

Tourist Office of
LA CHARITÉ-SUR-LOIRE
Bertranges - Val de Nievres

www.lacharitesurloire-tourisme.com

TRAVEL, WEEKENDS
& LIFESTYLE

2020-21

LA
CHARITÉ-
SUR-LOIRE

Town of Art and History



GUÉRIGNY, IN PRÉMERY,
Town of Royal
Forges

a breath of fresh air
at the water's edge

2 DAYS
to discover
artists and
craftspeople



A magazine from
the collection

Designed by
Bourgogne



Les Bertranges

HOW TO GET THERE?

2 hours from Paris



By car

- From Paris (2hr): A6 motorway, then A77, exit 28, 29 or 30 for La Charité-sur-Loire; then N151 and D38 for Prémery; exit 32 or 34 for Guérigny.
- From Dijon (2hr30): A6 motorway, junction 22, then N151 for La Charité-sur-Loire; then N151 and D977 for Prémery and Guérigny.
- From Bourges (1hr) / Auxerre (1hr): the N151 that connects Bourges to Auxerre passes through La Charité-sur-Loire, then D38/D977 to reach Prémery and Guérigny.



By train

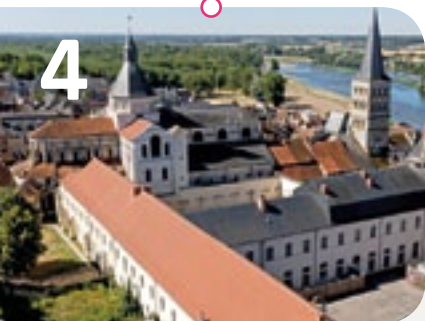
- Stop at La Charité-sur-Loire (or Nevers for Guérigny),
- SNCF Paris-Clermont Ferrand line: Paris 2 hours from Gare de Paris-Bercy
 - SNCF Lyon-Nantes line (via Nevers)



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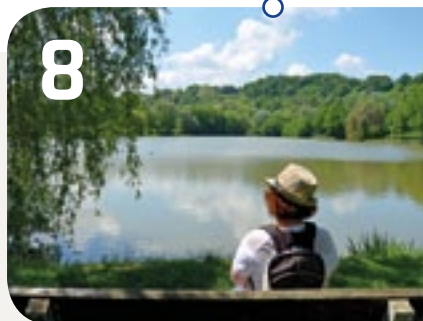
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By bike

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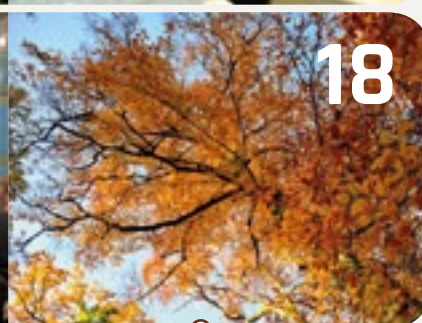
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Town of Art and History



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All roads lead to La Charité

On the route to Santiago de Compostela...

The Church of Our Lady (Notre-Dame) is listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, as a major stop on the paths to Santiago de Compostela (Vézelay-Bourges route). Since the Middle Ages, the town has been an important stopping point for pilgrims. Besides, doesn't it take its name from that tradition of hospitality, with pilgrims enjoying the "charity of the good fathers"?

A reputation linked to the Priory and its history

Founded in the 11th century, the Cluniac Priory is the core around which the historic town grew up. In the 12th century, the Church of Our Lady was the second largest church in Christendom after Cluny. More than 200 monks lived in buildings spanning 3 hectares, or 1/5th of the historic centre.



After the revolution, the priory was sold as a National Property and integrated into the urban fabric. Quickly occupied by the inhabitants who set up shops and dwellings there, it was thus saved from post-revolutionary destruction.

Today, the priory is an exceptional architectural ensemble made up, among other things, of the Benedictine garden, the 18th-century halls, the cloister, the chapter room and the Mérimée room. The Romanesque church houses a wonderful series of carved capitals, as well as the tympanums of the Nativity and Transfiguration, masterpieces of Romanesque art. Far from freezing buildings in a specific aspect of their history, the restoration respects the changes made over the centuries.



A living monument that's become the "City of the Word"



The priory is a living monument, hosting concerts, shows, exhibitions, festivals and artists' residencies. It's the setting for the Cité du Mot (City of the Word), which offers an ambitious cultural programme, rooted in its region and open to the world. For example, it organises the Aux Quatre Coins du Mot (Four Corners of the Word) festival in spring, educational activities, fun workshops and an exhibition in summer, as well as the autumn Grands Chemins (Great Paths) gathering.

A town with a medieval footprint

Both a fording place and a fortified town, La Charité-sur-Loire retains within its walls traces of the times it has lived through. In its old part, it still has most of its original structure, giving it all its charm. By gaining height from the northern section of the ramparts, the panorama lets you appreciate the extent of the priory, and admire the town, bordered by the Loire.

Did you know?

What's the connection between New York and La Charité-sur-Loire?

In 2012, an invitation was issued to New Yorker Christopher Wool to create new stained-glass windows in the capitular room and Mérimée room. An extraordinary opportunity for this artist, more accustomed to drawing and silk-screening, to inscribe his work in a more perennial material and apply it to a type of heritage with an ancient, religious character. The plan paid off. Finished off by Burgundy master glassmaker Pierre-Alain Parot, these contemporary graphic, luminous stained-glass windows are the finishing touch in the restoration of the rooms and bring a wonderful sense of harmony.

1059

Construction of the church and priory begins, on the order of Cluny.

1107

Consecration of the church by Pope Pascal II.

1181

Fortified construction of a belt of ramparts.



Joan of Arc's defeat, failing to take La Charité back from the Burgundians.

1429

Construction of the Stone Bridge, today one of the oldest still in use on the Loire.

1559

A major fire ravages part of the town and Priory, including the nave of Notre Dame Church and St Lawrence Church.



1790

The Priory is sold as a National Property, houses and businesses occupy the interior of the Priory.

1695

Jacques-Nicolas Colbert, son of the minister and Prior, undertakes major reconstruction of the Priory and church.

1840

Notre-Dame Church is among the first monuments to be classified as a "historical monument" by Prosper Mérimée, inspector general of historical monuments.



1998

Notre-Dame Church is listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

2000

Restoration of the Priory begins



Guérigny, Town of Royal Forges

A town from the Enlightenment in Nivernais

What is most surprising about discovering the site of the Royal Forges? Most of the impressive buildings, hydraulic facilities, the site and its organisation are still in place, allowing for an open-air understanding of the place. Immediately, the visitor has the feeling of entering an exceptional place, discovering a rich and not-so-distant industrial past.

Before the 18th century, nothing predisposed Guérigny to become an important town of the Enlightenment. Nothing? Well, not quite. The surrounding natural resources, mainly iron ore, oak forests and plenty of rivers, were of major importance in the development of the forges.

In the mid-18th century, an enterprising nobleman, Pierre Babaud de la Chaussade, established and developed an essential place in the metallurgical industry here, which would make Guérigny an influential town, even obtaining the title of "Royal Forges" in 1755.

The demand for wrought iron items for the Navy was high and the quality of the anchors coming from Guérigny's Forges helped them build a solid reputation. That's why, even though they're far from the sea, marine anchors still flank the entrance to the site of the Royal Forges today.



A reputation forged in iron



Portrait

The Theatre of the Royal Forges, Guérigny, inhabitant of the Royal Forges site

Why are you here, theatre?

Why did you set up shop on the Forges site?

I've been around for six years now, I think a lot of people know me and I'm proud of it. Guérigny is a commune that opened its arms wide to welcome me; the Royal Forges are a historic place; the building with its small clock tower, a magnificent place to make me feel welcome, men and women worked there, now only memories, stories... And this immense place like a stranded boat waiting for us to reach out and bring it back to life again... Well, today I hear the laughter of children resonating all around, the hearts of spectators stirring and the applause that rings out at each of my shows!

Who do you play host to, then, theatre?

The artists I host sometimes come from just next door, as well as from the other side of France. They sing, dance, perform comedy, tragedy... they're funny, whimsical, talented and whether they're well known or not, they all share at the end of their show a very warm moment with the audience around my wonderful bar.

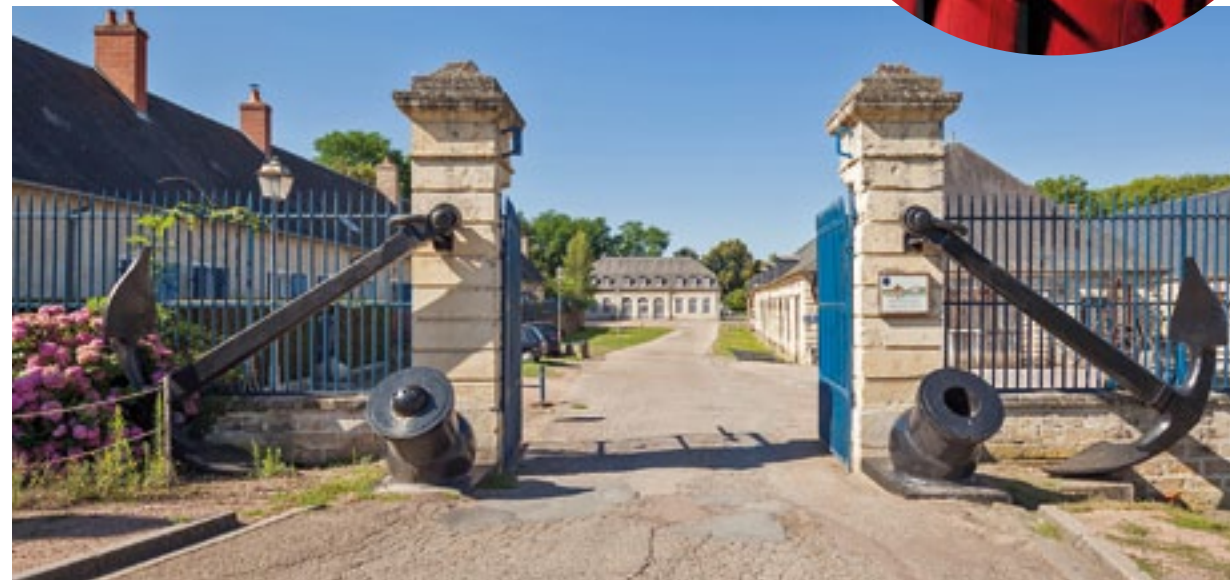
What are your plans, theatre?

I have too many, I don't know where to look! But I won't tell you anything, it's up to you to come and find out for yourself!

Are you happy to be here, theatre?

Am I happy, you say? Six years I've been here and my evening shows are full to bursting! There's a very nice programme of events, comfortable red armchairs, a unique atmosphere, a wonderful audience growing ever more numerous... what more could you ask for? Just that it all stays that way...

Did you know?



A museum in the heart of the Royal Forges

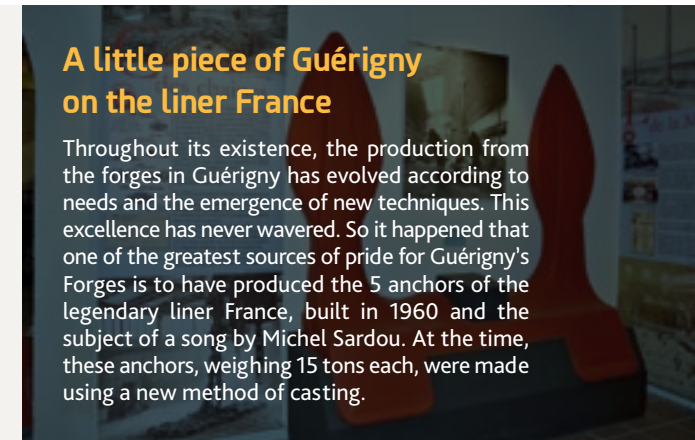
After the final closure of the site in 1971, the various buildings were bought by the Association of Friends of Old Guérigny and the Town Hall. They very much wanted to continue to keep these places going. And so, the Forges and Navy Museum now stands as the guardian of the metallurgical tradition. Bringing together many items representative of this rich past, the museum also puts the spotlight on the workers who laboured here for more than two centuries. At the entrance to the museum, a 5-ton drop hammer and its wooden crane set the tone for the discoveries to be made inside, such as steam engines, various animated models, a cross-section of a blast furnace as well as examples of items made in the forges when they were still operating.

From oak trees to chains

The site of Guérigny's Royal Forges can form the starting point for other discoveries. In nearby Bertranges Forest, there were many forges and blast furnaces among the oaks. Of this prolific activity that fed Guérigny's Royal Forges, some vestiges still remain through the names of certain communities such as Beaumont-la-Ferrière, Saint-Aubin-les-Forges or former estates with the remains of blast furnaces and water reservoirs to supply them. The Forges de la Vache estate in Raveau is a valuable reminder of this metallurgical past. It is now a tourist and cultural centre.

A little piece of Guérigny on the liner France

Throughout its existence, the production from the forges in Guérigny has evolved according to needs and the emergence of new techniques. This excellence has never wavered. So it happened that one of the greatest sources of pride for Guérigny's Forges is to have produced the 5 anchors of the legendary liner France, built in 1960 and the subject of a song by Michel Sardou. At the time, these anchors, weighing 15 tons each, were made using a new method of casting.



In Prémery, a breath of fresh air at the water's edge

Like a fish in water

A beach without the sea air but with plenty of green nature?

In Prémery, even though you don't have the sea, you can still find a beach! Prémery Lake is a wonderful body of water which coexists in harmony with the Nièvre d'Arzembouy. In summer, there's swimming with a supervised sandy beach, toilet block with shower, games for children, a small bathing area for the little ones, a boules pitch and picnic areas.

Want to do a spot of fishing?

Prémery Lake is also a must for anglers, with pike, roach, tench and carp to delight skilled anglers and novices alike.

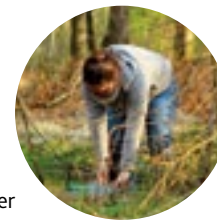
The Bertranges, located between ponds and the Nièvre rivers, is a paradise for anglers. In Guérigny, the two Nièvres meet, that of Arzembouy and the other, Champlemy, at the Câbles mill race, where you can catch good-sized carp and tench. Anglers looking for fish to fry can lay out their rods at Sourdes Lake in Sainte-Hélène.

And we should also mention the Nièvre and its numerous secondary arms that offer plenty of opportunities to satisfy your passion, as in Urzy, where gudgeon, minnows as well as pike and perch will delight live bait anglers after predatory fish.



Portrait

Élise, originally from Chasnay, Wetlands and Biodiversity Mission Manager



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Do you have a favourite place in Bertranges?

Originally from the village of Chasnay and, more specifically, the hamlet of La Vernière, I'm very fond of this little town in Bertranges. To recharge my batteries, I walk on the GR walking route between Nannay and Chasnay, always with my pair of binoculars and camera. The landscapes are very varied between meadows and fields, passing through the forest or in the vineyards offering magnificent views of the countryside. Nature is remarkable, you can come across

wild boars, raptors and sometimes even the Black Stork! You have to be attentive, as well as discreet.

A passion?

I'm passionate about nature, fauna, flora... As a child, I spent my time outside, my feet in the water, scratching the earth and watching the little creatures. I made my first herbarium at the age of 10, then I became interested in birds and started nature photography. I can spend several hours on the lookout at the edge of a forest waiting for a deer to appear or at the edge of a river to see a kingfisher. I've made this passion my profession, and now I'm responsible for wetlands and biodiversity within the community of communes.

Do you have a memory to share in the region?

Every year, I look forward to the stag's rutting period. My dad built an observatory several metres high near a forest. The place is ideal for watching animals and listening to the rut. We go there with family or friends. Once, several deer came nearby, and we had to wait for them to move away to get back down so we could walk home. It was a bit unnerving to hear them bellowing even though they were several hundred yards away from us.

Do you like to discover unusual places full of magic?

The Mardelles de Prémery, classified as a Regional Natural Reserve, are inevitably worth a visit! This little Eden is home to endemic flora and fauna such as red frogs and even carnivorous plants!

Walking through the Mardelles, which are around 15 000 years old, go and visit the peat bogs, those wetlands born from the slow mineralisation of plant fragments that form peat. To put it simply, peat is a giant sponge essential for regulating water levels!

Also discover the royal fern, the queen of ferns, a rare medicinal plant.



Did you know?

The wonderful sleeping wood

What a surprise! While cleaning up the bog, a 3700-year-old fossilised trunk was awakened. **The sleeper of the lake** is now displayed on the platform which overlooks the largest of the "mardelles".



From the mythical **Santiago de Compostela** route to the magical **Bertranges**

Step into a thousand years of history

The pilgrimage to Compostela, one of the most important in Christendom during Roman times, has seen an unprecedented revival in recent decades. Every year, it attracts thousands of pilgrims and hikers onto its paths. Bertranges is involved with one of the 4 French routes. The Via Lemovicensis starts in Vézelay, and two routes are then possible. One passes through Prémery and Guérigny to reach Nevers while the other goes to Bourges via La Charité-sur-Loire.

Pilgrims are part of the landscape. Like swallows, they come back with the spring. The stages in our destination are at the beginning of the journey. They welcome novices who are setting off for the first time, for a week, while others travel for several months and have hundreds of miles of the route to Santiago de Compostela behind them. Everyone has their own story, their own path to follow. Some follow a spiritual or religious path, while others crave adventure, encounters, experiences. There are also those who are looking for self-improvement or who want some time to themselves.

What do all the pilgrims have in common? The credential, this pilgrim's passport that needs to be stamped at every stage, along with the motto "*the most important thing is not the end goal but the pathway to it*".

Did you know?

880 km on foot - now that's some going...

So that you can walk on the roads and trails through our destination safely and which are well marked out, 880 km of path-finding was needed. The expert on the subject is Marion. Often accompanied by Roselyne, she has identified, tested, and sometimes turned back to find even more amazing routes. All without ever getting lost! She then compiled the best of her research into 2 topographical walking guides to Bertranges, to offer you 305 km of paths. Having become unbeatable on the region's washhouses and wells, she then helped with the way-markers (carried out by the community of communes integration project).

You'll find all tastes in **nature**



Everyone has their own way, everyone has their own path ... in Bertranges

Is the mythical pilgrimage to Compostela too much of an effort for you? Well then, for all the metro joggers who take the escalator fitness option, come and use your trainers in Bertranges.

Our destination is a hiker's paradise where you can take a huge breath of fresh air alongside century-old oak trees. Indeed, next to the route to Santiago de Compostela, lots of circuits crisscross the forest! Bespoke and marked trails offer really special walks. Choose your route and stroll around in peace. A furtive doe at the bend in a path, a whispering fountain coming out of the ground, 10 000 hectares of forest and a love story that could become your own, that of nature.

The forest's unmissable sights

So, dear walker, within this wooded area you'll find places full of flavours to spice up your fresh-air walks. The "unmissable" **Reserve roundabout** is considered the centre of the forest (*in theory, though in reality not quite!*). In any case, with its direction mast, it's often the meeting point for hikers, Sunday walkers and mushroom pickers.

The Fontaine de La Vache (spring) is particularly remarkable for its oak tree. About 250 years old, it's

still standing after being struck by lightning several times! It's you who'll be falling for this ancestor of ours ... **The Fontaine de Bougers** is a small haven of peace recently landscaped, with its basin full of water again and its parking area. An ideal place to relax before you get back on your way. **The Fontaine de Vaux**, "lost" in the communal wood of Chaulgnes, also deserves to be discovered with its little bridges and canal. And don't forget to say hello to the master of the place, a majestic old plane tree.



“The Loire,

a great river of sand,
sometimes wet

A long, quiet river?

” Jules Renard

No one is supposed to ignore the Loire

At La Charité-sur-Loire, the Loire has already completed almost half its journey from its source to its mouth. Not so far from the Loire's châteaux, the Loire here is wilder, more unexpected, more secret. Multiple channels spread between moving sandbanks and many wooded islands. We're in the heart of the Loire of the Islands.

Here, the Loire offers a mosaic of very contrasting natural environments with living conditions that suit a diverse, original, sometimes threatened fauna and flora. To preserve them, as well as to raise public awareness, the most representative and richest sector was classified as a **Nature Reserve** in 1995. It covers 1500 hectares over 20 km of the Loire from the bridge at La Charité-sur-Loire to Tracy-sur-Loire.

Don't be surprised to come across sheep with their shepherd. In recent years, extensive pastures on the banks of the Loire have provided a way of maintaining the region's meadows and grasslands, in order to preserve biodiversity and maintain a good flow of water.

Being attentive and discreet, and respecting the rules during your visit, means everyone can enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the river for a long time to come.

Learn more:

www.reserves-naturelles.org/val-de-loire



The Little Queen and the Royal River

You like riding your bike, you love the Loire, so Loire à Vélo (Loire by Bike) is made for you! This safe route, usually on a dedicated track, runs along the Loire as close as possible to the river, offering remarkable views.

Ride your bicycle for a day on an excursion or head off for several days travelling around - Loire à Vélo is for everyone to enjoy at their own pace!

Alongside this long-distance route, you can also enjoy the cycle loops that head off into the Bertranges.

Portrait

Diane*, originally from La Charité and now living in Pouilly-en-Auxois, working as a tourist office adviser



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We know you love the Loire, but what are your fondest memories?

Yes, I love the Loire! I have so many memories: walks or rollerblading, snacks, picnics and people I've met. With the canoe-kayak club, in particular, I've been able to learn, practise and also get to know people who are passionate and dedicated to this association.

What's your favourite activity in connection with this river?

Canoeing! In keeping with our watercourses, this is the best way for me to discover the river. I like to feel the current carry me along, being out in the middle of the water, around trees, birds, a living nature, you could say! It makes me feel very small and disconnects me from my routine. It's also the best way to cool off when it's hot, and especially to enjoy a good time with family! The club also

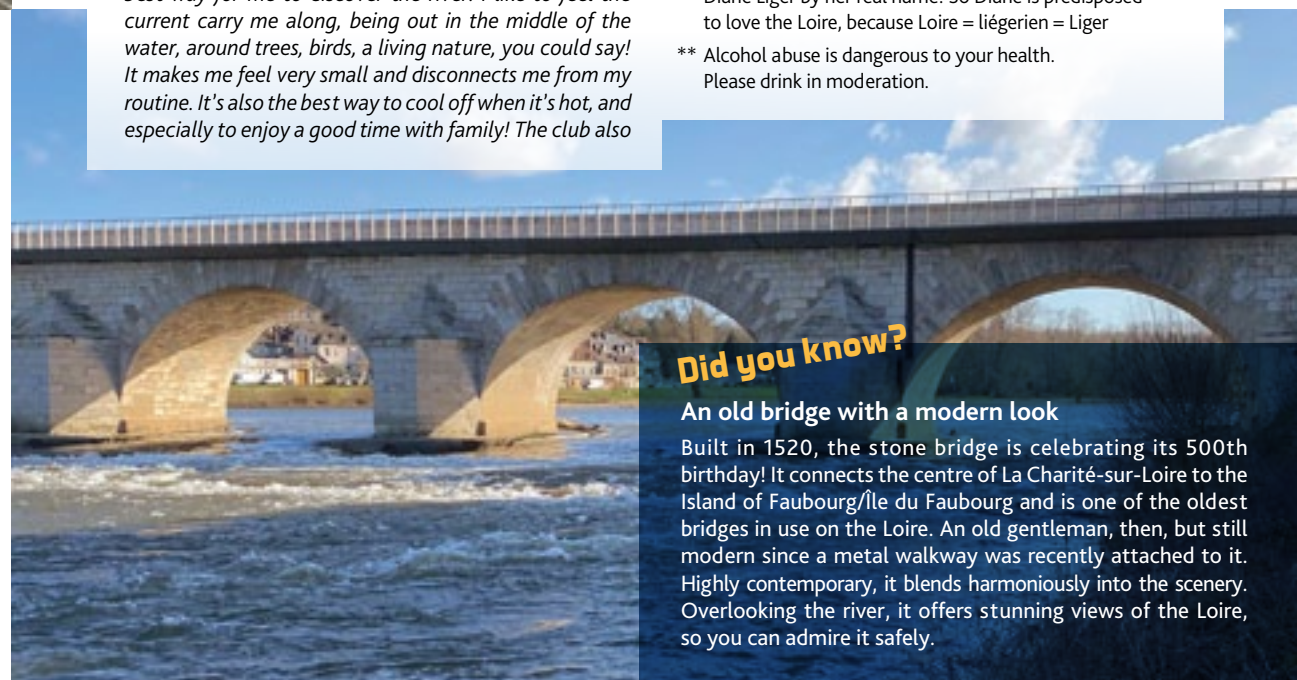
offers Stand Up Paddle hire. Friends and family, fans of new sports, have tried it out and given it their approval!

When is the best time to practise this sport?

*In my opinion, any time is right for a canoe trip during the summer, even at noon if you have sunscreen and a cap (not to mention a nice piece of goat's cheese and a glass** of Côtes de La Charité). But the best time is at night. When nature and silence reign all around you, only the sound of water lapping, our steps in the sand and our conversations can be heard. It's relaxing and invigorating!*

* Diane Liger by her real name! So Diane is predisposed to love the Loire, because Loire = liégeoisien = Liger

** Alcohol abuse is dangerous to your health. Please drink in moderation.



Did you know?

An old bridge with a modern look

Built in 1520, the stone bridge is celebrating its 500th birthday! It connects the centre of La Charité-sur-Loire to the Island of Faubourg/Île du Faubourg and is one of the oldest bridges in use on the Loire. An old gentleman, then, but still modern since a metal walkway was recently attached to it. Highly contemporary, it blends harmoniously into the scenery. Overlooking the river, it offers stunning views of the Loire, so you can admire it safely.

Paddles at the ready!

On foot or by bicycle, the Loire can be discovered from its banks, but another great option is to discover the Loire from the Loire itself, by canoe on the river! It's not always necessary to use the oars, as the river, sometimes quite wild, mainly flows along quite peacefully. It generally lets you go with the flow, drifting along gently on the current. A pause on one of the Loire's islands gives the feeling of discovering an unknown land and being the first to set foot there.

We highly recommend the sunset over the Loire, offering all its different shades of colour depending on the seasons.



Les Côtes de La Charité,

on rising...

a wine whose popularity just keeps

15

5 things to know about Côtes de La Charité

1 A Loire wine, with a Burgundy influence

Although located a short distance from the Loire, the climatic atmosphere, terrain and soils give this vineyard a strong Burgundy feel. This can be found in the choice of grape varieties, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir representing 90% of the surface area of the Côtes de La Charité.

2 A vineyard that's forty years old, but with a history that goes back almost a thousand years!

Stretching over nearly 60 hectares, the current vineyard was completely replanted in the early 1980s by a handful of enthusiasts. Their dynamism ensured that this vineyard and its quality were quickly recognised. But the history of La Charité's vineyards is nine centuries old. From the Middle Ages, it developed under the impetus of the Priory of La Charité. These wines had their place on the tables of the Dukes of Burgundy. Such prosperity continued until the 19th century, when the vineyards reached an area of 1300 hectares, before being wiped out by the phylloxera crisis.

3 The vineyards at the foot of the ramparts, a wine merchant in the cloister!

If we sum up the history a little, the monks of La Charité would be the first winemakers in the region! Certainly, vines had an important place in the town, and were even planted at the foot of the ramparts. Another anecdote, the Priory, sold as a national property during the Revolution, was then occupied by houses and businesses. Until the 1980s, a wine merchant used the cloister as a storage space!

4 There are also little bubbles

Quality sparkling wines are made using the traditional method from Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc according to blends that vary from winemaker to winemaker. They stand out for their freshness and remarkable finesse.

5 An attractive wine, an assured successor

The tenacity and courage of the elders have made the Côtes de La Charité a wine now widely recognised. In a close-knit team, today's winemakers, who call themselves "artisan winemakers", pass the baton and their knowledge to the younger generations who are getting involved today. Men and women respectful of the fundamentals of tradition, while being very open to innovation and creativity to best express the subtle spirit of their lands.



Shall we have a taste to see if the wine is good?

Winemakers welcome you into their cellars or at the markets.
Information at the tourist office.

For a Fantastic Picnic, a gourmet walk was organised. One of the stopping points allowed a glass of Côtes de La Charité to be combined with the culinary preparations of a local producer.

Portrait

Patricia, Capelinard
heliculturalist*



Who are you?

I'm a woman who lives her dream, and like all dreams, you have to be comfortable with them! After a busy professional life, including 7 years in New York, I made the decision for a change of direction, 4 years ago. I left Paris and my job as a communications manager and followed a succession of training courses on professional retraining, project management, accounting and, of course, heliculture.

Why La Chapelle-Montlinard? And why snails?

During my first training course, I was asked to draw what I wanted to do. Spontaneously, I drew snails, trees, the Loire, I even put in bikes for Loire à Vélo! That's exactly what I have and what I am today. Originally from the Paris area, my family has always had a house here. It was the holiday home of my grandparents. Mum has lived here since she retired. So this project would be here, obviously. I fitted in very well, the local old boys often refer to my grandfather Bibi, a local figure. They call me "little Bibi"! I bought my

land in 2016, and the adjoining workshop, which belonged to a roofer.

And your daily life today?

It varies with the seasons. The most intense time is September and until the holiday period with collecting in the snails, shelling and sales. In summer, there is the arrival of 110 000 babies and the educational tours. At the beginning of the year, I prepare the markets and fine-tune my recipes. That's where my added value is! I like to cook, so I offer my own recipes: cassollettes, puff pastries, skewers, toastines, as well as traditional snails with butter and garlic.

And then there's the family, disrupted by this change in direction, but everyone supports me. At the Open House events, everyone comes to help me: husband, children, uncles and cousins. My project is finally shared with those I love.

A place you love?

La Blancherie, that sailors' house on the banks of the Loire. I often go for a walk with my dog there; there's always someone to chat with, it's right on the water and the view of the Loire and La Charité is breathtaking.

* Capelinard - resident of La Chapelle-Montlinard, nearby village of La Charité-sur-Loire; heliculturalist - snail breeder.

Where to find her?

L'escargot sur Loire - 19bis, Chemin du Pont de la Batte in La Chapelle-Montlinard
www.lescargotsurloire.fr



7 FOR ALL ART LOVERS, FIND YOUR WONDERS IN Bertranges!

Whether you're into trendy music, theatre, dance or cinema, with us, you'll find a festival to your liking! All in a setting that's always inviting and unusual, which links history to culture.

For budding painters

Each year, on the second Sunday in August, the village of **Arthel** welcomes painters and craftspeople. The lace makers, blacksmiths and potters display their talent live. Exhibitors invite you to take away a handmade souvenir of your day while the street painters make the most of having such a choice of models there before their eyes!

For music lovers

In Bertranges, nature isn't the only one to set the pace of the seasons; music also has something to say! From autumn to early summer at the Forges de la Vache estate, the **Impromptus 19H** resonate where the forges once rang out. Once a month, classical music takes over the place and offers a gentle accompaniment for its audience to enjoy.

In July, **Format Raisins** punctuates life in La Charité's Priory or the Guérigny's Royal Forges in through a programme focused on music, dance and discovering local produce.

In August, the sun shines and **Blues in the Loire** rings out! For a week, music can be heard throughout the town, in La Charité-sur-Loire, Guérigny and other villages in Bertranges. When autumn returns, it's the **Musicales'** turn to pay tribute to classical and contemporary music.

For literature fans

At La Charité-sur-Loire, words have their place everywhere. On the walls, in the shops, on the stalls of the antique book market as well as during a festival dedicated to them every weekend of Ascension! **At the Four Corners of the Word** covers the word in all its artistic, cultural and societal forms. Over the space of five days, conferences, shows, concerts, workshops, exhibitions and various activities take place all over the town.

For lovers of the performing arts who want to round off summer in style

The performing arts bring the towns and villages of Bertranges to life. If you love circus and fairground arts, then **La Chamboulou** is the festival for you. Shows, workshops, rides, games... La Chamboulou entertains young and old alike!

In Varennes-les-Narcy stand the ruins of Château de Passy-les-Tours. Since 2010, they have witnessed the **Médiévales des Tours de Passy**. Shows, horse-riding tournaments, medieval camps, knight fights, stalls and period leisure activities punctuate the weekend.

When arts combine

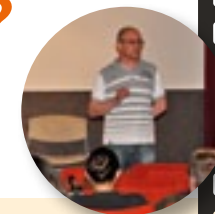
Since 2018, November has meant the **Grands Chemins**: the new cultural, international, solidary gathering in La Charité-sur-Loire and across the Bertranges. With a varied programme of shows, concerts, shared meals, meetings, exhibitions, creative workshops and more, Grands Chemins invites you to travel, learn about others and reflect together on the great common challenges of our time.



- **Aux Quatre Coins du Mot - Grands Chemins:** <http://citedumot.fr>
- **La Chamboulou:** <https://www.facebook.com/chambouloufestival/>
- **Les Conviviales de Nannay:** www.nannay.fr/les-conviviales/
- **Médiévales des Tours de Passy:** <http://passylestours.fr/>

What about the 7th Art? Portrait

Bernard,
Nannay through and through,
passionate about art, cinema and the region



Why such an attachment to Nannay?

I was born in Nannay and today I live in my childhood house. I worked in Paris for 31 years, but came back very regularly. Nannay is a personal attachment, my whole family is around here, friends too. There's a relationship between the inhabitants that I've never found anywhere else.

Why the cinema? Why Les Conviviales?

With my friends, we had the idea of forming a film club in Nannay. The town council agreed, "but without too many constraints for the municipality!", and made available an old school hall. In terms of the film distribution networks, Jacques Pinoteau's Le Triporteur was screened for the first evening, in late 1972. 150 people on wooden chairs! This success continued, in the same hall, which has changed a lot since, to become a real movie theatre. We joined up with Panoramic films for screenings, including "thought-provoking films", and it works well. If we have succeeded in anything, it's been to give people a taste for being curious, arousing interest in lesser-known films.

The Conviviales adventure started much later. In 2000, a project really shook things up: 32 + 32 = 2000, by Jean Bojko. A commune partners with an artist to create a culture project. So Nannay welcomed François Davin, a Land Art specialist, who invited the people to help him in his creation. Against all odds, 800 spectators turned up. Let's keep on going! Is the question being asked? We had a cinema in a rural setting, good dynamics on a cultural and artistic project, all without*



any money, but with a lot of good will! Today, the festival attracts 4000 spectators a year.

They say, "Contemporary art doesn't really work out in the country". So, isn't it too difficult to install artworks in the village?

It was a worry at first. We quickly came up with the idea of accommodating artists and directors with the locals. This allowed us to familiarise both audiences and show residents that artists are people like them. The artists explain what they're doing, their project. After that, it's the locals themselves who talk about the works! The people of Nannay attend and take part in the creation of the works. So they want to show their family, their friends what they have contributed. They feel involved in the whole affair!

Les Conviviales celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2020, so what is its greatest achievement?

What will be its main challenge for the next 20 years?

The greatest achievement is that we managed to get to where the festival is today. It's great to start from not much, with few means available to us, in a small village, and to see what we can do by mobilising people. So the challenge will be to keep this mindset going, to succeed in renewing it all in order to keep going. In 20 years, we've hosted 350 directors and speakers and 45 artists. Those who made the first 20 years of Les Conviviales happen will take pride of place in the form of a video clip or photos.

** sculptures out in the open air*



- **Painters' and Craftsmen's Day:** rene.arthel@orange.fr
- **The Impromptus 19H:** <https://forgesdelavache.com>
- **Format Raisins:** www.format-raisons.fr
- **Blues in the Loire:** www.bluesenloire.com
- **Les Musicales:** Facebook "Les Musicales of La Charité-sur-Loire"

My “tout doux” (to-do) list for a successful autumn in Burgundy

Designed by
Bourgogne



- ☐ **Hug a tree.** Take a trip to the Bertranges forest or Mardelles Regional Nature Reserve and prepare for a chilled-out winter!
- ☐ **Wake up to the peaceful chirping of nature.** Sleep a little closer to the stars away from the city, open the shutters and enjoy the view of the glowing countryside.

- ☐ **Use your trainers** on the marked trails and let the children run around safely: no cars on our paths!



- ☐ **Go mushroom hunting.** Tonight, it's decided: you're the cook! Trips out are organised by professionals to teach you how to differentiate between good mushrooms and bad.
- ☐ **Drink in the words of a winemaker** and sip his or her best vintage with friends.

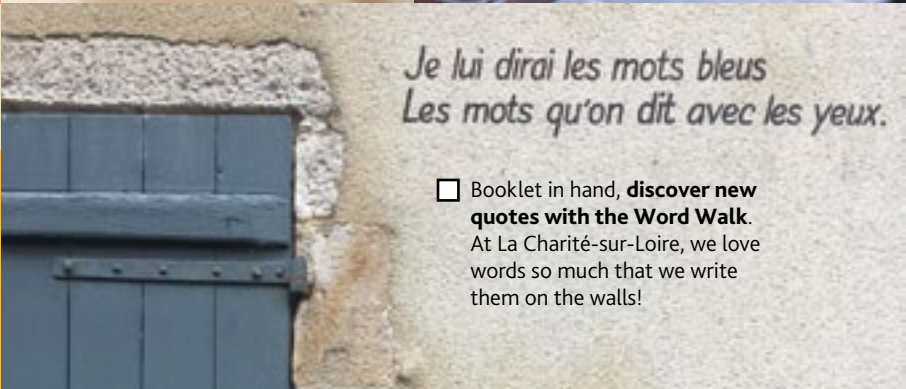


☐ **Enjoy the stag-rutting evenings** held in the Bertranges forest and attend an opera recital out in the middle of nature.

☐ **Taste the famous œufs meurette** (poached eggs) without having to wait for Sunday brunch. Here, our eggs aren't scrambled!

☐ **Try cycling with your family on the Loire à Vélo®.** No cars, no hills, everyone goes at their own pace.

☐ **Take it easy on the Loire** and swap the metro ride for a canoe ride.



- ☐ Booklet in hand, **discover new quotes with the Word Walk.** At La Charité-sur-Loire, we love words so much that we write them on the walls!



2 days to discover artists and craftspeople

Day 1

9.00am: After a good night spent in a house dedicated to art, our stay begins with a practical exercise. At **l'Atelier Callibris**, with Patricia Muller, we discover the art of **Latin calligraphy**. Once the basics of this art have been grasped, we get to work and leave with what we've created.

Des Liens se Tissent guesthouse / Maison des métiers d'art et du Livre d'artiste | 15 Rue de la Verrerie - La Charité-sur-Loire | 03 86 70 30 11

- 1** **Atelier Callibris** | 33 Rue des Chapelains - La Charité-sur-Loire | 03 86 69 64 75

12.30pm: Well-deserved lunch break. At **Auberge de la Poule Noire**, the history of the region is brought to our table. The food lovers (and gourmets) that we are, are won over by dishes cooked using local products in a historic setting: the entrance to the Priory!

- 2** **Auberge de la Poule Noire** | 9 Place des Pêcheurs La Charité-sur-Loire | 03 86 59 49 28

2.30pm: We leave for the **Atelier du Ramoy** (workshop). Here, we meet Josiane Benzi who presents her work with great passion. The artist specialises in dance sketches, a boon for Alex who, would you

Hello there! I'm **Noémie**, a graphic designer in a Paris communication agency. Last summer with my darling **Alexandre**, we had the good fortune to discover a land of artists in the heart of Burgundy. Plus, it was just **2 hours** from Paris!

believe it, is a great contemporary dance enthusiast. He practises several times a week!

- 3** **Atelier du Ramoy** | By appointment - open house the 2nd weekend of September | Gagy - La Celle-sur-Nièvre | 03 86 38 13 58

4.00pm: Head to **Nannay** for a walk in the great outdoors! Arriving at Place de l'Eglise, we discover the **Parcours des Grands Buissons**. And we're off for a poetic 5km walk between the village and its surrounding countryside. Friends who've been here have told us about its contemporary art, but we didn't think we'd find so many works on the streets of this otherwise movie-loving village!





Day 1

6.00pm: As city dwellers, we wanted even more nature, so here we are on our way to the **Domaine des Forges de la Vache**. In the garden, we discover even more contemporary works. The walk has whetted our appetite, and it's a good thing, because while we're enjoying a glass of Côtes de La Charité wine in the garden, the owners prepares a home-cooked meal for us using fresh produce. Once our stomachs are full, we sleep peacefully in one of the rooms on the estate. Magnificent!

5 **Domain des Forges de la Vache** | 429 Chemin Fontaine de La Vache - Raveau | 03 86 70 22 96



12.30pm: On the way to our next visit, we stop at **Ferme Auberge du Vieux Château** in Oulon. We're delighted to find family cooking and the atmosphere of family meals from our childhood.

3 **Ferme Auberge du Vieux Château** | 7 Rue Charles Roy - Oulon | 03 86 68 06 77

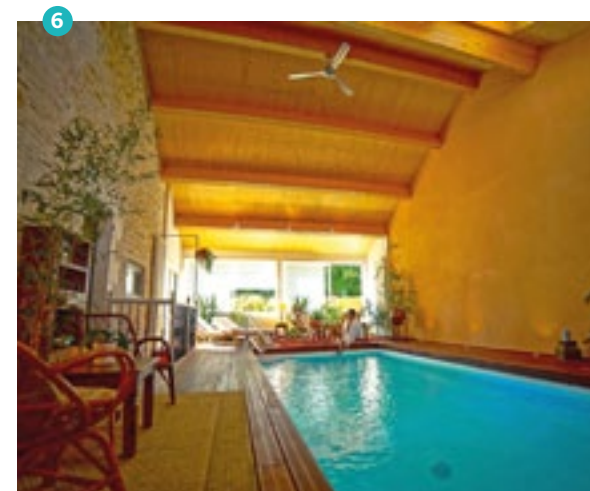
3.00pm: Here it is, the visit I was really looking forward to! We go to the **Terre et Pierre workshop**. Hélène Leroy welcomes us to her gallery and we watch her working. Her specialties? Cutting the stone and modelling the earth! I find the pottery classes from my childhood and I love it!

4 **Atelier Terre et Pierre** | 69 Grande Rue - Prémery | 06 22 70 68 70

5.00pm: We end our day at **La Cuvellerie**. As well as running a guest room, the owner offers introductory framing courses. A boon for us as photo enthusiasts. We'd prepared a few shots we wanted to protect and display. Françoise Perdrizer acted as our guide so we

could take some really beautiful works away with us. In the evening, we sleep on site in the "La Prairie" room. It's a real cocoon, decorated with great taste, and we enjoy the view of the surrounding nature.

5 **La Cuvellerie** | 16, rue de l'Enfer - Narcy | 06 22 30 63 45



Day 2

1 **10.00am:** Head for **Arthel**, a little gem! This time, we discover the village by following the Châteaux d'Arthel circuit. 3km of walking take us to the pond, châteaux and washhouses. Art is everywhere; even the street signs are made of earthenware! On the way back, we take a break at the **Ouvroir Sainte-Marie**, where we discover the works of Guidi and Annie Jeanneret. The morning ends on the terrace with a superb view of the château.

Ouvroir Sainte-Marie | Arthel | 06 18 09 68 39



Visit some art galleries:

Galerie du Pont offers a permanent exhibition of Chinese calligraphy and sculptures in stone, wood and metal by Mickael Dequet.

Galerie du Pont | 10 rue du Pont - La Charité-sur-Loire | 06 89 25 03 58

Galerie 34 is an inviting place that regularly hosts various artists: painters, ceramicists, sculptors, gilders, photographers...

Galerie 34 | 34 Grande Rue - Prémery | 06 35 15 67 83

Combine useful with enjoyable:

At lunchtime, enjoy an iced tea at **Couleur Café** and admire the artworks regularly on display.

Couleur Café | 12 bis rue du Pont - La Charité-sur-Loire | 06 60 37 18 58

Want to extend your stay even longer?

For one or more nights in a house full of character and to really spoil yourself, go for **Les Antipodes**. Discover the artistic talents of Nathalie Gouliart, which she expresses through sculptures to wear and oil paintings.

6 **Aux Antipodes - L'Art au Corps** | 2, rue de la Mairie - Champvoux | 06 89 27 39 06

For a stay lasting several nights in La Charité-sur-Loire town centre in a charming apartment above an art gallery.

Gîte de la Galerie du Pont | 10 rue du Pont - La Charité-sur-Loire | 06 89 25 03 58



The Bertranges

AS SEEN BY INSTAGRAMERS

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@sylviepointe



@3kleinengrenouilles



@instantsdevieetdailleurs

The Bertranges through the
eyes of the people of Burgundy

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@unereveusesurterre



**In every season, the goals
of our Instagramers really
come into focus.**

So what about you? Do you ever head
out with your camera to look for the best
spot? Then ask us: we live here, our advice
is unique!

#LaChariteSurLoire

Check out more photos by following our
Instagram account:

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or by flashing the **nametag**



@karo_la_diabliesse



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