

## WELCOME TO THE HISTORICAL CENTER OF EVREUX

A 2,000 year old city, combining culture and nature. Take a stroll along the River Iton and discover the city's exceptional heritage. Nearby, discover the remarkable places of interest of the Grand Evreux region: Gallo-roman site, remarkable gardens, churches, etc. Take a break on the Green Way, along various hiking and riding trails, in protected forests & Natura 2000 sites. And to make your stay unforgettable, experience the French way of life: quality accommodation, tasty local food and a wide range of shops.

## **MUST-SEE SITES**

- The Botanical Garden closed to the Capucines' Cloister invite you to treck up the steep paths and discover the contemporary greenhouses and the contemporary works of Catherine Bass.
- This Tropical Greenhouse, made of metal and glass, presents a sampling of the plant diversity of the tropical regions of the world. It offers a collection of original plants that complement other collections from the temperate and cold regions of the city of Evreux. You will also find here a very kind and beautiful couple of macaw Parrots!
- The Saint Taurin Abbey Church, founded in the X<sup>th</sup> century by Richard the Ist, Duke of Normandy. This former benedictine abbey became a parish church after the French Revolution (XVIII<sup>th</sup>). Gathering various architectural styles (Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque), it hosts an astonishing stained-glass piece crafted in the XV<sup>th</sup> century, some other from the XIX<sup>th</sup> and contemporary glass of Maurice Max-Ingrand.
- The Saint Michel hills, protected natural areas, offer a kind and peaceful walking path and remarkable panoramic views on Evreux. They are environmentally kept by a herd of sheep.
- Place Sepmanville, is a nice and cool recreational area along the river. Here, back to medieval times, was La Porte Peinte, the largest door to the city.
- The Townhall is located on the ancient Gallo-Roman castrum and the former castle of the Counts of Evreux. It was finished in 1895 in a neo-classical style. Its façade is decorated with the armories of the town and sculptures symbolizing the republic.
- **The Theater**, founded in 1811 thanks to a donation from Empress Josephine, has been replaced by a building inaugurated in 1903. It is graced by the statues of Corneille and Boieldieu.
- The Media Library designed in 1995 by architect Paul Chemetov, creates a dialogue between our historic and contemporary heritage.
- **The Pavillon Fleuri** built in 1867, was a trading center. In 1927, it became a ballroom for receptions and was renamed *Pavillon Fleuri*.
- The Fountain was sculpted in 1882 by Emile Décorchemont: it symbolises the river Eure and its affluents, the Iton and the Rouloir. The armories of the main cities of the department are represented there.
- The Belfry, or clocktower, built in 1497 by the Evreux bourgeois, it is 44m high. It is the southest belfry in France. Its bell, called the Louyse, has rythmed ebroician life for more than 500 years.



- The Place Mandle sums up the history of the ebroician architecture with its wooden houses, the big post of the 30's and the former Chamber of Commerce (1948), rebuilt in bricks on top of the arches.
- **Bridges and washhouses**: Evreux had up to 300 bridges and many washhouses, on the various branches of the Iton. You can still see some during your walk.

## The Episcopal City The "Episcopal city" is composed of the Cathedral and the former bishop's palace. Evreux is one of the most beautiful examples on the matter.

**The Notre Dame Cathedral**, so beautiful, you can't miss it! The Cathedral, consecrated to the Virgin since 1076, brings together all the major trends of religious styles, from the Roman period to Renaissance. It possesses magnificent stained-glass windows, aka real master pieces of stained-glass art from XIII<sup>th</sup> and XVI<sup>th</sup> centuries. Since 2007, you can also admire a magnificent modern

North face, real masterpiece of stone lace, of flamboyant gothic style

Lantern tower from 1495, flamboyant gothic West gate

West gate (XVI-XVII<sup>th</sup> centuries)

Nave, with roman arches and capitals, with higher parts in radiant gothic style

North and south roses of the transept

The choir cathedral glasses with the famous yellow of Evreux

The chapel dedicated by Louis the XIth to the Mother of God

**The Museum of Fine Arts**, former bishop's palace, located closed to the Cathedral, was built in 1499 on request of Bishop Raoul du Fou, directly onto Gallo-roman rampart. It seems today to be one of last gothic style building in Normandy. Historical Monument since 1907, the bishop's palace was converted into a museum in 1956.

South face, built on the gallo-roman wall, has a defense aspect with its machicolation.

The north face is decorated with flamboyant motives and has a pompous aspect.

The face which opens on the garden is from the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century.

The gallery was added in the XIX<sup>th</sup> century to offer a covered gateway between the episcopal palace and the south gate of the Cathedral. Local history, archaeological objects, the middle age, the Renaissance and a collection of fine and decorative arts. The museum also owns a nice collection of modern art pieces (Soulages, Hartung, and Degottex) and the worldwide famous shrine St-Taurin (XIII<sup>th</sup>), masterpiece of the medieval goldsmith's craft.