

1545 Final stay of François I in Chambord. Work on the royal wing

1515 François I becomes king of

1519 Death of Leonardo de Vinci in construction. teau of Chambord gets underway.

1556 Construction is suspended. 1539 The keep has been comple enclosure remain unfinished. ted. François I invites Charles V to Chambord for an overnight stay.

1625 Gaston, Duke of Orléans receives Chambord in appanage 1542 Construction of the park

1641-1642 Château restoration gets underway. Building of the park enclosure wall continues. enclosure wall gets underway.

1608-1660

1643-1662 Final acquisitions of land for what is to become the park.

1660 Death of Gaston, Chambord reverts to the crown. First stay of

1670 World première of Molière's

1733 The ex-king of Poland leaves Chambord for the last time.

1745 Louis XV grants the count of Saxony (Marshal General of France) the right to inhabit the château forecourt. Final sojourn in Chambord of Louis XIV.

1686 All work is suspended

1725 Stanislas Leszczynski moves

1730-1734 Sanitation and deve-

planting of the French garden

into Chambord.

the château permanently and completes development of the

1750 The marshal dies in the 1781 The park and the château are

entrusted to the royal stud farm (haras) under the supervision of the Marquis of Polignac.

1792 The château furniture is auctioned off during the French Revolution.

1809 Napoleon offers Chambord 1883 Death of the count of to the marshal Louis Alexandre Chambord. His nephews inherit Berthier, prince of Wagram.

1821 The estate is offered to

1930 The estate is purchased by the French state.

1840 Registration of the château on the list of historic monuments

1923 The estate becomes an offi-

listed as a historic monument

1939-1945 Thousands of artworks from French museums are safeguarded in the château.

1947 The estate becomes a national hunting and wildlife

1981 The château is inscribed on the list of World Heritage Sites

1997 The estate in its entirety is

2005 Creation of the public establishment known as the National Estate of Chambord.

2016-2017 Restoration of the 18th-century French garden.

NFORMATION NOTES CHATEAU OF CHAMBORD

The French gardens

During the 16th century, the château was built on inhospitable marshland. François I initiated the first efforts to have the site disinfected by diverting Loire waters toward the château. The project never got off the ground, and only during the reign of Louis XIV and the sojourns in Chambord of Stanislas Leszczynski and the Count of Saxony were the outskirts fully reclaimed: the Cosson river was channeled and a huge terrace was brought into being as the setting for a French garden echoing and complementing the magnificence of

Due to inadequate maintenance, little by little the garden lost ground, finally giving way in 1970 to vast expanses of lawns. In 2016-2017, Chambord was the theater of a signally ambitious project, the restoration of its 18th-century French garden. Only after 16 years of documentary background research and geophysical as well as archeological prospection was it possible to recreate the flower beds, the alleyways and the manicured lawns exactly as they once were. Only the tree species planted had to be adapted due to ecological

You will surely enjoy strolling down the alleyways, contemplating the majes facade of the château from a multitude of angles and relaxing on a bench in the shade of a lime tree. You will likewise savor the colors and odors, especially it the eastern section with its condiment plants and "Catherine Deneuve" divine roses representing a tribute to Peau d'âne ("Donkeyskin"), the Jacques Demy film shot in Chambord in 1970.



The Vegetable gardens

Created in 2019, the vegetable gardens of Chambord were planted in the one-time château stables. Market gardeners have been applying organic and ecological permaculture-based farming. Small-scale, high-yield production consists exclusively of in-season fruits and vegetables

Discover the market gardeners' universe and the benefits of eco-friendly agriculture by visiting the installations with a guide or by taking away the vegetables and seasonal fruits on sale at the gift shops of the one-time stables

The Chambord vineyard

Located near the ancient l'Ormetrou farm, the 35 acres of Chambord vineyards contain several historic grape varieties, including romoranting imported in Sologne by François I, pinot noir, cultivated in the estate during the 18th century and orbois originating in the Loire valley. The romorantin grape variety consists in pre-phylloxera plants dating from the mid-19th century and not having undergone any genetic transformation or grafting, dated mid 19th century: unique heritage that Chambord is striving to preserve. You will have an opportunity to taste these exceptional natural and organic wines in some château eating areas, and it is also possible to purchase bottles or cases in the estate gift shops.

The strolling areas

Alongside the canal, a 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) stroll can be taken through the year and will allow you to discover the fauna, the flora and the remarkable ndscapes of a lush ecological reserve. Observatories, pontoons and explanato

Over 20 kilometers (12 miles) of paths are open for strolling and will allow y discover by foot the richness and the biodiversity of the Chambord park. You also appreciate exceptional views of the château

onot hesitate to request the "promenades" the maps for strolls in the reception a



François I King of France from 1515

n 1519, François I initiated onstruction of a new royal house in Chambord, in the heart of the gamerich marshlands of Sologne. Even if e seldom sojourned there during his reign, he followed with pronounced nterest the progress of work on the site, which is where he imagined and was having built a palace in his image, inheritor of medieval traditions and ideas of the Renaissance. For the monarch, Chambord was as much a destination where he enjoyed hunting with his intimates, as an architectural creation of genius and a political manifesto. It was also the place where, endeavoring to impress he invited foreign diplomats and even his arch-rival Charles V, emperor of the Holy Roman Germanic Empire. When he died (1547), a chapel wing and the lower enclosure had yet to be completed. Henry II, his son, pursued construction of the west wing.



Gaston, Duke of Orléans Louis XIV 1638-1715 King of France from 1643 In 1626, Gaston, Duke of Orléans

elsewhere remained incomplete.

received Blois county, on which Chambord depended, from The Sun King was responsible for the hands of his brother, King completion of construction of the Louis XIII. A rebel (frondeur) at château, which had been suscertain times, in 1634 he was placed pended since the reign of Henri II. under house arrest... in Chambord He appreciated the place to the extent of initiating the first known his court, Louis XIV sojourned in restoration campaigns. The terraces were hardly waterproof, and he had them repaired. The lantern from 1660 to 1685. His days were towers and the sculpted vaults on punctuated, as it were, by hunting the second floor had been altered parties, comedy showings and by water inflows and were likewise improved. He acquired new pieces of land that would constitute the park of Chambord, and brought to completion the construction of the enclosure wall. That was how Chambord attained its presentday dimensions (5440 hectares = worthy of the appellation on an 13500 acres), fully surrounded by a artificial terrace. While he initiated 32-kilometer (20-mile) wall. teau forecourt, his efforts there and



Stanislas Leszczynski King of Poland from 1704

Along with what was left of his court, in 1725 the exiled king of Poland, father-in-law of King Louis XV, was invited to sojourn in the royal house of Chambord. He The chapel wing and the enclosure were covered with a roof. Along with appreciated the solitary comforts of an isolated palace and a tranquil. pious, well-ordered life. At the Chambord on seven different occasions, generally during the autumn, same time, he harbored the hope of recovering his throne and putting an end to his wanderings. During the "dog days" of summer, malarial dance evenings. In 1680, he set up a fever compelled Stanislas to leave new royal apartment in his image at the château and to take temporary the center of the keep. He was also refuge in nearby residences (Blois, responsible for improvements on the Saint-Dyé, château of Saumery, château outskirts of the château, helping to teau of Ménars). Intent on cleaning sanitize the site (canalization of the the Chambord air, he pursued the Cosson river) and creating a garden work started on the orders of Louis XIV on the outskirts of the monument. He left the estate for the construction of stables in the châlast time in August 1733.



Maurice, Count of Saxony 1696-1750

In 1745 Maurice of Saxony, marshal of France, was awarded Chambord by Louis XV as recompense for his military feats. It was "like a sovereign" that he sojourned with his court and his regiments, filling his days with military maneuvers, hunting parties and entertainment. He also supervised major projects in the château and its park. He had a theater set up on the second floor of the keep and modernized the royal apartment with sumptuous furnishings. Last but not least, the marshal com- And for the first time, the monument

pleted installation of a French-style garden and constructed numerous with hounds. On 30 November 1750, it was in the château that he drew his final breath.



Count of Chambord 1820-1883

A grandson of the future king under the name of "Henri V". rous restoration campaigns, which

roads in the park to facilitate hunting particularly family portraits, that



Henri, Duke of Bordeaux.

Charles X. Henri received Chambord as a birth gift thanks to a national funding campaign in 1821. Driven into exile in 1830, it was at a distance, from his Austrian residences. that he administered the estate with the ardent hope of residing there on his return to France and of reigning

brought it back from the brink of

was open for visitors. The count presented a collection of works, had been either acquired on the art market or given as gifts by loyal royalists. He died in 1883 as the last direct heir of King Louis XIV.





Practical information









Audiovisual room: films presenting the history and architecture of the château. continuously streamed on the ground floor of the keep.

Strollers can be lent to you in the reception area subject to availability. Free WIFI on the ground floor and in the château courtyard.

ome rooms usually open to the public may occasionally be closed, without advance notice.

Any damage done to the monument will be liable to prosecution and eviction from the monument.

Accessibility



Areas accessible to persons with reduced mobility: Reception area / Ticket office / Ground floor of the keep (with its rooms) / Audiovisual room/ Carriage room / Café / Toilets / Gift shop

Seat sticks and wheelchairs can be lent to you in the reception area, subject availability. Dogs accompanying people with disabilities are admitted in the

The HistoPad visitor's kit includes a customized version and enables access to commentaries on the rooms of the upper floors.



Digital mediation tool adapted to the needs of persons with hearing impairment (containing commentaries in French sign language). Audiovisual room: film subtitled in five languages (French, English, German, Spanish, Italian). HistoPad available in French sign language.



Digital mediation tool adapted to the needs of persons with vision impairment (version with audio description in French) Fully accessible tactile models and tactile moldings of the vaults

On reservation: customized guided tours with supports / heritage workshops for school groups. Contact: reservations@chambord.org







Enter into the world of genius

The château of Chambord is one of the most awe-inspiring Renaissance constructions. Erected starting in 1519 for the glory of François I, it is above all a work of genius, the fruit of collaborative efforts involving the best French and Italian artists, architects and master masons of their time. More than a residential or governmental château, and far more than a hunting lodge, Chambord embodies an architectural utopia, an ideal, a harmony.

The monument's history is in many ways unique: during the 16th and 17th centuries, François I, Henri II and Louis XIV came with their court for entertaining hunting parties, to impress a guest or to inspect ongoing construction. During the 18th century, it was occasionally placed at the disposal of persons close to the reigning monarch. It then became the private estate of Henri, count of During the 17th century, comedies were among the diversions highlighting King being purchased by the French state a century later (1930).

Leonardo da Vinci.

Visiting Chambord means...

The pleasure of experiencing the fascinating double helix staircase

Probably inspired by Leonardo da Vinci, it is in and of itself a monument and one of the major architectural innovations of Chambord. Positioned at the center of the each other going up or down ... but never meet. A not-to-be-missed architectural architectural genius of the Renaissance.

A not-to-be-missed architectural experience!

Revolution.

Stroll through the lodgings of François as though the sovereign were about to arrive

Located on the first floor of the wing, the royal lodgings were completed on time for the king's last sojourn in Chambord (February-March 1545). They consist in a chamber, a wardrobe, a study, an oratory and a large public hall where the king received courtesans. In 2019, on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the château, the rooms were extensively refurbished by the renowned decorator Jacques Garcia. Bulrush mats on the walls and floor, floating drapery and precious tapestries, furniture for travel and objects of curiosity... The setting will help you to imagine the atmosphere of the château on the occasion of the sojourns of the king and his itinerant court.

Relive the premier of Molière's Le Bourgeois gentilhomme

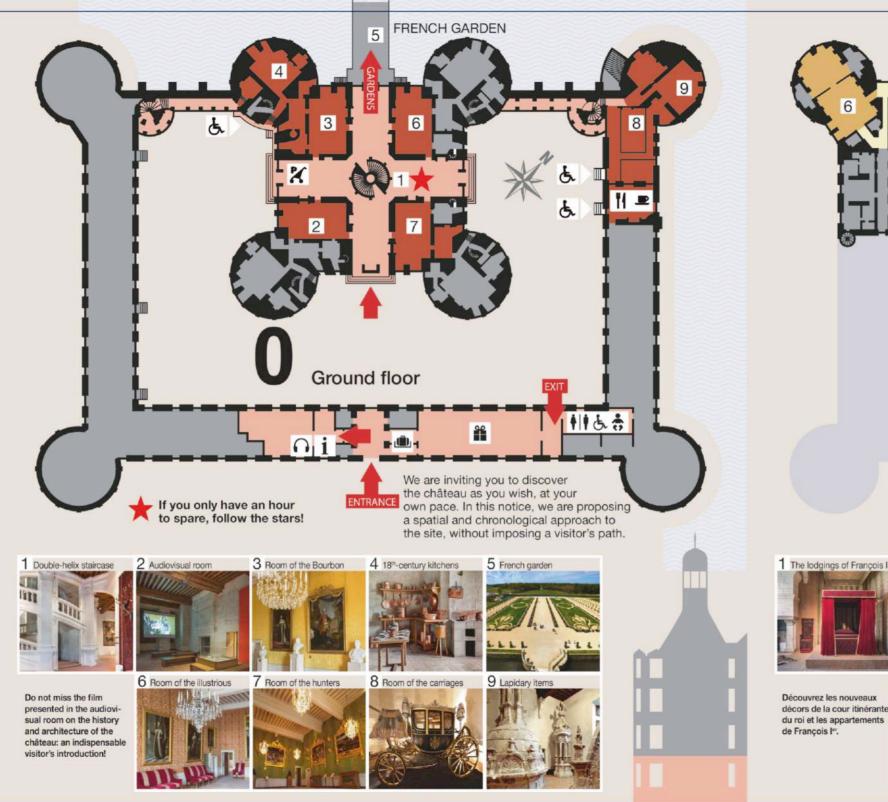
Chambord, the last descendant of the Bourbon and his heirs (1821), before Louis XIV's evenings in Chambord. A small theater was set up on the château's first floor, just opposite the grand staircase. That was where Molière That much said, all guests have been determined to preserve a unique site premiered two of his celebrated comédies-ballets, set to music by Jean-Bapexpressing in innumerable ways the dreams of François I and thoughts of tiste Lully: Monsieur de Pourceaugnac (1669), and Le Bourgeois gentilhomme (1670). Wishing to recall these milestone events, the decorator Jacques Garcia has put together an evocation of the ancient court, as though the curtain were about to be raised on a new show...

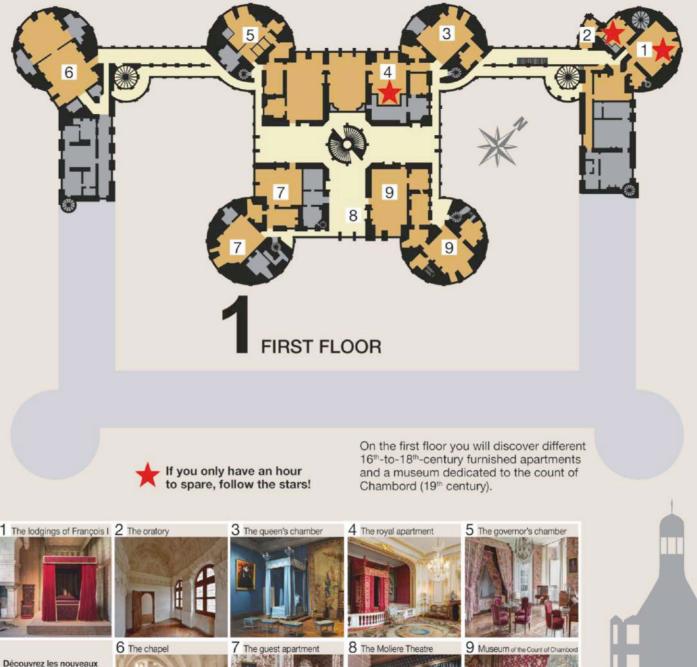
Decipher the symbols under the sculpted vaults

On the second floor of the keep, the ceilings of the four rooms surrounding the grand staircase are covered with imposing vaulted caissons. Harking back to building, the celebrated spiral staircase consists in a hollowed central core and, one-time triumphal arches, they are integrally dedicated to the emblems dear twisting and turning one above the other, two twinned flights of stairs. If by chance to King François I. Hundreds of sculpted and crowned salamanders alternate two persons use the different sets of staircases at the same time, they can see with the letter "F" glorifying the builder king of Chambord while typifying the

Enjoy the panoramic view from the terraces

At the culminating point of the grand staircase (at the top of the keep), the terraces The first floor of the keep presents numerous furnished 17th and 18th-century offer ample space for strolls as well as a panoramic view of the surrounding park apartments recalling the sojourns of Sranislas Leszczynski, Maurice, Count of and gardens. You will be immersed in an abounding spectacle represented by multiple clusters of chimneys, dormer windows and staircase turrets crisscroreconstituted over recent years, will enhance your understanding of the history sing the château rooftops and endowing the structure with an unduplicable si of Chambord and the evolution of its interior decoration up until the French houette. The center of the terraces is spectacularly dominated by the celebrate lantern tower, capped by a fleur-de-lis royal crown pointing toward the sky.





décors de la cour itinérante





The château terraces offer not only the sight of the rooftops, a strange symbiosis of flamboyant Gothic and Italian Renaissance architecture, but also a magnificent panoramio view of the Chambord

On the second floor,

are a sight to behold.

The surrounding rooms

contemplate the magnifi-

