway. Cross the road (be careful of the cars) and go to the nearest of the river.



10 THE DOCKS AND THE PORT

The western walls destruction along the river and the riverbanks development during the 18th century heavily changed the riverfront. The dock's creation on both side of the bridge allow the mooring and protect from the floods. On the walls, you can see different flood indentation.

Climb the stairs on the dock to reach the bridge. Take the gateway to go to the island.



11 THE STONE BRIDGE AND THE GATEWAY

200 meters long, built in 1520, ten of the eleven arches still stand. In the middle of the bridge, the pyramid guided the bargemen. On the other side, the metallic gateway allow a safe cross for the pedestrians.



12 THE FAUBOURG ISLAND

This neighbourhood expanded between two branches of the river, giving a wonderful view over the city and the Loire. Upstream, the dam directed the flow towards the port. Will you find the two secret ways?



13 THE 84 STEPS

Pilgrims on the road to Santiago had to climb these steps since the 12th century and they still do it today.

Take the "rue Saint Jacques" to get to the "Halle aux Grains".



14 HALLE AUX GRAINS

The 15th century roof beams of the corn exchange were destroyed by fire in 1969. Today, it has been rebuilt and welcomes the festival hall. The surrounding neighbourhood, around the "Rue du Puits Neuf", "Rue Saint Jacques", "Rue des Oisons" and "Rue du Filet", belonged to winemakers.

Take the "Rue du Filet" to reach the Saint Pierre church.



15 SAINT-PIERRE CHURCH

Besides Notre-Dame, there were other parishes at La Charité-sur-Loire, including Saint-Pierre. It was built during the 13th century and restored in the 15th. Sold as national asset in 1791, it went on many shops.

Continue the tour walking up the streets to Avenue Gambetta.



16 RUE DES FOSSÉS

This street was named after the Eastern ring of ramparts that was located where today's houses and building are located, on the odd side of the street. If you pay attention, you notice that some towers remain inside the walls.

At the top of the street, "rue des écoles", turn left to the roundabout then go ahead to the Pierre Barbier's esplanade, right next to the ramparts. Reach the city center via the dirt track.



The chapter house, the cloister, the cellar and other sites of the Priory are not open to public year-round because of festivals, exhibitions, entertainment or conferences...

Lexicon

- o Apse chapel : little chapel around the choir of the church
- o Lofty arcades : in a church, the upper part of decorative windows

- o Ambulatory : the passage around the choir
- o Chapter house : room where the monks gathered to pray and discuss

- o Transept : part of the church between the apse and the choir. It forms the shape of the cross to the church
- o Tympanum : upper part of the gates in the churches.