



CHAMBORD

2023



PRESS KIT

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Introduction

Chambord has been inspiring admiration and fascination around the world for more than 500 years. Added to the first list of France's Historic Monuments in 1840, and then to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1981, it is one of the most astonishing Renaissance buildings. A far cry from a residential palace or hunting lodge, Chambord embodies the values of humanism, inventiveness and human ingenuity.

Preserving this heritage means conducting continuous reassessments with the aim of opening it to the broadest possible audience. With this goal in mind, new improvements and innovative projects are presented to visitors each year. In addition, a rich programme of events injects some spice into life on the estate, and environmental actions are also put in place. The establishment is also developing a strategy of diversifying its resources, for example by reconnecting with its old subsistence farming activities.

■ A new direction for Chambord in 2023

Pierre Dubreuil was appointed General Manager of the Domaine National de Chambord on 4 January 2023, stepping into the shoes of Jean d'Haussonville. For the past decade or so, he has been running major national public institutions that work in the fields of ecology, culture and research, from the National Museum of Natural History to the National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research to the French Biodiversity Agency, which he led since it was created in 2020.

Pierre Dubreuil plans to prioritize actions aimed at young audiences and to develop artists' residencies and digital innovation, while ensuring that Chambord becomes a property that exemplifies environmental excellence.

“Chambord, a Renaissance legacy bequeathed to humankind, is much more than a castle. It is an incredible, brilliant and quasi-fantastical work of art that bears the mark of the convergence of culture and nature.”

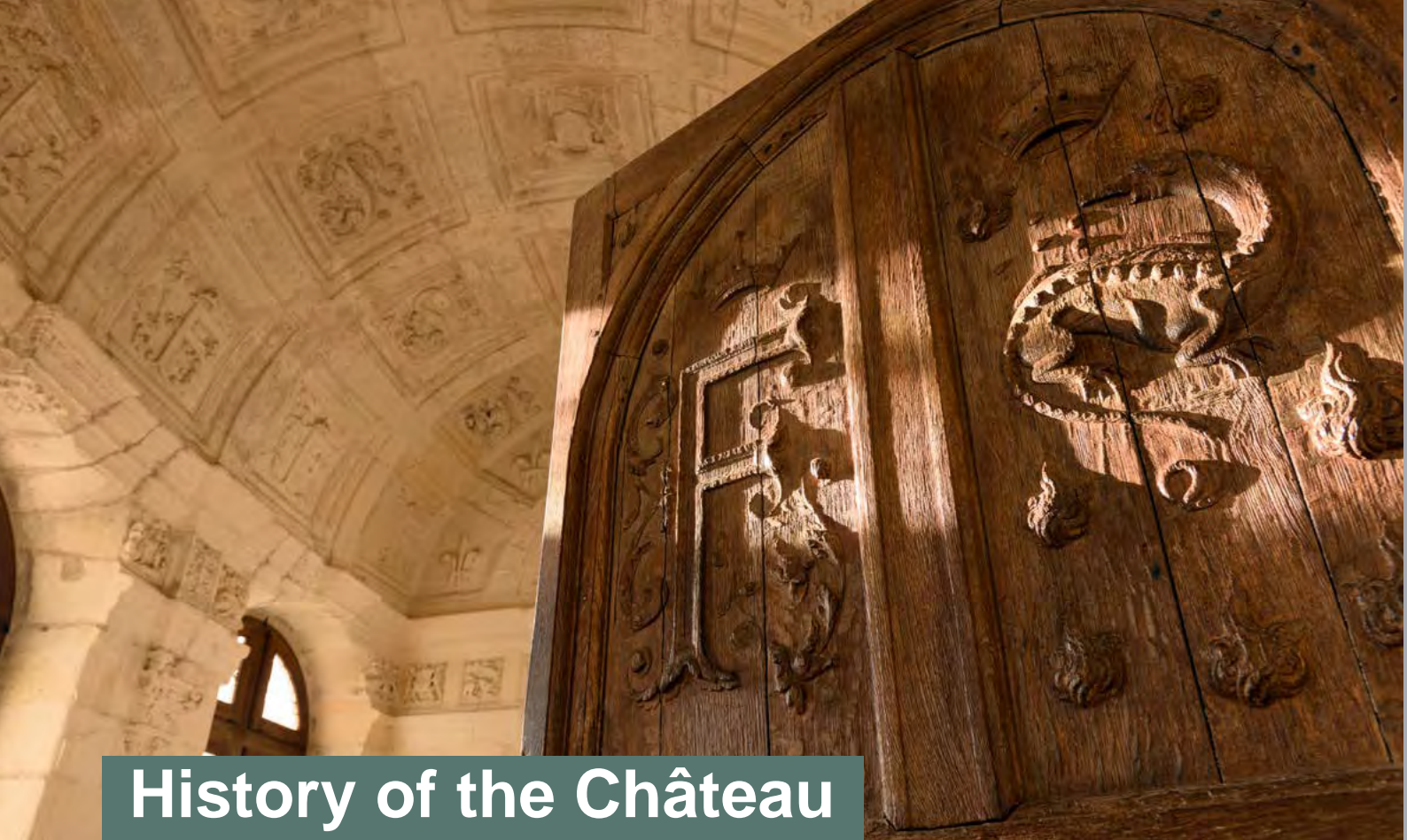
– Pierre Dubreuil

General Manager of the Domaine National de Chambord

The Domaine National de Chambord has been a State-owned property since 1930. This public enterprise is under the full protection of the President of the French Republic and under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty and the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion. A Council of State decree dated 1 June 2018 incorporated the vast Rambouillet hunting park into the Domaine's property.

The Board of Directors is currently led by its Acting Chair, Augustin de Romanet. Since January 2023, the Chambord public enterprise has been run by Pierre Dubreuil.





History of the Château

500 years of history

1519: A palace began to emerge in the heart of the marshy land of Sologne, its construction ordered by a young King François I. It was a monumental feat of architecture that the king enjoyed showing off to other rulers and ambassadors as a symbol of his power, engraved in stone.

The Château's floor plan and décor were designed around a central axis, its famous double helix staircase, inspired by Leonardo da Vinci, that spirals up from the ground floor to the terraces capped by the Lantern Tower.

■ Completion of work in the 17th century

The edifice would not be completed until the reign of Louis XIV. It was also during this period that the Château's gardens were laid out. Stables were built outside the castle, and part of Cosson River, which runs through the grounds, was piped to clean up the site.

On several occasions, the Sun King and his court stayed in the monument. Molière even staged the first performance of his most famous comedy, *The Bourgeois Gentleman*, there on 14 October 1670, for King Louis XIV and his court.

■ 18th century improvements

Work was performed in the 18th century on the Château's interiors. This allowed Louis XV to house his father-in-law Stanislaw Leszczynski, the King of Poland in exile, between 1725 and 1733, and then the Marshal de Saxe, as a reward for his military victory at Fontenoy in 1745.

The need to add warmth and comfort to the building drove its different occupants to permanently furnish the Château and to install panelling, parquet flooring, suspended ceilings and small studies.

During the French Revolution, the Château was pillaged and its furniture sold off, but the monument itself managed to escape destruction.

■ 19th century: A private castle

Chambord was abandoned until Napoleon gifted it to Marshal Berthier in 1809, as thanks for his services. The marshal only stayed there a short while, and his widow soon asked for permission to sell the grand home that was in such poor condition. The entire estate was offered to the Duke of Bordeaux, grandson of King Charles X, in 1821 as part of a national fundraiser. But political events forced him into exile, and he was never able to live in the Château. He did however take the title of Count of Chambord and opened the monument up to visitors.

It wasn't until 1871 that he first set foot on the property, during a short stay there when he wrote his famous *White Flag Manifesto*, in which he rejected the French flag and therefore the French throne. Although he was far away, the Count of Chambord was mindful of the upkeep of the castle and its grounds. He launched major restoration projects and had a steward who ran the estate. Following his death in 1883, the property was inherited by his nephews, the Princes of Bourbon-Parma.



LEONARDO DA VINCI: CHAMBORD'S ARCHITECT?

After the Battle of Marignano, François I discovered the wonders of Italian architecture and the work of Leonardo da Vinci. When he returned to France in 1516, François I invited the Italian master to stay in the court of France as the "Premier Painter, Architect and Engineer of the King".

His influence in the design of the plans to build the Château de Chambord can be seen in his comparisons of the different architectural choices made (the keep's central plan, the double helix staircase, the double ventilated pit system of latrines, the terrace waterproofing system, etc.) and in the sketches he drew in his notebooks.

Most art historians though don't recognize him as the sole designer of the Château. Instead, he tends to be considered as an architectural advisor who suggested ideas and worked in conjunction with Dominique de Cortone, the master builders and the future foremen.

The Italian master passed away at the Château du Clos Lucé in Amboise on 2 May 1519, four months before ground was officially broken on Chambord.

■ 20th century: Chambord, a shelter for masterpieces during the Second World War

The Château and its grounds have been the property of the State since 1930.

In 1939, following the order to evacuate the main museums in Paris, including the Louvre, thousands of works of art were transported by convoy to 11 castles and abbeys in central and western France, one of which was Chambord. The Château, which was closed to the public, housed thousands of pieces, most of them from French public collections, to safeguard them against Nazi bombings and greed.

With 4,000 m³ of crates stored there in June 1944, Chambord was the biggest of the 83 repositories that sheltered artwork during the war. For example, iconic pieces like Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, *Liberty Leading the People* by Eugène Delacroix and the *Lady and the Unicorn* tapestries were all hidden at Chambord.

Thanks to zealous curators and public heritage officials, many national treasures survived the war, transforming Chambord into an imaginary museum.



The very expression of the Renaissance

Its silhouette is immediately recognizable, even from a distance. The structure, surrounded by woods and a prairie developed into gardens and flower beds, with small houses and roads, is an impressive sight with its rooftops dotted with chimney stacks, dormer windows and turrets.

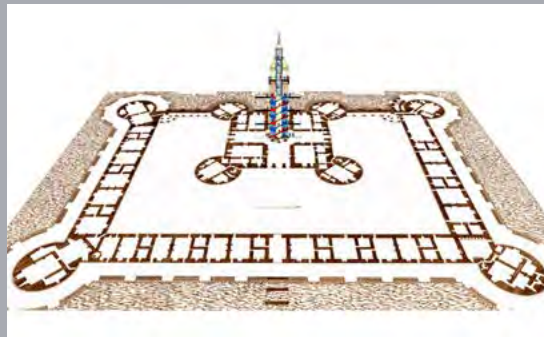
During the Renaissance, it corresponded to idealized notions of what a palace should be, fuelled by the popularity of chivalric romance novels like *Amadis of Gaul* (1508).

There is something irresistible in this image made of contrasts, simultaneously geometric and well-planned yet bountiful and whimsical, massive yet ethereal.

■ A central plan

The central part of the Château de Chambord is its keep. The keep's internal design was a novel arrangement in France and an undeniable dash of Italianism. It has a central plan, with the four sides of the building opening onto large rooms that measure 9 metres wide by 18 metres long, in the shape of a Greek cross.

In the middle stands the imposing double helix staircase. Lastly, the cross-shaped room dictates the housing zones at the corners, formed of standardized bedchambers.



A COLOSSAL PROJECT



1539: After 20 years of building work, Chambord's central keep was completed. As many as 1,800 workers were involved at peak times in the project. More than 20,000 tonnes of tufa limestone were carried up the Loire on barges from Tours to the Port of Saint-Dyé. The slate roofing materials were extracted from quarries near Angers, the wood for the framing was felled in nearby forests, and the lead used for waterproofing arrived after crossing the channel from England.

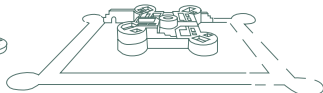
These raw materials were then cut, hewn, sculpted and raised, in some cases more than 50 metres above ground, before finally being assembled.



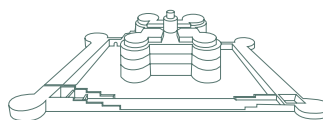
1519



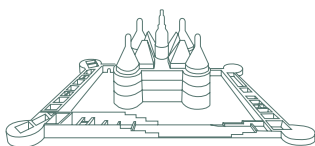
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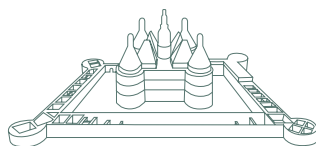
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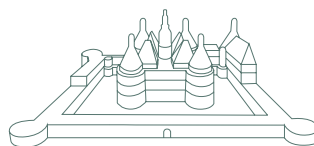
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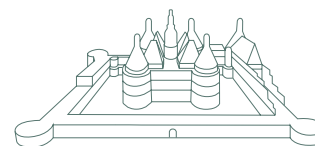
1531-1534



1539



1545



1547

The Château's pride and joy: The double helix staircase

At the heart of the monument, where the large rooms intersect, a majestic double helix staircase rises from the floor, a wonder and a marvel for all visitors.

It features two flights with open banisters, winding one above the other around a central core, lit from the sides by bay windows installed in the surrounding rooms laid out in a cross. It leads to the main floors of the keep and then up to the terraces. From there, it turns into a single spiral staircase to the castle's highest point at the top of the Lantern Tower.

Visitors are most astonished by the **staircase's place in the building**, where it acts like a sort of **"spinal column"**. Everything revolves around it

and adapts to its dimensions. This is undoubtedly **Chambord's biggest innovation**, at a time when spiral staircases tended to either protrude from building façades – like the external staircase at the Château de Blois – or be discreetly embedded in masonry.

And visitors don't immediately realize there are two separate flights of stairs or understand how they wind around one another. Some will be surprised to see some disappear as they make their way upwards, while others will be entertained (or frustrated!) when they try to meet up with friends who took the other flight. This is the source of the "play" and the "magic" of the grand staircase at the Château de Chambord.

*"Chambord was a highly ambitious architectural creation,
a new 'wonder of the world' that would go on to immortalize its builder."
– Monique Chatenet, *Chambord* (Paris: Editions du Patrimoine, 2001), p. 35*





Timeline

1515 Victory at Marignano. François I becomes King of France.

1519 Death of Leonardo da Vinci in Amboise. Construction begins on Chambord.

1539 The keep is completed. François I invites Emperor Charles V to Chambord for a night.

1542 Construction begins on the wall around the estate.

1545 François I stays at Chambord for the last time. End of elevation work on the Royal Wing.

1547 Death of François I. His son Henri II, continues building the castle after acceding to the throne.

1556 Building work is suspended. The Chapel Wing and lower enclosure are not completed.

1626 Gaston d'Orléans receives Chambord as a privilege.

1641-1642 First work to restore the castle. Continuation of construction of the wall around the estate.

1643-1662 Acquisitions of the last pieces of land that would form the estate.

1660 Death of Gaston d'Orléans. Chambord is returned to the Crown. First visit from Louis XIV.

1685 Construction of stables on the Château's forecourt. Louis XIV stays at Chambord for the last time.

1686 All work is brought to a halt.

1725 Stanislaw Leszczyński moves into the Château.

1730-1734 Development and sanitation work resumes around the Château.

1733 The former King of Poland definitively leaves Chambord.

1745 Louis XV gives Marshal de Saxe use of the Château and its property.

1748 Marshal de Saxe moves into the Château on a permanent basis and finishes developing its grounds.

1750 Marshal de Saxe dies at the Château.

1781 The estate and the castle are entrusted to the royal stud farm, run by the Marquis of Polignac.

1792 The castle's furniture is sold at auction during the French Revolution.

1809 Napoleon gives Chambord to Marshal Louis Alexandre-Berthier, Prince of Wagram.

1821 The estate is given to Henri d'Artois, Duke of Bordeaux, the youngest of the Bourbons. The Château opens for tours.

1840 Inclusion of the Château on the list of France's Historic Monuments.

1871 First and only visit from Henri d'Artois, now Count of Chambord.

1883 Death of the Count of Chambord. His Bourbon-Parma nephews inherit the estate.

1923 The Château's grounds become a listed site.

1930 The property is purchased by the State.

1939-1945 Thousands of works of art from French museums are sheltered at Chambord.

1947 The estate becomes a national hunting and wildlife reserve.

1981 Inscription of the Château on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

1997 The entire estate is listed as a Historic Monument.

2005 Creation of the public enterprise, Domaine National de Chambord.

2016 Historic flooding, leaving Chambord surrounded by water.

2017 Official opening of the formal gardens.

2019 Commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the start of construction.

2020-2021 Chambord withstands the pandemic, with its longest closure since the Château first opened to the public.

2021-2023 Project to simultaneously restore all six roof lanterns. No restoration work had been launched on such a scale since the late 19th century.



Gardens and estate

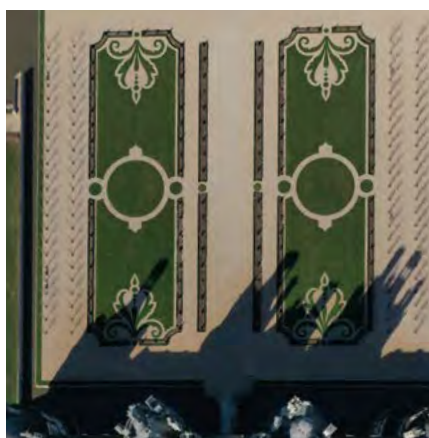
Formal gardens

Since construction began in 1519, Chambord has always had spacious grounds abounding with game where the king could indulge in the pleasures of hunting.

Louis XIV undertook sanitation work and wanted to give the Château a landscaped setting worthy of its architecture. He had two gardens designed, to the north and the east, which can be seen on the oldest plans in our possession but which were never created. In 1734, under the reign of Louis XV, these gardens were reorganized and enhanced with paths through trees, groves and flower beds laid out like embroidery patterns.

They existed in this arrangement for nearly two centuries before falling into disuse and gradually being reduced to mere grassy flower gardens. After more than 12 years of historical research, the decision was made in 2016 to restore the gardens to their original designs under Louis XIV.

As a result, Chambord was spectacularly transformed in 2017 when it regained its formal gardens. They now occupy 65,000 m² of land at the base of the castle. Providing a vegetative transition between the monument and the forest, these gardens restore the full majesty of the Château's grand façade.



KEY FIGURES

FORMAL GARDENS:

- 65,000 m²
- 44,000 m² of gravel paths
- 32,500 plants
- 18,000 m² of grass
- 800 trees planted
- 5 months of work
- Cost: €3.5 million, personally donated by Stephen A. Schwarzman

Landscaped garden

This 19th century garden had almost completely disappeared before it was entirely recreated in 2014. An 1889 survey shows groves of trees in front of the Château and a shrubby border running alongside Place Saint-Louis and the town hall. Over the course of the 20th century, the groves were removed for reasons of fashion and upkeep. Today, this landscaped garden features rounded paths, a lawn sloping gently down towards the castle, flowering groves and tall, solitary trees (cedars, sequoias, etc.).

Grand Vista

The 4.5 kilometre long Grand Vista passes through the Château from north to south, along a line that runs right under the famous double helix staircase. Its redevelopment was made possible in 2018 thanks to the support of AXA France.



Estate

François I wanted the Château de Chambord and its forest to be a real estate from the outset. Spanning 54.4 km², the **Domaine National de Chambord is Europe's biggest wall-enclosed park**. It boasts outstanding scenery with exceptional flora and fauna.

At the start of construction on the Château in 1519, François I acquired farmland adjoining the Boulogne Forest to the north of the Cosson River, for the purpose of creating the park. As a result, more than 25 km² of farmland were annexed to the property. In 1645, Gaston d'Orléans, the brother of King Louis XIII, expanded the estate to its current size and completed the construction of its surrounding wall.

Today, the entire property is covered with the main species of oaks and Scots pines, and also features mature forests, heather moorland, ponds and wetlands, plus 2 km² of farmland, 1.6 km² of meadows and 2 km² of village.

"In my lifetime, I've seen a number of magnificent buildings, but none as beautiful or as rich [...]. The interior of this park, full of forests, lakes, streams, pastures and hunting grounds, with the structure in the middle bedecked with gilded crenellations, lead-roofed wings, pavilions, terraces and corridors [...]. We left there filled with wonder or, more accurately, dumbstruck [...]."
– Jérôme Lippomano, Venetian Ambassador, 1557



■ National hunting and wildlife reserve

This reserve was created in 1947 to repopulate France's big game. These days, Chambord is a benchmark for the study of large wild ungulates (deer and boars), thanks to a strategic scientific programme. Chambord is the only place in France that is vast enough to preserve the natural behaviour of large animals and that has a stone wall that prevents them from entering and exiting the property.

Forestry agents who are specialized in wildlife and experienced with techniques for trapping live animals have been collecting and saving data on deer for decades now. This combination of factors provides a history of populations of large animals.





■ Biodiversity on the property

Chambord Forest has been a listed Historic Monument since 1997 and a member of the Natura 2000 network under the Birds and Habitats Directives since 2007.

Every day, the Domaine National de Chambord works to maintain the delicate balance between the preservation of environments and species, forest maintenance and the management of large wildlife.

■ Wildlife

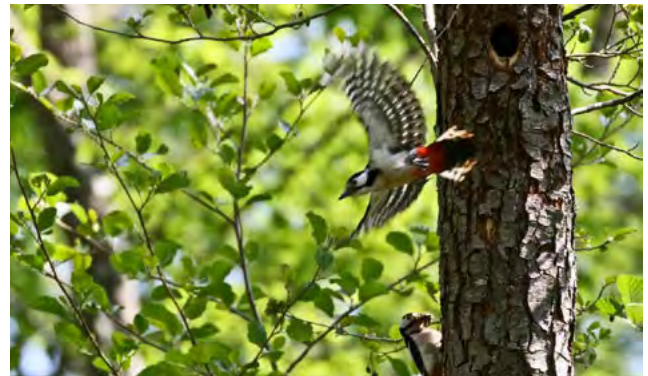
The estate is home to a remarkable diversity of forest animals that are typical of the Sologne region: **deer, boars, wildcats, fish hawks, black swans**, etc. Seven of its animal species are listed in Annex II to the European Habitats, Fauna and Flora Directive: **bats, newts and dragonflies**. **Salamanders** have occasionally been observed there. Its **bird population** is very rich, with **150 species**, including 12 that are listed in Annex I to the European Birds Directive.

Corsican sheep, a non-native species that was introduced in 1950 to establish populations in various mountainous areas of France, are now kept at Chambord for scientific purposes.

The Château de Chambord is the biggest wintering spot in the Centre-Val de Loire region for one species of bat: the common pipistrelle. The Château is also home to populations of horseshoe bats. Each year, an inventory is taken in February during hibernation and in June during the breeding season.

■ Plantlife

Mature forests, coppices with standards, heather or broom moorland, ponds and marshes stand alongside one another, for our viewing pleasure and for the well-being of the animals that find these clearings to be a very favourable biotope. **Chambord's property counts more than 650 species of wild-growing plants, including 150 remarkable species**, most of them specific to aquatic and wetlands environments.





Visiting the Château

More than **80 rooms are open** to the public, where visitors can admire the architecture of a radically singular castle, its terraces, its royal chambers, its chapel and its 18th century kitchens.

A **tour leaflet in 14 languages** is available on site, free of charge. **Two films on the Château's history and architecture** play continuously on the ground floor of the keep.



Guided tours

Every day, Chambord's guides take visitors to the monument's must-see features as well as more exclusive areas that are usually closed to the public.

- 1½ hour guided tours (daily): price of admission to the Château + €7/adult and €4/child ages 5-17
- 3 hour in-depth tours (weekends, public holidays + July and August): price of admission to the Château + €12
- Prestige tours (exclusive access, after the Château closes or during the day, with a glass of champagne): Information and reservations available at evenements@chambord.org



Collections

The Château de Chambord has more than **4,500 paintings, pieces of furniture and objets d'art**. The institution has an active collections policy (for borrowing, lending and acquisitions).

Chambord possesses **one of the most amazing collections of tapestries in all of France**. This is a means of reconnecting with an age-old tradition of installing wall hangings, made possible by the fact that Chambord is one of only a few monuments that are big enough for these massive pieces to be viewed with ease. **Regular rotations** offer a compromise between the need to preserve these masterpieces and the desire to share them with the public.

Chambord also has a unique series of **horse-drawn vehicles** on the ground floor of the Royal Wing: the last "royal" French carriages built between 1871 and 1873.

Permanent exhibitions

■ Décor for a nomadic royal court

References to François I's textile and other movable decorations during his last trip to Chambord in 1545 and the creation of the King's Chamber provide a glimpse of the atmosphere that reigned inside the castle during the Renaissance, so visitors will feel like royal guests of honour.

The experience of Chambord was fundamentally transformed by the installation of this décor, which is still experimental at this point. This removable staging is based on the idea that these furnishings had to be rolled up and placed in trunks quickly to accompany the king on his journeys.

In parallel, the atmosphere in the theatre set up by Louis XIV for Molière's troupe in 1669 and 1670 has been recreated on the first floor, where the first performances of *Monsieur de Pourceaugnac* and *The Bourgeois Gentleman* were staged.

This décor was designed in 2019 with the help and advice of decorator Jacques Garcia.

■ Chambord, a hunting estate and nature reserve (16th – 20th centuries)

This permanent exhibition is devoted to the history of the estate and its longstanding tradition of hunting.

It includes close to 100 pieces and documents from the Château's old collections, donations and acquisitions, dating from the creation of the enclosed park as a royal hunting captaincy by François I to the days of presidential hunts (1965-2010).

Its presentation is livened up by mediation features (like a sound shower, videos and hands-on activities) that are suitable for all ages and provide a fun, educational and even sensory way to explore different themes.

■ Chambord, 1939-1945: Save some of the world's beauty

This permanent exhibition is dedicated to the monument little-known history during the Second World War.

It explains how the castle was used to safeguard thousands of pieces from France's art collections, including the *Mona Lisa*, which found shelter at Chambord on four separate occasions over the course of the war. Testimonials and many archival photos paint a picture of how national museums were evacuated, against a backdrop of Nazi occupation and local resistance.





Exploring the property

Trails

Chambord has created more than **30 kilometres of walking and cycling trails** so visitors can explore the richness and biodiversity of the property. The Grande Promenade is a loop around the castle, that can be followed on foot or by bicycle, with amazing views of the monument and unique nature areas.

Six kilometres of the Loire by Bike and three Châteaux by Bike loops pass directly through Chambord's grounds.

■ Leisure activities and rentals

Boats (on the Cosson Canal), bicycles and golf carts are available for hire at the pier.

- April to November



Fishing spots

Four fishing spots are available to hire for one or two days. Located along the Cosson Canal, a view of the Château and its gardens can be enjoyed while waiting for the fish to bite.

- One spot and three rods are included

Tours of the reserve

Visitors can hop on an all-terrain vehicle to explore part of the estate that is closed to the public, in the company of a nature guide. This is a wonderful opportunity to discover extraordinary biodiversity at a park unlike any other in Europe.

- Year round



Roar of the deer

The roar of the deer during mating season is a phenomenal experience that can be enjoyed on a self-guided tour or by booking a tour led by a nature guide. This is a very important period for dominant males, when they must defend their territory and attract does.

New: Ground-level deer hides are available for hire by experienced animal photographers.

- Mid-September to mid-October



Horse and Bird of Prey Show

François I, the “knight-king”

In Marshal de Saxe’s old stables, the audience is taken on a grand cavalcade set to the rhythm of the horses and the sound of actor Jacques Weber’s voice. Birds of prey will graze visitors’ shoulders as they are immersed in the atmosphere of the court of King François I, with all the secrets of his reign revealed.

This show is divided into six fun and educational parts, and is an excellent way to extend a visit to the monument.

- April to October + All Saints’ school holidays
- One or two daily performances, schedule available on chambord.org
- €16/adult and €12.50/child ages 5 to 17
- Combined adult Château + show ticket: €27.50 (instead of €32)
- Advance reservations recommended
- Covered, shady stands

■ Pégase Prod

This show is produced by Pégase Prod. Based in nearby Salbris, this company run by Frédéric Sanabra specializes in equestrian stunts, including on film sets for the past 30 years.

■ Total immersion

At the end of the show, visitors can leave with plenty of souvenirs designed specifically for Chambord.

For example, show costumes for kids, decorated with mediaeval iconography, are available for purchase.

Chambord Day Passport

Admission to the Château and formal gardens

- + **Horse and Bird of Prey Show**
- + **HistoPad**
- + **Discounts on leisure activities**

In 2023: Valid from 8 April to 1 October and 21 October to 5 November (subject to availability for the show)

- €31/adult (instead of €38.50)
- €20 for ages 18-25
- €16 for ages 5-17





Historic Monument projects

The monument's restoration work is supervised by the architectural firm Chatillon Architectes and by François Chatillon, Chief Architect of Historic Monuments who has been responsible for the Domaine National de Chambord since 2019.

■ François I's staircase

The project to renovate the staircase in the François I Wing was launched in spring 2022 and is scheduled to end in May 2023.

The consolidation, restoration and replacement of damaged decorations are being carried out with a priority placed on conserving Renaissance statuary. This is the final stage in a series of restoration work conducted to protect the architectural balance of the Château's inner courtyard, after the symmetrical restoration of the chapel's staircase in 2018.

Workshops in Paris (**Ateliers Enache**) and Nice (**Atelier Morisse-Marini**) have put all their expertise in restoring sculptures to work on this project, accompanied by **Maison Grevet** in Mayenne, responsible for carving the stone for the staircase.

■ Entrance pavilions

In 1550, to dissuade the wood thieves who regularly entered the property, Henri II created entrances that were watched by a guard who was tasked with opening and closing the gate and who lived in an adjoining pavilion.

Multiple changes have been made to these five pavilions, which demand regular upkeep. The Thoury Pavilion will be restored in 2023.

■ Garden retaining walls

In line with the 2017 recreation of the formal gardens, the moats and retaining walls for the large flower bed are being restored to regulate the drainage of water from the gardens. This work is slated to be completed in May 2023.

Guèble, the company responsible for restoring the masonry, took readings and surveys in preparation for its work. The results suggest that this wall, which measures some 290 metres in length, is built on wooden stakes that have deteriorated in places, which could lead to a reassessment of past assumptions.

Fire protection

As part of the monument's safety programme, the renovation of the electric system used by the Château and the stables is the next step after the overhaul of the fire detection system which was completed at the end of 2022.

It will include the distancing of high voltage (24000 V) power transformers from the buildings.

■ Restoration of the wall around the estate

For the 500th anniversary of monument in 2019, Chambord initiated a multitude of projects to showcase its heritage, including the **restoration of its surrounding wall**. That wall, whose construction began in 1542 at the request of François I, encircles the property along a length of 32 kilometres. It is essential to understanding the history of Chambord and is a listed Historic Monument, but has suffered significant damage over the years, especially due to flooding in 2016.

The restoration of the wall around Chambord, a project **wholly dedicated to job placement and vocational training**, began on 27 January 2020. The contract for this work, which prioritized job placement, was signed with Acta Vista, a major actor in the field of active inclusion through heritage.

For nearly 20 years now, it has been developing a model for building projects that combines training, placements for job seekers and the promotion of regional heritage and cultural assets.



Most of the people chosen for this project were young job seekers, unemployed individuals or political refugees.

The stakes here are twofold: giving people who are looking for jobs the chance to work on a rewarding project whilst teaching them the techniques and know-how that are specific to restoring historic buildings.

In September, these employees and their supervisors shared their experience with the general public during the annual Heritage Days.

Key figures

- 20 people trained each year
- 49 employees placed since 2020
- 90% pass rate on the exam for professional qualifications to work on ancient buildings
- 2/3 of workers have remained employed
- 800 metres of walls restored (2020-2022)





A team of craftsmen working on the lanterns' restoration in 1904
© Photo credit: J. Andrieu

■ Restoration of roof lanterns

Launched in 2021, the Château's lantern project is slated for completion in summer 2023. This action aims to **secure the six lanterns** on the rooftops of the Château de Chambord whilst **restoring the lead ornamentation** that was removed in the 1950s to 1970s. Aside from occasional repairs, **no restoration work had been performed on the lanterns for more than 50 years.**

■ Deteriorated condition

This project places a priority on strengthening and protecting Chambord's framework, which has been put at risk by frequent water seepage through the lanterns. The first diagnostic assessments, performed on some of the lanterns since the start of the project, have shown major differences between the conditions of the six lanterns, some of which proved to be more damaged than anticipated by the preliminary study.

The Caroline of Berry lantern in particular showed a poor structural condition, with some pieces of framing that had begun to twist and sag over time.

■ Re-establishment of decorative unity

An analysis of changes in Chambord's roofing revealed a series of several decorative looks featuring imposing finials at the top and ornamentation at the base of each dome, in stylistic unity with the stone decorations on the Lantern Tower and at the corners.

The look before this project was relatively bare compared to the profusely intricate stonework of the upper sections, which disrupted the monument's decorative unity. This was the result of the "minimalist" aesthetic choice that was in favour in 1950 when the roofing was rebuilt on the Henri V corner. After being destroyed by a fire in 1945, it was reconstructed in the very understated style of the first half of the 19th century. The François I and Caroline of Berry lanterns were restored next, following the same model of removing the ornamentation that had been put in place in the late 19th century, creating a divergence with the stone decorations.

The National Heritage and Architecture Commission, based on a report from the Ministry of Culture, approved the recreation of the old lead decorations – fleurs de lys, salamanders and candlesticks – and the gilding on the weathervanes in their last known state (from the second half of the 19th century).

Key figures

- **6 restored lanterns** (the four made of lead on the keep and two made of slate)
- **12 metres** in height with the weathervane (10.3 m without)
- **15 tonnes** (the weight of one roof lantern)
- **7,500 kg** for the lead alone

- **80 tonnes** of scaffolding rising **54 metres in the air**
- **30 people** working on the project
- **10,000 hours of work** across all building trades, including **4,000 for roofers** (4,000 slate tiles per lantern)

■ Historical status of the roof lanterns in the 19th and 20th centuries

During the French Revolution, the Château's furniture was pillaged, and the building suffered substantial damage that left it in a state of great dilapidation:

"The lead roofing on the terraces, the lanterns and the turrets had disappeared; rot had altered the solidity of the magnificent oak framing the attic space." (Louis-Victor Desbois and his son Victor Desbois, *Chambord: Notice sur les travaux de restauration exécutés au château de 1882 à 1894*, Paris, 1894)

1828-1850

1st series of emergency repair work for safety reasons. The lanterns are topped with weathervanes gilded with the initial for the name of the tower.

Architect: Pierre-Jean-Alexandre Pinault

1881-1898

2nd series of repair and restoration work on Lantern Tower's lantern (installation of sculpted lead décor inspired by the stone décor at the top of the tower).

Architect: Desbois and son, supervised by Jules-André Grenouillot, Chief Architect of Historic Monuments

1950-1969

3rd series of work following an accidental fire on 7 July 1945 that completely destroyed the roofing on Henri V Tower and the adjacent pavilion. Once the tower's lantern was rebuilt, the others were restored according to the same model, removing the decorations made by Maison Monduit that was installed in the late 19th century.

Architect: Michel Ranjard, Chief Architect of Historic Monuments, and Paul Robert-Houdin, the Château's architect and curator beginning in 1962



Property of the Count of Chambord until his death in 1883, then of the Countess of Chambord until her death in 1886, followed by the Princes of Bourbon-Parma, nephews and heirs of the Count of Chambord (Robert, Duke of Parma, and Henri, Count of Bardi).

Property of the State (since 1930).

■ Historical lead décor by Maison Monduit

The lead ornamentation that was produced in the late 19th century for Chambord's roof lanterns was the work of the old Parisian workshop Maison Monduit Fils. Specializing in artistic leadwork, the firm worked on many projects including the spire on Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris and the Statue of Liberty.

Three of the four towers on Chambord's keep were decorated with lead ornamentation between 1895 and 1898. The last, the Dieudonné Tower (the western tower), remained incomplete following the death of the Duke of Parma, despite the fact that some of the décor had been delivered in 1899. Salamanders, columns and candlesticks sat in their crates, stored in a study at the Château for over a century.

The crates containing the old Monduit leadwork were finally opened and inventoried in 2016. Their discovery in a brand-new condition made it possible to precisely recreate the original decorations, with the expertise of the workshop at Loire Ornaments.

In 2014, the fleur de lys that had been intended to top Chambord's western tower was identified at the Château de Pierrefonds (donated by the heir to Maison Monduit, Mrs. Pasquier-Monduit, in 1969).

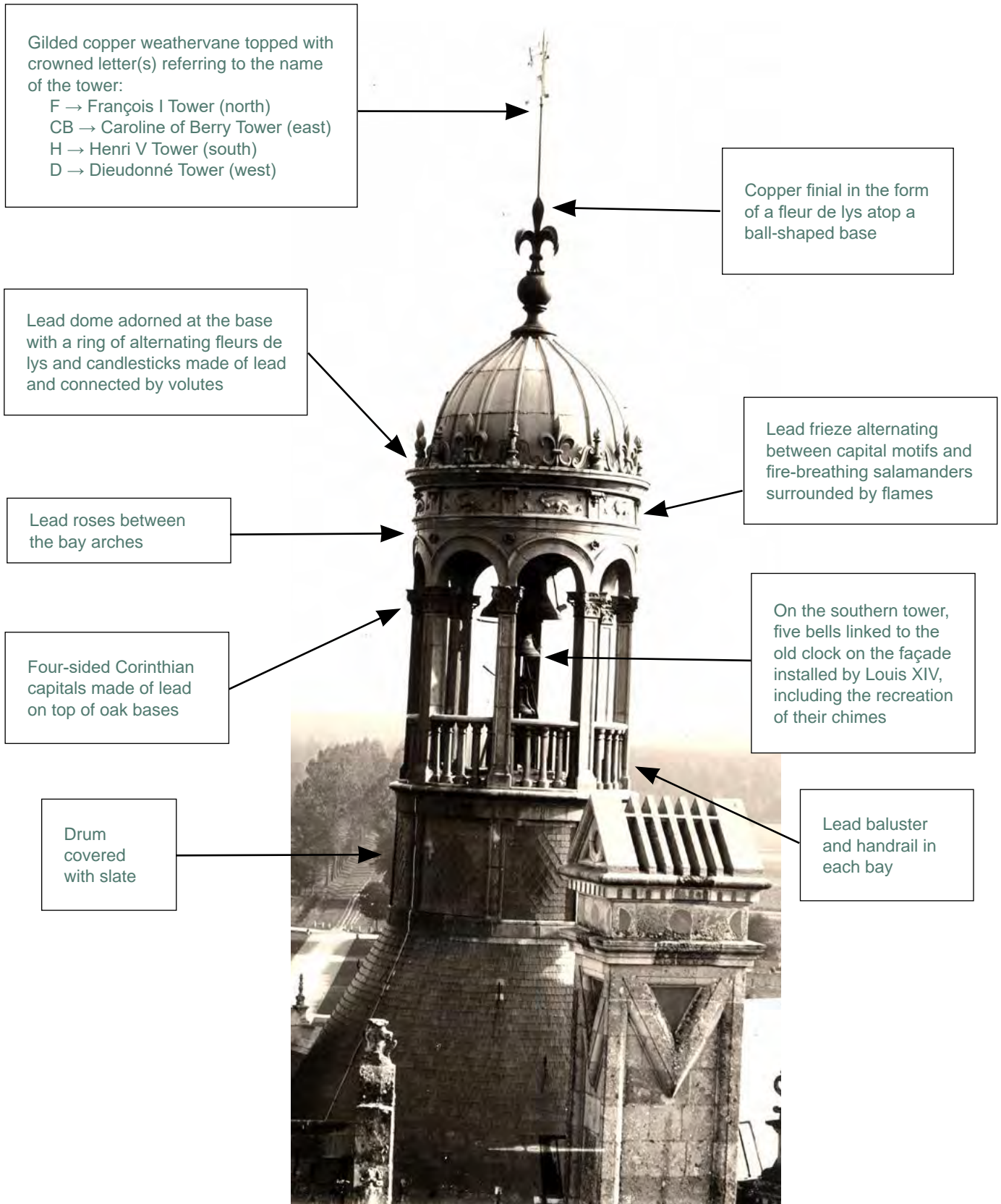


Lead ornamentation that remained at Chambord after 1898, used as models for recreating its décor from the late 19th century (from the Château's collections)



Workers at Monduit Fils, photographed on a terrace at Chambord in the late 19th century (postcard from the Château's collections)

■ Neo-Renaissance decorations on Chambord's roof lanterns in the late 19th century



Gilded copper weathervane topped with crowned letter(s) referring to the name of the tower:
 F → François I Tower (north)
 CB → Caroline of Berry Tower (east)
 H → Henri V Tower (south)
 D → Dieudonné Tower (west)

Copper finial in the form of a fleur de lys atop a ball-shaped base

Lead dome adorned at the base with a ring of alternating fleurs de lys and candlesticks made of lead and connected by volutes

Lead frieze alternating between capital motifs and fire-breathing salamanders surrounded by flames

Lead roses between the bay arches

On the southern tower, five bells linked to the old clock on the façade installed by Louis XIV, including the recreation of their chimes

Four-sided Corinthian capitals made of lead on top of oak bases

Drum covered with slate

Lead baluster and handrail in each bay



■ Contractors and trades

Like an open-air laboratory, the restoration of Chambord's roof lanterns involved a variety of fantastic tradespeople.

Three companies in the Centre-Val de Loire region have been working on this project: **Guèble**, a member of the Villemain Group, which put up the scaffolding, and **Battais-Centre** and **Ateliers Perrault**, which restored the framework.

The ornamentation work is being carried out by **Loire Ornaments**, whose workshop is located in the Maine-et-Loire department (assisted by **Couvertures de Loire**) and which is reworking and recreating all the lead decorations.

A certified "Living Heritage Company", **Atelier Mariotti** is gilding the lanterns' weathervanes, while **Atelier Tollis**, a reference in the field of art restoration, is working on the colours for the leaden domes.

The roofing is being restored by the **UTB** Group. Two lanterns have slate roofing (*Chapel Tower and Robert of Parma Tower*), while the four lanterns on top of the keep feature zinc roofing (*Dieudonné, François I, Henri V and Caroline of Berry Towers*).





Educational, social Chambord

The Domaine National de Chambord, which bears witness to the rich heritage of a whole era and a region, is a special place where architecture and nature work together and where young visitor's sensory perceptions are constantly activated to help them learn.

Inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, the Domaine's work incorporates present-day issues, particularly the transmission of knowledge and heritage awareness, encompassing natural, cultural and architectural heritage).

Kids and families

Chambord is a role model for accommodating kids and families. In this singular place, where everything is fodder for learning and discoveries, the past and future are tied together by mediation actions and mechanisms:

- **Puzzle books:** featuring Cassandra the Salamander, with one version for the castle and another for the formal gardens
- **Animated tour:** a historical figure recounts the key points in the history of Chambord, while immersing kids and parents in a new space-time setting... the Renaissance!
- During French school holidays
- **Workshops in the castle and the forest:** an entertaining and educational experience offered on a variety of themes, like an introduction to stone carving, construction of a model of the Château, identification of animal tracks in the forest, creation of land art, etc.
- During French school holidays





New in 2022

■ Children’s Quarters

On the second floor of the Château, a mediation area is now open all year round, **specially designed for kids** ages 2 and up to experiment and make new discoveries. In a space measuring more than 100 m², children can broaden their knowledge of François I and the history and architecture of the Château, thanks to digital and audio set-ups, hands-on activities, models and fun sensory experiences. **A new touchscreen table will be installed in 2023.**

Costumes are provided for the kids to wear. The youngest ones (ages 2-5) have access to a dedicated area featuring early learning activities and a reading corner.



■ Birthday parties at Chambord

Supervised by an activities coordinator, kids can learn to sculpt tufa limestone or search for signs of the presence of animals in the forest. That educational activity will end with a snack made with organic products from Chambord’s vegetable gardens or nearby farms.



Kids’ books

In 2020, Chambord published its first kids’ book (in French), a moving story inspired by the history of Chambord and the French Royal Navy in the 18th century. Over the course of 2023, the plan is to **reissue** that first book and **publish a new one**, this time taking place during the Second World War.



Educational activities for school groups

■ Workshops and workbooks

The Château's Educational Department offers year-round tours, an exploratory workbook and learning workshops developed based on scholastic curricula and the themes that are dear to Chambord:

- Renaissance architecture
- Court life in the time of François I
- Château building materials and work
- Landscapes and biodiversity
- Artistic creativity.

Other workshops may be tailored to the latest cultural news or adapted to specific class projects, at the teacher's request.



Educational videos: *Raconte-moi Chambord !*

Inspired by a desire to support teachers and students during the pandemic, when classes couldn't take place in person, the videos in our series (in French), *Raconte-moi Chambord !*, provide a **free instructional resource that is available to students, teachers and the general public.**

Raconte-moi Chambord ! is a series of short, educational videos filmed like fictional tales, with an actor and professionals who are experts in Chambord and/or the Renaissance.

They explore the main subject areas related to Chambord and classroom lessons: Renaissance architecture, Kin François I, the development of the modern State, the image of royal power, etc.

These films include activities designed to underscore key concepts and an interactive quiz at the end to test what the students have learned.





Education in art and culture (EAC) programming

As a public enterprise, the Domaine National de Chambord is particularly attuned to the French Government's orientations regarding **education in art and culture (EAC) and the dissemination of culture, especially in rural areas**. The EAC actions launched since 2014, in parallel to Chambord's cultural programme – and its contemporary exhibitions and artists' residencies in particular – help target audiences discover the work of an artist or author, meet them and produce their own work alongside them.

Partners: Centre-Val de Loire DRAC (Regional Directorate for Cultural Affairs); Communauté de Communes du Grand Chambord (Greater Chambord District Community) as part of a regional artistic and cultural project (PACT) supported by the Centre-Val de Loire Region, as well as via the "Summer Neighbourhoods" operation supported by the CIPDR (Interministerial Committee for the Prevention of Crime and Radicalization)

Key figures in 2022

- 799 people were involved in EAC and dissemination actions linked to the Domaine's cultural programme
- 30% of students came from rural areas and 22.5% from priority educational areas

■ Gardens in words and music

In spring 2023, students from all five classes at the primary school in the village of Saint-Claude-de-Diray will be exploring themes relating to plants and nature, through workshops on writing, singing, diction, garden discoveries, and more. This EAC project revolves around *The Monkey in the Abstract Garden* (a melologue, meaning a mixture of speech and music) composed by the saxophonist Alexandra Grimal and inspired by the writing of the famous landscape gardener Gilles Clément. On 26 May, musicians from the Paris Mozart Orchestra will arrive at the students' school for a festive, participatory concert.



■ Transmission of knowledge and remembrance

The Domaine National de Chambord's EAC project on history and cinema will take concrete form between September and December 2023. The team at **VLAM! Productions**, who directed the first four educational videos in the *Raconte-moi Chambord!* series, will be staying at the Château while they shoot the fifth episode, on the topic of Chambord during the Second World War.

A lower secondary school class from the region will be learning about **the history of the Second World War** through events that transpired at Chambord and will also discover **filmmaking professions** while helping with writing, directing and post-production for the fifth episode in the series (in French).

This project will also include some **nursing home residents** from La Bonne Eure in Bracieux. They will be taking part in the day of discovery of Chambord, will be interviewed by the students and will contribute to the filming process.



Cultural, artistic Chambord

From its very beginnings, Chambord has been dedicated to the arts: after its construction by François I, many artists came to participate in court festivities and entertainment provided by the ruler. This tradition did not die down in later years, with various sovereigns and public figures leaving their marks on the site, like Molière, who staged the first performances of *Monsieur de Pourceaugnac* and *The Bourgeois Gentleman* there in 1669 and 1670.

Staying true to this festive and artistic tradition, the Domaine National de Chambord set up a programme in 2010 whose main lines cover the three major cultural fields of the Renaissance era – the written word, music and the fine arts – plus theatre and dance.



A creative laboratory

■ Residencies and exhibitions

From the time of its construction, Chambord has embodied a real utopia, like a work of art that still has some secrets to tell. Since 2011, the Domaine has served as a creative laboratory, playing host to **artists and writers** in residency. During this time, the castle and estate are galvanized by brand-new exhibitions. **The spirit of the place fuels inspiration and permeates the work created here, in a fertile dialogue between the art and the monument.**

The dynamics that are fostered by **including contemporary art and artistic and cultural education projects** through residencies and exhibitions are fully in line with the Domaine's long-term cultural programme. On the one hand, these initiatives provide a new perspective on Chambord and its different spaces, and on the other, they help to spread culture in a rural region.

■ Lionel Sabatté, *Clandestine Pollens*

Living matter and the artist's dialogue with Chambord will be the main threads woven throughout this exhibition. **With its 150 pieces, most of which are being created for the occasion, the exhibition is the artist's biggest to date.**

Lionel Sabatté's thoughts and work focus on amorphousness, corrosion and devalued materials like rust and dust. He restores life to what we have dismissed. His intimate relationships with nature, animals and rebirth are generating clear evidence of the artist's presence at Chambord.

Inside the Château, Lionel Sabatté will be exhibiting new paintings and portraits made from dust collected from the monument, while others will reinterpret photos of plants. He will be installing a spectacular series of *Bird Fields*, 29 sculptures of different sizes scattered throughout the formal gardens. Lastly, a sculpture of an owl will be featured in the heart of the park. This piece, a sort of zoomorphic observation post, will remain at Chambord after the end of the exhibition.

■ **Exhibition curator:** Yannick Mercoyrol, Director of Heritage and Cultural Programming at the Domaine National de Chambord

■ **Residency beginning on 17 February 2023**

■ **Exhibition from 14 May to 17 September 2023**



■ Wang Keping at Chambord

One of the founders of contemporary Chinese art, Wang Keping has been living in France since 1984. His virtuoso work explores all the possibilities of wood. After two major exhibitions in Paris, his sculptures and bronzes will be shown in the Château de Chambord and its gardens.

This autumn, Wang Keping will be staying at the Château for a **residency** during which he will **work on several trees from the property's forest.**

At the frontier of modernity, Tao philosophy, the tradition of carving and the emotional relationship with wood, Wang Keping's trajectory will find a perfectly appropriate setting between forest, garden and architecture.

■ **Exhibition from 15 October 2023 to 17 March 2024**



■ Past exhibitions

Manolo Valdès (2010)
Djamel Tatah (2011)
Jean-Gilles Badaire (2011-2012)
Georges Rousse (2012)
Paul Rebeyrolle (2012)
Julien Salaud (2013)
Alexandre Hollan (2013)
François Weil (2013-2014)

Frédérique Loutz and Ernesto Castillo (2013)
Du Zhenjun (2014)
Philippe Cognée (2014)
François Sarhan (2014)
Guillaume Bruère (2015)
Bae Bien-U (2015-2016)
Koichi Kurita (2016-2017)

Pompidou & Art (2017)
Jérôme Zonder (2018)
Susumu Shingu (2019)
Lydie Arickx (2021)
Dominique Blain (2021)
Pablo Reinoso (2022)





Chambord Festival

■ 12th edition from 1 to 15 July 2023

Launched in 2011 under the artistic direction of Vanessa Wagner, this festival has become one of the biggest music events in the Centre-Val de Loire region.

This year, Chambord will provide an extraordinary setting for **13 concerts**, taking participants on a fabulous voyage through the history of music.

2023 will feature Renaud Capuçon and Guillaume Bellom, the Paris Mozart Orchestra led by Claire Gibault, Vanessa Wagner, the Centre-Val de Loire Regional Symphony Orchestra and more (the detailed programme is available on chambord.org).

- Prices from €18 to €55 (open seating by price category)
- Festival pass (access to all concerts, cat. A seating): €185
- 5 concert pass (cat. B seating): €90
- Each ticket includes admission to the Château the day of or day after the concert



Concerts and events

■ **World Music Day:** 17th edition, 21 June, from 8 pm
- Free

■ **Horns concert:** 24 June, 8 pm
- Prices: €23/€18 (full price/reduced price)

■ **Chambord Live: Imagine Dragons**
- 8 September 2023: SOLD OUT

After a Sting concert in 2022, Chambord Live is back for its second edition. This September, Chambord will be transformed into a place of jubilation and artistry as it hosts the band Imagine Dragons.





Christmas at Chambord: 10th edition

■ Light show

Since 2018, a partnership with EDF and Citélum has produced a long-term, eco-friendly light show on the Château's façade. LED bulbs are spread out, 156 metres in length, to reproduce the natural circadian rhythm of sunlight and moonlight, in a cycle that runs for 28 minutes.

The walkways through the formal gardens and around the castle's grounds are bedecked with Christmas trees that were lit up by solar power in 2022.

■ Decorations and activities

From the ground floor to the furnished apartments by way of the entrance porch, the famous double helix staircase and the chapel, the tour route is enhanced by decorations, many of them made from material produced on the property.

Each year, multiple activities (workshops, storytelling, Renaissance entertainment, etc.) and a Christmas show are put on for the general public.

■ Educational partnership with the National Floristry School in Paris

Accompanied by their instructors, apprentices at the National Floristry School in Paris will be enriching their arts and crafts skills at Chambord.

On the ground, they will be applying professional techniques for small to massive flower arrangements and will also be learning how to occupy the space they are given and how to move from design to fulfilment. **Chambord is at the heart of this transmission of know-how.**





Sustainable, agricultural Chambord

The Domaine National de Chambord aims to become a **laboratory for excellence in ecology and biodiversity** at its own level. Chambord already offers a **sustainable tourism** experience in the heart of a **nature park that must be protected** and is also developing **agroecology** and **permaculture** projects.

“At Chambord, we can invent new ties to nature and conduct necessary, innovative ecological transition projects.”

– Pierre Dubreuil

General Manager of the Domaine National de Chambord

Experiments with carbon sequestration and the preservation of biodiversity in Chambord Forest

Chambord wants to establish virtuous forest management methods, develop actions in favour of biodiversity and reforestation, and certify the origins and actual volumes of sequestered carbon.

The idea is to encourage companies to pay for the collective service rendered by more sustainable forest management.

Any unexploited wood stays in the forest, which is what generates carbon credits.

The innovative character of this approach is dependent on the carbon assessment and valuation being performed across an entire forest tract, with the preservation of biodiversity also taken into account.

Chambord relies on the expertise of the company La Belle Forêt to define the best forestry methods based on proven scientific protocols for carbon capture. Chambord will be forming a monitoring committee involving the Ministries of Ecological Transition and Agriculture, the National Forestry Office and the French Biodiversity Agency.



Sustainable tourism

Chambord focuses its approach on its visitors, offering them a sustainable tourism experience.

■ Sustainable transport and nature activities

Since 2017, Chambord has been creating new trails that visitors can take to explore parts of the grounds that were previously closed to the public. Nowadays, **visitors have access to 10 km² of forest**, meadows and moorland, and can explore nature areas that are typical of the wilderness of Sologne.

More than 30 kilometres of cycle paths extend the **Loire by Bike** route, and just as many **foot trails** are available to hikers.

■ Locavore Chambord

Visitors are now encouraged to eat local while visiting Chambord. They can buy fruit and vegetables grown in the Château's gardens and either eat them on site or leave with an original, sustainable souvenir like a basket of vegetables, a jar of honey, water or cosmetics made of sap from the park's birch trees, or a bottle of organic wine from the estate's vineyard.

■ Solar power

Since 2022, Chambord has been experimenting with energy offsetting and with sourcing its electricity from solar power facilities (Christmas lights and offsetting for Sting's concert).

■ Promotion of natural heritage

In 1969, the Domaine National de Chambord was one of the first sites in France to install observation posts in the forest. There are 11 of these posts in the part of the estate that is open to the public, including five that can fit up to 50 people, and six with a capacity to hold three or four people. These raised platforms allow lucky observers to catch a glimpse of a wild animal.

Visitors can also be completely immersed in an unspoilt area by taking a tour of the property, which happens to be Europe's biggest nature reserve, with a nature guide.





■ Subsistence and nourishment

When it was originally planned 500 years ago, Chambord was seen as a whole complex, with a palace built in an immense nature area worked for centuries by humans. Up until the 19th century, many farms were still operating on the estate.

The goal today is to reconnect with that agricultural purpose and **return Chambord to its status as a nourishing,**

subsistence farming property by means of various converging sustainability actions like planting organic grapevines, creating vegetable gardens, green grazing, planned cutting, preserving traditional species, etc.

Thanks to these actions, Chambord is the major tourist attraction that is leading the way in the promotion of healthy, local food. Visitors become “**locavores**” and are the primary beneficiaries of produce from the estate’s natural resources.

Permaculture vegetable gardens

Chambord’s vegetable gardens were re-established in 2019, in honour of the monument’s 500th anniversary.

Two vegetable gardens occupy the grounds around the Château, one of them measuring 5,000 m² and the other 50,000 on the “Casernes” plot of land. Multiple varieties of organic fruits and vegetables are cultivated there, according to the principles of agroecology, organic market gardening and permaculture. The desire to recreate subsistence gardens close to the Château provides a response to multiple issues:

■ **Heritage** issues: the reorganization of Louis XIV’s old stables which later became a cavalry barracks and then a stud farm in the 18th century before being converted to open-air vegetable gardens in the 19th century; the rehabilitation of adjoining plots of land (50,000 m²) that were continuously used for subsistence farming from at least the late 17th century to the 1980s

Key figures

- Area: 55,000 m²
- Main products in 2022:
 - 2.5 tonnes of tomatoes
 - 8,000 Persian cucumbers
 - 2.4 tonnes of mixed greens
 - 1,500 courgette flowers
 - 400 edible flowers (mallow, marigolds, etc.)
 - 5,600 heads of lettuce

■ **Social** issues: the production of healthy, sustainable food and actions focusing on public **awareness**, training and knowledge sharing

■ **Regional economic** issues: a viable project that creates new jobs, with fruit and vegetables delivered to the cafés and restaurants of Chambord, so a broad audience can enjoy quality organic food at affordable prices.



Chambord wine

Chambord's vineyard has deep historical roots. Archival documents prove the existence of grapevines at Chambord since at least the Middle Ages (with farms and religious communities predating the construction of the present-day monument).

In 1519, François I launched the construction of Chambord. A royal order dated that same year tells us that the king brought 80,000 vine trunks to the region from Beaune, Burgundy. The variety of grape was the one believed to be the ancestor of today's Romorantin grapes.

GRAPE VARIETIES

Five varieties of grapes were planted between 2015 and 2019, on more than 140,000 m² of land:



- 40,000 m² of Romorantin from pre-phylloxera vines
- 40,000 m² of Pinot Noir
- 30,000 m² of Sauvignon
- 20,000 m² of Arbois
- 10,000 m² of Gamay.

2021 harvest: 128 hl / 14,000 bottles

2022 harvest: 534 hl / 71,200 bottles

To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the estate, heirloom varieties were reintroduced at L'Ormetrou, near the Château, as part of an eco-responsible approach to agriculture. 1,000 metres from the Château, a single block of vines was planted, spanning 140,000 m² of land along a north-south orientation. The terroir is predominantly sandy, mixed with clay in the subsoil.

Chambord's grapevines are worked through direct contracting with a winemaker recruited by the Domaine. The resulting wines include:

- A red wine made of a blend of Pinot Noir and Gamay (at about 84% and 16% respectively, in accordance with the specifications for the Cheverny AOC)
- A white wine made of a blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Arbois (at about 60% Sauvignon and 40% Arbois, in accordance with the specifications for the Cheverny AOC)
- A single varietal white wine made with traditional Romorantin grapes.



Extraordinary natural resources

■ Products made from the estate's natural resources

For several years now, Chambord has been developing its amazing natural resources. For example, honey, wine, organic vegetables and birch water are all harvested on site.

Oak barrels, venison, soups, wooden decorations, objects made from antlers, socks made of sheep's wool, and leather goods are all processed by local craftspeople in accordance with best practices.

Each product comes with a certificate of authenticity or is stamped with the royal seal of Chambord, which guarantees the product's origin and quality.

■ An in-house production chain

The entire production chain (choice of product design, creation of product ranges, creation of packaging, pricing, marketing, sales, etc.) is carried out internally by the Domaine's teams. This management of production by the teams ensures visual and commercial consistency across the Château de Chambord brand name.

These products are sold at the Domaine's three brick and mortar gift shops and its online shop, as well as by regional networks of small to medium retailers, organic shops, and gourmet groceries in Paris, Lyon, Tours and Orléans.

Honey from Chambord's black bees

Some 40 beehives populated by colonies of black bees were installed in 2015. In 2022, the bees produced 265 kg of honey.



Solognote sheep farming

Protection of the species, use of its wool and promotion of its meat.

Green grazing

This method stimulates soil enrichment and the presence of pollinating insects whilst reducing the use of chemical and organic soil conditioners on the Domaine's land.



Birch water (a beverage and range of organic cosmetics)

First harvested in 2019. Three weeks of harvest time between February and March. 2021: 13,500 litres of sap collected.



Chambord's wood industry

Chambord shares the concern of the French wood industry as a whole in respect of the exportation of French oak as a raw material, and so the Domaine has adopted a strategy based on heritage, economics and sustainability. The goal is to re-establish Chambord Forest's place in the history of France, develop its wood industry and boost its brand recognition.

■ Barrels

Chambord Forest borders on the Boulogne, Russy and Blois National Forests which lend themselves well to the production of oak barrels. A limited edition of high-quality oak barrels is manufactured each year.

Chambord oak is split by hand into staves, in accordance with best practices, and matured for two years on the property, in the open air. Cooperage is performed by Tonnellerie Cadus in Burgundy with masterful care in terms of everything from the selection of the oak to the production of the staves and the design of the barrels. For each barrel that is delivered, Cadus has committed to planting a new oak tree in France, working in partnership with a Burgundian nursery.



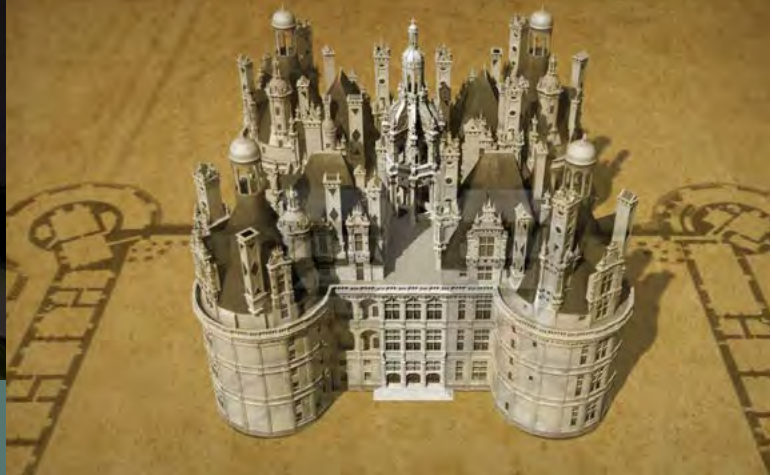
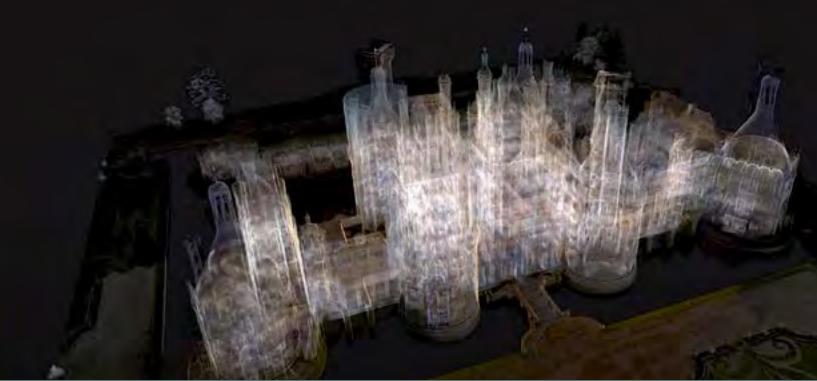
■ Partnership with Raer Scotch

Jackton Distillery, through the company Raer Alliance Scotch Whisky, has signed a contract for the supply of oak casks and a branding agreement with Domaine National de Chambord. This 10 year partnership covers the production of spirits (gin and whisky) that will be aged in oak casks from Chambord Forest.

■ A mobile sawmill

In response to rising demand for processed wood, Chambord is examining the possibility of setting up a mobile sawmill that would exclusively use wood that is harvested within its walls. This new business could serve as material for training or tours offered to different target audiences.





Digital Chambord

"I see it as a summary of what human industry can achieve." – Emperor Charles V

Inspired by the architectural innovation that is the concept monument of Chambord, special attention is given to the digital developments that could contribute to its reach and reputation.

The rollout of the Domaine's digital strategy takes account of user expectations – that tend to change quickly, particularly as a result of the global digitalization that we witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic –, the available, accessible technologies, and recommendations from French government ministries.

This digital strategy has multiple goals:

- To convey Chambord's innovative identity
- To increase the Domaine's visibility through digital innovations
- To bolster and raise traffic to the physical property
- To bring Chambord's heritage to life outside its borders
- To support scientific research and knowledge sharing by co-producing innovative mediation mechanisms.

Chambord enters Web3

Chambord entered the metaverse, and Web3 in general, in September 2021, initially in an attempt to solve with the intangible heritage protection challenges defined by the State, since the Château had already been reproduced – without its knowledge or permission – in many a virtual world (video games, Japanese anime, etc.).

So, it was important to **capitalize on the appeal of French heritage** whilst providing a **framework to safeguard the principle of general interest**.

The Domaine National de Chambord also contributed to the *Mission Report on Metaverse Development* that was published in October 2022* and the Ministry of Culture's *NFT Report* in June 2021.

■ A video game and a community experiences

The next step will be for Chambord to build a loyal, giving community, generate revenue from its video game and forge partnerships with actors in the sector.

In 2023, the institution will produce its own video game, in the form of a participatory quest. Players will need to pool their skills in order to make progress in the game, whilst rubbing shoulders with figures linked to Chambord, with the possibility of acquiring historical objects and apparel, accessories and tools, available namely as NFTs.

* In a mission letter dated 14 February 2022, the Minister of Economy, Finance and Recovery, the Minister of Culture and the Secretary of State in charge of the Digital Transition and Electronic Communications decided to establish an exploratory mission on the development of the metaverse, which was completed in July 2022 and driven by Camille François, a researcher at Columbia University, Adrien Basdevant, an attorney at the Bar of Paris, and Rémi Ronfard, a researcher at INRIA (French Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology).



■ On-site digital devices

■ Tours with a HistoPad

Since 2015, the tablet has been a real companion and guide on immersive tours, plunging visitors into the past through 3D reconstructions of nine rooms in the Château, from the Renaissance to the Second World War.

The HistoPad contains:

- Interactive maps
- A guide to 24 of the Château's rooms, with information on their history and collections

- Over an hour of audio commentary on the history and architecture of the Château
- A fun, interactive treasure hunt for younger visitors.

- Created in partnership with *Histoverly*
 - Available year round, in 12 languages



■ Chambord 360°: Leonardo da Vinci's dream becomes reality

Fitted with a virtual reality headset, visitors can soar above the rooftops of Chambord on a breathtaking experience inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's dream of flying.

- Featuring the voices of *Lambert Wilson* and *Claire Chazal*; produced by *Kemmel Production*; written and directed by *Arnaud Lemaire* and *Arnault Berthou*
 - During French school holidays

■ Apps for touring Chambord



■ La Boussole: Scientific walk in Chambord

This app calculates personalized, geolocated itineraries and suggests fun, scientific content that provides a better understanding of Chambord's plantlife, wildlife, landscapes and history.

The free app, *La Boussole: Scientific walk in Chambord*, is co-owned by six institutions, including the University of Tours and the Domaine National de Chambord. It was developed by the Heritage Intelligence Ambition, Research & Development Programme and funded by the Centre-Val de Loire Region.

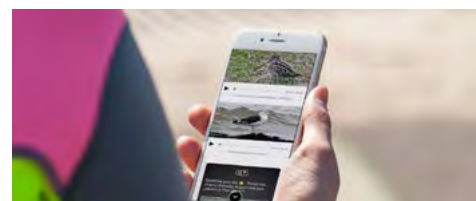


■ A smart treasure hunt in nature

This treasure hunt is a great way to explore Chambord and its grounds as part of an interactive orienteering race interspersed with quizzes and games featuring coded messages and challenges that lead participants to discover both the history of the Château and the nature (plants and animals) all around it.



This digital app was created by the startup *Rendr*, in partnership with *Orange*.



Amenities

■ Restaurants

Both the food service venues managed directly by Chambord showcase vegetables, charcuterie and wine from the property, as well as other local products. Different options are available, ranging from fast food to fine dining.

■ Autour du Puits

At the base of the Château, fast food from short supply chains.
- Open April to November

■ Café d'Orléans

In the Château's inner courtyard, with a terrace looking out at the keep and a fireplace that crackles in autumn.
- Open February to October plus French school holidays

■ Other restaurants on the village square

Restaurants are open year round on Chambord's village square, serving a variety of cuisines, local specialities and regional products (wine, pâté, etc.).

La Cave des Rois: +33 (0)6 99 30 17 53
Crêperie du Cerf: +33 (0)2 54 42 21 22

Le Saint-Louis: +33 (0)2 54 20 31 27
Les Armes du Château: +33 (0)2 54 42 29 44

■ Le Grand Saint-Michel, a gastronomic restaurant at Relais de Chambord

The chef delivers a fine dining experience that showcases products that mainly come from local farmers and producers or even Chambord's vegetable garden, in the form of a seasonal menu.

■ Shops

■ Three gift shops on the estate

- At the Château and in the entrance hall: between decorations, regional cuisine, objets d'art, wonderful books and more, Chambord's gift shops sell a variety of items made and selected with care. Different themes, devoted to the forest, children, the art of entertaining, etc., make it possible to find the perfect gift for anyone.

- At the stables: two exclusive product lines, one relating to the world of the Horse and Bird of Prey Show and the other an extension of the Château's vegetable gardens (April to October).

■ Online gift shop

Anyone can check out the more than 200 products available online, divided into six different categories: children and young adults; the art of entertaining; home and garden; fashion and beauty; books and souvenirs; and cuisine.

■ Partner shops on the village square

Local shops and craft studios are open year round on Chambord's village square.

Maison des Vins: +33 (0)2 54 50 98 40
Bergeries de Sologne: +33 (0)2 54 33 32 03

Biscuiterie de Chambord: +33 (0)2 54 81 60 97





■ Accommodation

Just a few metres from the Château or by the gateway to the estate, Chambord's self-catering cottages and Relais de Chambord hotel provide an opportunity to stay at an exceptional site on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

■ Gîte de la Hannetière

New

This old 16th century house has been completely redone using fine materials, transforming it into a 5-bedroom heritage cottage in the heart of the estate's nature reserve!

- Sleeps up to 10 people

■ Gîte Salamandre

This self-catering cottage is just 200 metres from the Château. It offers luxury accommodation in a historic house for a stay with family or friends. With its remarkable comfort, simple décor and access to a private garden, it is the perfect spot to rest and recharge in the heart of the property.

- Sleeps up to 8 people

■ Gîte de la Gabillière

This self-catering cottage is located by the entrance to the property, at the edge of Chambord Forest. This old farm offers its guests a rare proximity to nature. It is just a few metres from the first wildlife observation posts. It also features a fireplace and a private garden, three bedrooms, two bathrooms and all the necessary conveniences for a pleasant stay.

- Sleeps up to 6 people

■ Relais de Chambord****

Relais de Chambord is managed by Marugal, a company that designs unique destination, and is a member of the Small Luxury Hotels collection.

Located 50 metres from the Château, this 4-star hotel has 55 guest rooms and suites, including 15 with an extraordinary view of the Château and its formal gardens, and another 18 with a view of the Cosson River.

In 2018, the hotel was fully renovated as a luxury establishment by the famous French architect Jean-Michel Wilmotte. The décor was designed to recreate the warmth of a country house, with living areas intended to encourage discussions around a fireplace, a bookcase or a billiards table.

Its spa is a haven of peace and wellness where a team of professionals deliver Nuxe Spa treatments. The facility includes two treatment room (one for couples), a steam room, a sauna, a relaxation area with a variety of herbal teas, and an outdoor hot tub with a view of the Château. The finishing touches are the hotel's bar and meeting rooms.

- Open year round

- Information and reservations: <http://relaisdechambord.com/en>

- info@relaisdechambord.com / +33 (0)2 54 81 01 01



Private events and groups

Hire out the property for private events

Many fabulous events are held at Chambord, including presentations of jewellery collections, advertising shoots, feature film shoots, filming for successful television programmes, vintage car gatherings, sport rallies, gala dinners, political seminars, cultural encounters, weddings, family gatherings, corporate anniversaries and more.

Nothing's impossible at Chambord!



Filming

There are many options for shooting feature films, documentaries and television programmes at the Château de Chambord and across its 54.4 km² property.

Since 2020, the following have been shot at Chambord: the film *Valiant Hearts*, the film *Serial (Bad) Weddings 3*, an episode of the TF1 singing competition *La Chanson de l'Année*, the American series *The Serpent Queen*, the French series *The King's Favorite*, the film *Comme un Prince* (release date in 2023), the documentary *Heart of Oak* (2022), and the list goes on.



Groups

Chambord offers year-round services for groups, either à la carte or as a package (tours, wine tastings, etc.). A restaurant deal at the Château also makes it possible to spend the entire day on site while taking full advantage of the property and its activities.

- Groups of 20 or more
- Information available on chambord.org



Supporting Chambord

Sponsorships

In supporting Chambord, sponsors (both companies and individuals) partner with the site's development and improvement projects. This way, they help to safeguard the heritage of France and all of humanity.

Their names are linked to an iconic monument whose image has been profoundly revamped.

■ Sponsorship projects in 2023

- Music Festival of Chambord
- Recreation of a ceramic stove
- EAC (education in art and culture) project on history and cinema and the education video series *Raconte-moi Chambord !*
- Educational workshop: materials and tools (models, equipment, etc.)
- Wild game data collection centre: standardization, cleaning and capacity-building for independent processing

MAKE A DONATION



PROJETS CHAMBORD

Adoption projects

The Domaine National de Chambord has set up various adoption projects to allow as many people as possible to support Chambord, so everyone can make their own contribution. For example, people can adopt:

- A grapevine trunk for €1,000
- A lime tree in the formal gardens for €1,000
- A bench outside the Château for €2,000
- A citrus tree in the formal gardens for €3,000
- A tree in the vegetable gardens for €500, in partnership with the **Fonds de Dotation Transatlantique**.



Sponsors

The Domaine National de Chambord would like to thank its individual and corporate sponsors for supporting its various projects:





Media information

Media contacts

Here are your dedicated contacts for requests relating to interviews, media tours, articles, film and photography shoots, etc.:

■ Communication, Brand and Sponsorship Department

Mathilde Fennebresque – Department Manager

mathilde.fennebresque@chambord.org

+33 (0)2 54 50 50 46 / +33 (0)7 52 65 36 18

Irina Metzl – Communications Coordinator

irina.metzl@chambord.org

+33 (0)2 54 50 50 49 / +33 (0)6 82 02 89 94

For requests relating to royalty-free photos and video (drone) rushes: communication@chambord.org

A dedicated press section of our website contains all our press releases and kits.

If you want to use a drone to capture images of Chambord, you must contact the Communication Department at least one month before your shoot. We will send you the process for obtaining the necessary prefectural authorization.

Useful information

Château hours

The Château is open daily except 1 January, the last Monday in November and 25 December.

Opening hours:

- 2 January to 24 March: 9 am to 5 pm
- 25 March to 29 October: 9 am to 6 pm
- 30 October to 22 December: 9 am to 5 pm
- 23-30 December: 9 am to 6 pm*

Last admissions are 30 minutes before the Château closes.

The formal gardens close ½ hour before the Château.

* The Château closes at 4 pm on 24 and 31 December.



Prices

- €16 Full price
- €13.50 Reduced price
- €13.50 Groups (20 or more people)
- €31 Chambord Passport (1 full day on site)

Directions

- From Paris (less than 2 hours)
- Via the A10 motorway towards Bordeaux, Mer exit (no. 16) or Blois exit (no. 17)
- By train from Paris Austerlitz station, Blois-Chambord or Mer stop

Parking

- P0 car park (for cars/motorcycles), 600 metres from the Château: €6/day
- P1 car park (for minibuses): €11/day

Coaches: €100/day

Free parking for groups that visited the Château (with proof of purchase of at least seven admission tickets shown at the car park's till)

- P2 car park (for cars): €5/day Caravans: €11/24 hrs
- Parking pass (for cars/motorcycles): €10 for 10 visits, valid for 1 year
- Free parking for bicycles

Contacts

■ Reservations:

reservations@chambord.org

■ Groups:

devtour@chambord.org

■ Cultural programme:

culture@chambord.org

■ Private events:

evenements@chambord.org

■ Sponsorships:

mecenat@chambord.org



domaine national de Chambord



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