

L'ESPRIT
CREUSE

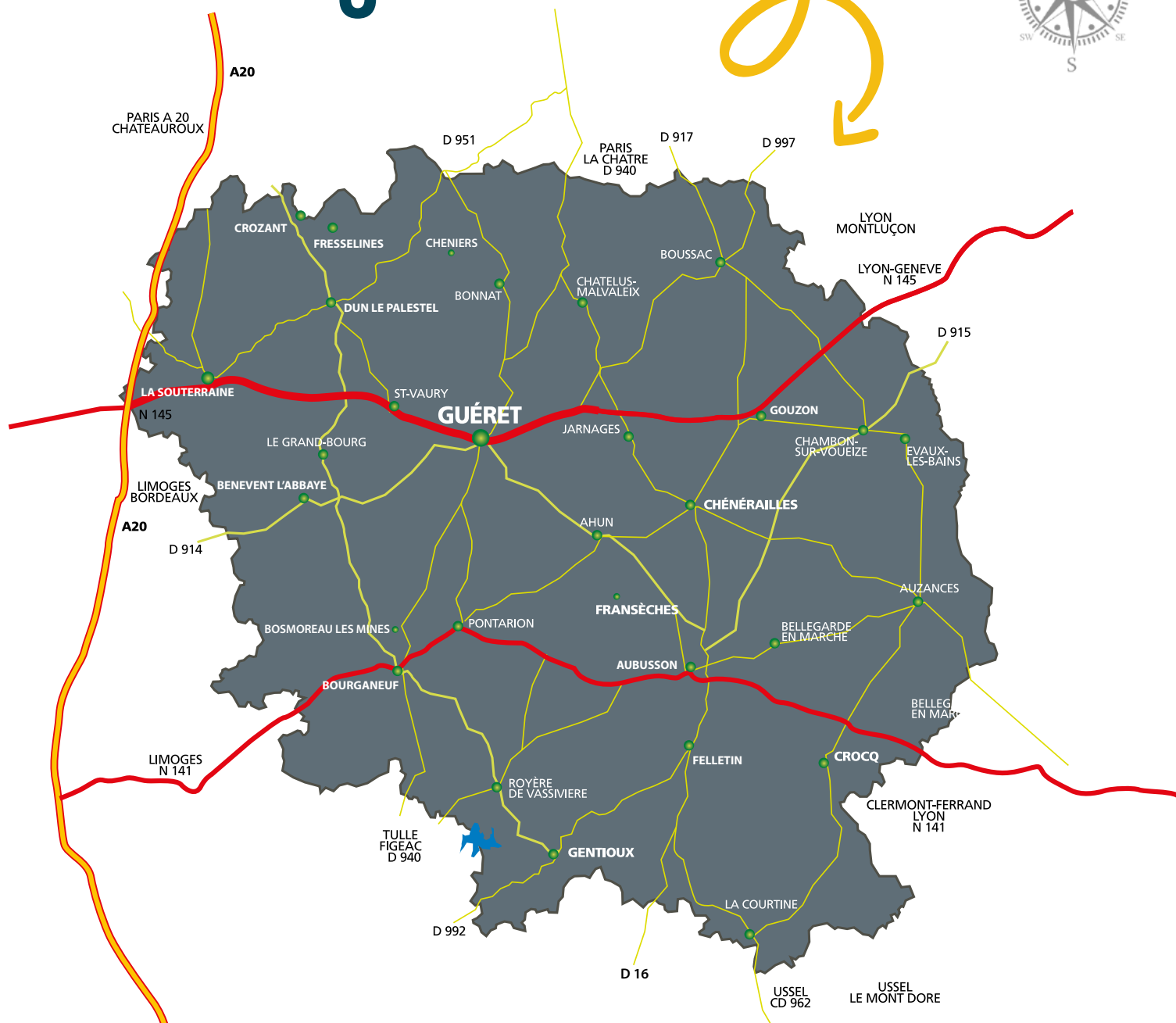


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www.tourisme-creuse.com

How to get there



>>> BY PLANE (From Limoges)

There are direct flight towards London Gatwick, serviced by Ryanair, also Flybe and British Airways. More information on : www.airportlimoges.com

>>> BY TRAIN

Eurostar to Paris for direct train connection to Limoges (London > Paris : 2h15)

>>> MOTORWAYS

A20 : Paris - Limoges (4h00)

>>> MAIN DISTANCES (From Guéret)

BORDEAUX	290	PARIS	355	LILLE	580
LYON	375	RENNES	445	BRUXELLES	670
MARSEILLE	645	STRASBOURG	640	GENÈVE	530
NANTES	340	TOULOUSE	395		

>>> EUROPE MAP



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Édito

The heart of France with green, peaceful landscapes for lovers of nature, many rivers, lakes and forests ! An exceptional cultural heritage, Aubusson tapestry, recognized by Unesco's label « Intangible Cultural heritage of humanity », a school of impressionist painters, the «Valley de la Creuse» more than 400 painters settled on these sites. The most famous came, Claude Monet, Armand Guillaumin, Picabia ... An authentic area, with charming villages, beautiful castles, pretty gardens... Local cooking made with quality products.

La Creuse is generous, it offers up wealth to you, to cultivate without constraints, as you wish.

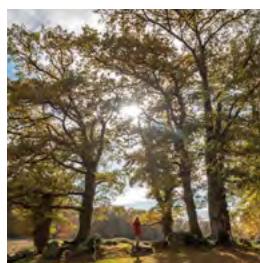
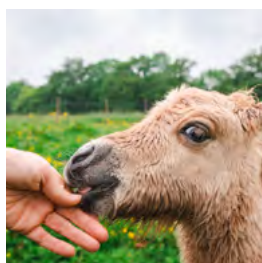
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THE INTERNATIONAL TAPESTRY CENTRE IN AUBUSSON

Aubusson's international reputation has today been crowned by UNESCO with its skills now listed as part of humanity's intangible heritage. To pass on and promote this outstanding form of weaving art, an ambitious project was needed: The International Tapestry Centre.

especially the idea of interpretative tapestry, where an artistic project and the skills of a tapestry weaver are combined.

THE CONTEMPORARY COLLECTION AT THE TAPESTRY CENTRE

The International Tapestry Centre has a proactive policy in favour of contemporary creation. There are regular calls for artistic projects on a range of themes, sponsored commissions, publishing projects and the «Carrés d'Aubusson» collection. In all, over 30 works were produced between 2010 and 2022. Several of them have been included in the permanent exhibition at the centre.

AN ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT FILLED WITH COLOUR

The former Aubusson National School of Decorative Art is today home to the Cité Internationale de la Tapisserie.

The Terre-Neuve agency opted to redesign the buildings in modern style, evoking the world of tapestry and developing an identity based on colour, as a symbol of energy and renewal. The site is not only a museum, but also includes a training centre for tapestry weavers working with the Limousin GRETA vocational training centre, a restoration workshop for tapestries from the Mobilier National and three tapestry-weaving workshops, as well as a Resource Centre and the André Chandernagor Arts Library.

This is a real centre for creation, aimed at preserving and developing the heritage of Aubusson tapestry through support for the existing industry in the region (spinning mills, dyeing plants, tapestry-cartoon painters and tapestry-weavers, with about 180 jobs in all).

THE TAPESTRY NAVE

This is a unique area, an invitation to take a journey through six centuries of tapestries in an immersive atmosphere inspired by the techniques of the theatre. With its rich collections, the exhibition area is unusual in being renewed each year.

THE AUBUSSON HANDS

This room is dedicated to craftsmanship, highlighting the criteria for inclusion as part of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity, and

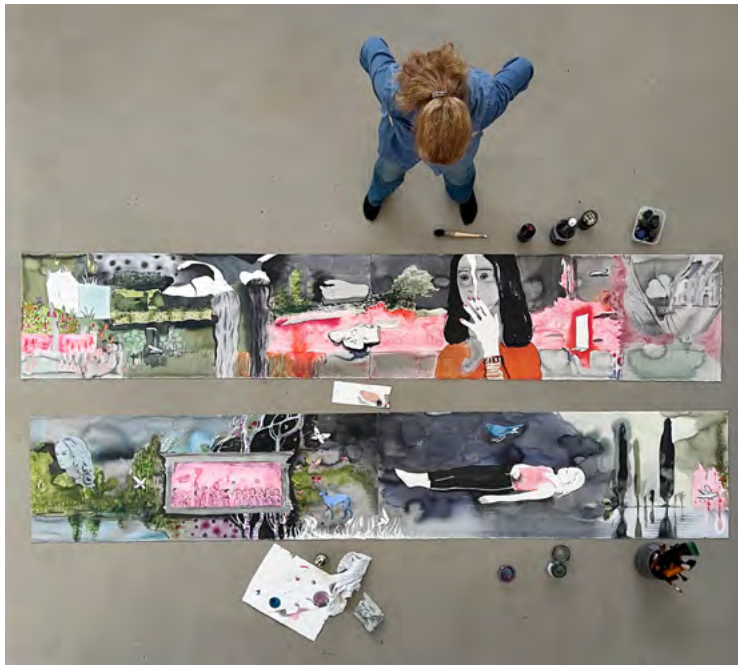
MIYAZAKI: THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES

The imaginative world of Hayao Miyazaki conveyed in Aubusson tapestry. In 2020, the International Tapestry Centre launched a new tapestry-weaving project with a wall-hanging based on images from the films of Hayao Miyazaki.

Thanks to a partnership with the Ghibli studio, a project for five tapestries and a carpet project have been launched. Four of the tapestries are already finished: «Princess Mononoke», «No-Face's Banquet», «Howl's Moving Castle» and «Howl's Fear».

It took about one year to weave each tapestry. In the summer of 2024, we see the fifth production from the loom: «The Sacrifice of the Ohmu» from the film Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind.





NEW IN 2024 : HOMAGE TO GEORGE SAND

The International Tapestry Centre team have designed a standalone tapestry, 23 metres long and 2.20 metres high, in «homage to George Sand».

This long-format tapestry was designed to celebrate the 150th anniversary of George Sand's death in 2026.

It is a way to renew the tradition of commemorative tapestries, while conveying a contemporary artist's vision of aspects of the life and work of a great literary figure. The French artist Françoise Pérovitch was commissioned for the work, which received the support of the Culture Ministry.

www.cite-tapisserie.fr

SUMMER EXHIBITION OF TAPESTRIES IN AUBUSSON NEW : 29 JUNE TO 22 SEPTEMBER 2024

«Aubusson weaves Tolkien. The woven adventure» will celebrate the completion of a large tapestry devoted to the work of J.R.R. Tolkien at the International Tapestry Centre.

This series of 12 tapestries begun in 2017 were based on J.R.R. Tolkien's original illustrations, which are kept at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. All the works will be put on display to the public for the first time, along with many hitherto unseen elements.

www.cite-tapisserie.fr



WEAVING YOUR WAY TO AUBUSSON

The town of Aubusson has the «Top Detours in France» label and embodies a subtle blend of tradition and modernity. The districts on the banks of the River Creuse are close to the medieval bridge, the castle ruins and 15th century houses. The galleries and workshops illustrate the history of the art of tapestry and its dynamism, which has often been reinvented since the Middle Ages.

A DYNAMIC TOWN

Aubusson is in a valley formed by the River Creuse. This charming town is best visited on foot. You can stroll along the narrow, picturesque and hilly streets, admiring the old houses built close together and the town's heritage. The traditional historic district of La Terrade was home to weavers. It features a granite, arched bridge and 16th and 17th century buildings, which are now chic, designer hotels and restaurants, and it is known as the «Maisons du Pont» (Bridge Houses). The town is constantly being renewed, with new places to go, bars, a café resembling a Parisian bistro, a cellar restaurant, shops selling local specialities... And attractive terraces everywhere, inviting you to take your time.

AN AUBUSSON GETAWAY

If you would like to visit Aubusson, you can, for example, follow the heritage trail available from the Tourist Office.

- **The Tapestry Cartoon Workshop-Museum** is located in the picturesque district of La Terrade. It was built near the famous bridge. All the buildings have been attractively restored, while the colourful houses have preserved their timber framing. It is one of the most attractive places for a walk in the town. With a museum, artist's studio and art gallery, this surprising spot was designed by Chantal Chirac. She has displayed her cartoons of real works of art, which serve as models and materials for creating tapestries.

- **The Tapestry Worker's House**, in a fine 16th century building, is a chance for visitors to meet a tapestry worker. She will show them her workshop and the centuries-old technique of Aubusson tapestry, now used for contemporary creation.

- **The Chapître site** contains the ruins of an 11th century castle with a lovely view over the Creuse Valley and the town.

- **The Clock Tower** offers perhaps the best view of Aubusson. Climb the steps to the former watchtower and enjoy a breathtaking panorama over the town.

Aubusson is a creative, lively and art-loving town, filled with artists' studios, workshops and galleries.

www.aubusson-felletin-tourisme.com



THE MONET ROLLINAT ART CENTRE

Claude Monet, one of the greatest Impressionist painters, set up his easel in the Creuse Valley, «invited by his friend, the art critic, Gustave Geffroy, who was himself a friend of the poet Maurice Rollinat».

**2024 EXHIBITION – NEW FROM JULY
TO NOVEMBER 2024**

« THE WORK OF GEORGES CHAZAUD »

The artist and tapestry-cartoon painter was born in Dun-le-Palestel in 1932 and died in 1988. A graduate of the ENAD school in Aubusson, Chazaud studied at the Fine Arts School in Paris and took part in numerous exhibitions worldwide. He worked in painting, screen-printing and tapestry.

This exhibition pays homage to a wonderful artist, whose «happy work», as it has been described, is filled with joy and a love for life. Chazaud engaged in active contemplation. Throughout his career he strove to simplify and harmonise his technique, so that all that remained on the canvas or in the wool were the purest, most sensitive elements – what we might call the soul, the form, the light, the colour.

His graphic and pictorial style was identifiable early on. Chazaud's work is filled with finesse, combining technical rigour and mastery, precise volumes, forms and chromatic effects. His interpretations in his tapestry work made him one of the greatest artists of his generation.

“It is wonderful here, with a wildness
reminiscent of Belle-Île”

Claude Monet, Landscape Painter - 1889

Claude Monet arrived in Fresselines in March 1889 to paint, he said, «this region with its terrible wildness». In 1900, the Valley was the symbol of new-found artistic freedom. Claude Monet, the co-founder of Impressionism, painted a first series of 24 pictures here.

With the Monet-Rollinat Art Centre, we have paid homage to Claude Monet and to his friend, Maurice Rollinat. The room dedicated to Monet features works projected on the walls (a digital exhibition, immersing visitors in the paintings) and includes anecdotes and writings (letters to his wife) from his stay in Fresselines.

The Monet-Rollinat Centre also gives support to young talents through a multidisciplinary programme and studios for residences. The artists' houses, galleries, studios, museums and exhibitions organised off-site and the festivals all help to enhance the experience.

www.espace-monet-rollinat.com

www.paysdunois-tourisme.fr



IMPRESSIONIST PAINTERS IN THE CREUSE VALLEY

George Sand was enchanted when she first visited Crozant. The landscape is «so rich that a painter doesn't know where to stop,» she said.

The unique landscape attracted attention between the 19th and 20th centuries, a period when painters were turning their backs on dogmas, inventing new practices and choosing new motifs.

With the help of the railways and paint tubes, artists could move out of their studios and paint in the open air. The Creuse Valley, like Normandy, the Seine Valley and Barbizon, emerged as an intense centre for artistic creation, where «a painting revolution took place».

The sites in the Valley were at that time elegant spots, attracting intellectuals and the aristocracy.

The Dupré brothers invited Théodore Rousseau and Constant Troyon, the future founders of the Barbizon School. In the footsteps of George Sand, hundreds of artists flocked here. Armand Guillaumin and Léon Detroy settled in the region, Francis Picabia found the sources for his striking modern style, while Eugène Alluaud, the Osterlind family, Paul Madeline, Achille-Émile Friesz and many others explored the areas in and around the valley.

It is even known as the Crozant School, and today its works can be found in museums all over the world.

« You can still spot a few diehards with their painting materials slung over their shoulders ».

Christophe Rameix, art historian.

www.paysdunois-tourisme.fr



HÔTEL LÉPINAT: «GUILLAUMIN AND THE PAINTERS OF THE CREUSE VALLEY»

This former inn once accommodated painters and was made into an interpretation centre in 2014. It features a new visit since June 2022. The new display elements are better adapted to the history of the Valley of Painters. An exhibition area recounts the history of the painters from 1860 to 1939.

The museum staging takes the visitor on a journey from the painters' arrival in Creuse by train from Paris to the major exhibition of Creuse Valley painters in 1939 on the Champs-Élysées, the high point of the Creuse Valley painters' adventure.

Lastly, a space will display many original paintings for the first time.

www.espace-monet-rollinat.com



2024 EXHIBITION – NEW FROM JULY TO NOVEMBER 2024

EXHIBITION AROUND EUGÈNE CHARASSON [1875-1940]

Now seen as an important personality in Aigurande (in the Indre region), the artist Eugène Charasson was not originally destined to be a painter, but a wine merchant, like his father.

But early on his taste for the arts attracted him to music and painting. Nature, scenes from daily life or still-lives were all a source of inspiration for the artist.

For this exhibition, the Hôtel Lépinat is giving visitors the chance to see 100% original works, highlighting another way of painting in the Valley of Painters...



VASSIVIÈRE LAKE

At the heart of the Millevaches Regional Nature Park and in the Limousin mountains, is one of France's biggest lakes: Lac de Vassivière. A grandiose, untamed site, featuring jagged shores, timeless landscapes of streams, springs, peatland and moors, with bright colours in spring and flaming hues in autumn, all making it feel like a «little Canada».

During the post-war economic boom, France had to rebuild and had growing energy needs.

Lake Vassivière was filled just before Christmas in 1950. The result was a 1,000-hectare reserve with 106 million m³ of water. From 1965, the lake became an outdoor activity centre and a major tourist attraction.

With its creeks and islands in a preserved, rich and varied natural setting, and its soothing atmosphere, this artificial lake seems... quite natural!

NATURALLY ATHLETIC

On foot, on horseback, on a mountain bike, you can travel 300 km of signposted trails.

The shore path is original. It runs alongside the lake for almost 30 km, taking in footbridges on stilts, a floating bridge, a dyke at water level and the beaches.

The small inland sea is a chance to enjoy water sports. It is a national fishing spot for carnivorous fish, a venue for sailing and motorboats (6 marinas) and has 5 lifeguarded beaches and eco-friendly boating (canoes, paddleboards, electric boats, etc.). In season, shuttle boats criss-cross the lake to vary the fun experiences.

NATURALLY ECO-FRIENDLY

Here you can enjoy environmentally-friendly activities for a slow adventure respecting ecology. Discover the riches of the lake on a paddleboard or a canoe along the natural or cultural Sentiers Nautiques® water trails; hiking trails lasting several days on foot or on a packsaddle donkey; a gentle tour of the gems of Vassivière during a 100% eco-responsible experience on an electric mountain bike along the «Bulle Verte» trail; water adventures on a hydrofoil bike, a paddleboard, pedalo or 100% electric boat; a fishing experience in a float tube; a cosmetics-making workshop... Plus an original night in a forest cabin, a Mongolian yurt or Gypsy caravan... All experiences for a chance to get away from it all and take the time to discover new things.

www.lacdevassiviere.com

PLATEAU DE MILLEVACHES

THE STARRY SKY

There are only 20 natural sites in the world with dark-sky preserve label, and the Plateau is one of them. With just 14 inhabitants per square kilometre, it is hardly surprising that the vast granite plateau is free of light pollution. The Millevaches nature park is the fourth site in France and the ninth in the world with the prestigious dark-sky preserve label awarded by the International Dark-Sky Association.

www.pnr-millevaches.fr



THIS COUNTRY IS A GARDEN

This country is a garden", says Gilles Clément. This garden in movement is dear to this grand creator, where the landscape joins nature, culture and know-how.

Gilles Clément, creator living in the Creuse, famous in all the world for his creations: "Jardin Citroën"...

A personality separate from French landscapers, he strongly advocates in new way of treating gardens that favours its dynamic aspect and its natural evolution, "the garden in movement". This consists of minimal intervention by the gardener, machines and chemical products.

His gardens in movement are created by his disciples, gardens that can appear messy, but are the results of precise work.

VAL MAUBRUNE GARDEN

Thérèse Lemeignan, qualified horticulturalist and graduate of the Beaux-Arts and her husband have, since 1998, worked in the small valley of La Brionne: the result, a gardened landscape with accentuated reliefs. One discovers species in harmony with the Creuse countryside, willows, silver birch, ferns, but also persicaria, hermaphrodite plants, sege, moss etc...

It radiates serenity with lovely perspectives: a perfect balance dominated by soft, pastel colours and unspoilt nature.

www.jardin-val-maubrunne.fr

SEDELLE ARBORETUM

Classed as a "Remarkable Garden" since 2004, a label awarded by the Minister of Culture, the Arboretum presents an extraordinary collection of maples created by the owner, Philippe Wanty. Around 100 species have been approved by the French Conservatory of Specialised Vegetation Collections. You can also discover numerous varieties of rhododendrons as well as cornwoods, lime trees, liquidambars, oaks etc. All come from Europe, America or Asia. Just up to the banks of the River Sedelle, the landscape blends perfectly with the natural environment.

Open from May to October

www.arbosedelle.fr

>>> SEDELLE ARBORETUM



©P.Wanty

CLOS DU PRÉFONS GARDENS

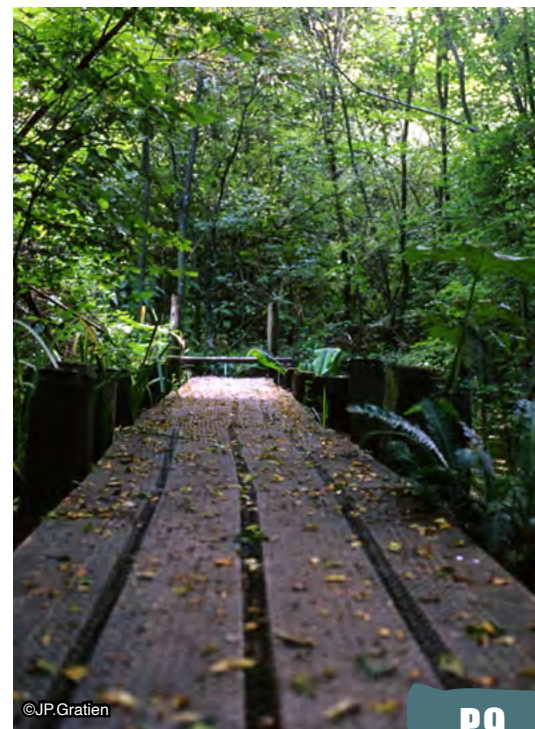
Eight intimate enclosures with different environments planted around a former 19th century forge. They're linked by wet grasslands where local plant species and rarer horticultural species grow in 'relative liberty'.

July and August: Wednesday to Sunday
Self-guided tours from 2:30 PM – Last entrance at 5 PM

Guided tours at 5 pm – All year round for groups by request.

www.jardinsclosduprefons.weebly.com

>>> CLOS DU PRÉFONS GARDENS



©JP.Gratien



CASTLES WHERE... «EVERYTHING IS LUXURY, CALM AND DELIGHT»

In the steps of «La Dame à la Licorne»,
Zizim, Ottoman Prince ...

VILLEMONTAIX CASTEL

In 1981 the local newspapers were asking, "Who's going to take over Villemonteix castle?" A troubled period. Pierre Lajoix from the Creuse, former Louvre school student and modern art editor, "fell for it big time". 15th century, listed historical monument in the centre of the Creuse it's of the feudal donjon type. The floors were coming away, there were holes in the roof and gaping holes in the walls were filled in with planks and fertiliser bags. However, it had a proud allure, despite the hard knocks it had experienced, with its elegant round path, gargoyles, watchtowers and pepper-box towers.

Pierre Lajoix's aim was to open it to the public and the quality of the welcome and the permanent improvements in the restoration and furnishing play an important role in this.

At the moment, apart from the quality of the environment, the visit includes a dozen rooms staring with the billiard room and ending with the Gothic chapel. They're filled with furniture of the era, PLEYEL double by Béatrice de CAMONDO, SEVRES porcelain and a collection of tapestries. Pierre Lajoix always speaks with pleasure about his tapestries. He'll tell you why he's placed the 17th century Achilles's suite in contrast with the other suite of 4 tapestries, again 17th century, showing children at play and won't forget bring your attention to lo's sto-

ry. Finally, if you question him on other souvenirs of his furniture, he'll answer just as while passing before certain pictures, he'll tell you the story of the arrival of Prince Zizim at Pierre d'Aubusson's place in Rhodes.

www.chateau-de-villemonteix.com

BOUSSAC CASTEL

When talking about the castles of the Creuse, one must talk about Boussac Château and its owner, Bernadette Blondeau, a fascinating and passionate woman! "If you want to describe someone dynamic, I'm not acting", she declared before showing us her 12th and 15th century fortress.

It's in this castle that the famous "Dame à la Licorne" tapestries were found by George Sand who often stayed there. It's here that her first country novel "Jeanne" takes place. When talking about the view that she had from her bedroom window, she wrote, "It overlooks an admirable site, the sinuous course of water enclosed in the rocks, the immense prairies seeded with chestnut trees". George Sand bedroom is still there, prettily decorated in the style of the time, as are all the other rooms in the château.

Bernadette Blondeau is also a collector: piggy banks in the shapes of fruit pyramids, canes, travelling cases, china fruit etc. She herself creates magnificent bouquets of flowers. She was 20, when she bought the building. She says, "My husband and I found ourselves in front of the castle; it had neither doors nor windows. We fell in love with it and bought it.

This castle, it's my life, anything for my castle." What a lot of work and what a result! As she also says, "Here, all tastes are catered, for art, tapestry or object lovers – and for the others there are the bouquets... And every year I try to add something new for my faithful visitors"

www.chateaudeboussac.com

>>> THE MAJESTIC BOUSSAC CASTLE



SELECTION OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES



BOURGANEUF

Mediaeval town of oriental colours.

Bourganeuf was founded in the 10th century by the St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller. Part of its celebrity is due to the fact that in 1486 it welcomed a prestigious prisoner in the person of Djem Ot-toman sultan, son of Méhémet II. Nicknamed Zizim, he left his name to one of the towers. The principal monument is thus the lovely 15th century ensemble; there is also an interesting local heritage to discover of chapels, bridges, mills etc.

Bourganeuf is the first town to have known electricity and has its own electricity museum. The Wednesday-morning market offers a mix of regional products, local patois and Turkish accents...

One of the loveliest walks is that the Gorges du Verger, that in 1912 was the first listed site in Limousin. It was frequented in the 19th century by George Sand and Emile de Girardin made it into a romantic walk.

www.tourisme-creuse-sudouest.com

CHAMBON SUR VOUEIZE

And its remarkable Romanesque abbey-church.

Situated in the east of Combraille en Marche country, in the heart of the Tardes valley and nestling in its green bed, one can discover Chambon-Sur-Voueize. The pretty houses with their brown tiles huddle around St Valérie abbey-church. On every street corner, the past is evident and visitors can still see the traces of long

ago activities: hospital, tanneries, court, prison, milliners... Already in existence in the Gallo-Roman area, Chambon/Voueize owes its development to a monastery founded in the 9th century. Around 985, a large number of Ste Valérie's relics were transported there from where they had been kept in Limoges. The village became a place of pilgrimage and the imposing romanesque abbey-church was built. It's around this edifice that Chambon developed giving rise to a site of remarkable architectural unity.

www.creuseconfluencetourisme.com



FELLETIN

The birthplace of Felletin tapestry is one of the oldest towns in Limousin. It is home to a rich architectural heritage. It is famous most of all as the birthplace of tapestry. Here for six centuries the tradition of low-warp tapestry has been preserved, from spinning La Terrade wool (this is one of the last places to work in a traditional way) to weaving at the Pinton workshop (which is flourishing, and its clients include major fashion designers).

The entire manufacturing process can be seen here.

www.felletinpatrimoine.com

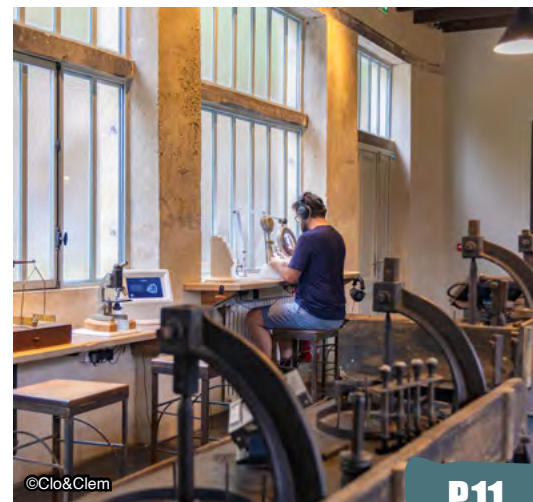
DIAMOND WORKSHOP: NEW

The diamond-workshop cooperative «La Felletinoise» has just reopened! On the very site of a former diamond workshop, a staged visit recounts an unusual history and immerses visitors in the atmosphere of yesteryear, with the workshops and tools of the period back in their place. The projection room tells the story of diamonds throughout the world.

Everyone knows that the eternal diamond has always figured on royal crowns, but who knew that diamonds were cut in Felletin?

The precious gems came mainly from Congo, before being cut by hand by qualified and experienced Creuse workers.

www.aubusson-felletin-tourisme.com



ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS

The Creuse possesses a wonderful heritage of granite houses, charming and characterful houses or residences. They're well preserved by associating modern and ancient restoration.

LES MAISONS DU PONT

Hotel suites

Ideally situated beside the river Creuse in the heart of Aubusson, historic quarter, and within walking distance of the Aubusson International City of tapestry.

16th and 17th century houses, transformed in charming accommodation with lovely rooms equipped in the latest contemporary style.

The old building was decorated by an interior architecture with famous designers decorative objects.

www.lesmaisonsdupont.com

LUXURY B&B « LA CREUZETTE » IN BOUSSAC

In the middle of a large, wooded park, in the heart of the pretty, market town of Boussac (famous for its 15th century castle and its tapestries of the Lady and the Unicorn), this dreamy, Napoleon III style house astonishes. Two South African, artists Louis Jansen and Hardy Oliver have become the owners and have restored it with talent.

They've created five luxurious bedrooms, lounges and dining room. The decoration is refined and not ostentatious: stylish furniture, beautiful curtains, pendants, soft colours, oak parquet flooring, comfortable settees... This glamorous place radiates romantic ambience and high elegance.

www.lacreuzette.com



THE SUMMIT DE MÉMANAT «Sleep in the treetops»

A beautiful château avenue leads to two cabins perched a few yards above the ground and ensconced in the branches of majestic sequoia trees.

«Le Castel de L'Arbre» and «Le Cabanon Perché» were built by Nathalie and Andy, the young English owners.

These luxury cabins look great in the enchanting setting, with no corners cut on modern comfort, together with chic and globe-trotting decoration and respect for local skills. You will notice, for example, the deluxe crafted bed made from local wood. From the terraces, you can daydream, while enjoying a view over the surrounding countryside, and relax in the Jacuzzi, as the horses and donkeys graze peacefully below.

For a change of scene, enjoy a top-quality Robinson Crusoe-style adventure in the Creuse forest.

We love the fairy-tale spirit in Peter Pan style.

www.chateaudememanat.com



AWAKEN YOUR TASTE BUDS

This is a region where the gastronomy is simple and authentic, and made from high-quality, local ingredients: meat, cheeses, mushrooms, fruits, saffron, hazelnut Creuse cake, etc.



« LES INÉVITABLES » AND LOCAL SPECIALITIES ON YOUR PLATE



«Les Inévitables» is a label highlighting local produce and providing a network for local farms and restaurants. The restaurants are awarded a label which they can display in their windows and on their menus.

Creuse Tourism highlights short food supply chains to promote seasonal produce, identified products, shops selling products 100 % made in Creuse and drive-through farms and markets.

OUR LOCAL SPECIALITIES

• Creuse Fondue

It is made using cow's milk cheese, which is melted and served with potatoes, an omelette, salad or even charcuterie.

• Potato Pâté

On top of puff pastry are added sliced potatoes, onions, salt and pepper, covered by the pastry and served with crème fraîche at the last moment.

• Creuse Clafoutis

When the cherries are ripe in the garden, all grandmothers had their own secret recipe to make this delicious dessert.

• Meatball Pâté

This traditional speciality of Aubusson tapestry-weavers is served on Saint Barbara's Day, the tapestry-makers feast day. The recipe features regional meat (veal and pork) combined with flour, butter and seasoning. The meatballs are shaped and put in pastry, like a pie.

• Creuse cake

The iconic hazelnut «Gâteau Creusoise» is based on a traditional recipe, which according to legend was found by monks on a 15th century parchment. This is a registered trade mark, and the Creusoise association represents the pastry-chefs licensed to make it.

CREUSE MARKETS

To dive into the lively atmosphere of local farming and savour the gastronomy of our region, head for the Creuse markets.

Our favourite: Felletin market is a delicious weekly event (on Fridays) and very picturesque.

In the little streets of a historic town, you will find plenty to enjoy on the stalls, with fruits, delicious blueberries from the Plateau, cheeses and mushrooms (in season). And all in a colourful atmosphere soaked in local culture.

www.tourisme-creuse.com/la-creuse-en-circuit-court



CREUSE BY BIKE

Creuse and cycling are a perfect tandem. There are endless ways to ride through the region on a road bike, mountain bike or even on a gravel bike. Miles of signposted trails have been created in this ideal region for cycling, with its naturally hilly and highly varied terrain.

sections on the GR® trail.

Climbing is another sport that is perfectly suited to the specific conditions in Creuse with a wide range of spots for climbers in the region. There are dozens of climbing routes from beginners' level (4a) to lower competition levels (7c). There is no lack of natural climbing areas, including the Verger cliffs in Bourganeuf or Le Maupuy in Guéret.

While hiking and cycling are very popular, horse-riding is not forgotten, with numerous paths that are perfect for the activity. Creuse also has a number of horse-riding centres with lessons for beginners or rides with an instructor.

Fans of trail running and nature will find what they are looking for in the natural rises and falls of the Creuse landscape with its hilly profile. Creuse also has several signposted trails.

And lastly, Creuse is both a green and a blue region, with many lakes for swimming and water sports.

A CYCLING TOUR OF CREUSE



The Cycling Tour of Creuse is a complete circuit of 320 kilometres, providing an ideal trail through the region along roads with little traffic (fewer than 500 cars a day).

This trail is a chance to explore the outstanding natural and cultural heritage in Creuse. It takes in the Valley of Painters in Creuse to Lake Vassivière via Aubusson, the Etang des Landes nature reserve or the spa resort, Evaux-les Bains. The country landscapes are continually changing, with numerous typical towns to see along the little roads. The recommended route has 12 stages for a trip lasting several days for fairly experienced cyclists.

NATURE SPORTS

Creuse is the ideal setting for a total immersion in open-air activities. With its winding valleys, mysterious forests and sparkling rivers, the region is the perfect venue for fans of adventure and new discoveries.

Creuse is a land of nature sports. With all its preserved landscapes, it offers a great diversity of activities. You can of course go hiking along hundreds of miles of signposted trails. For a day out or for trips lasting several days along the various GRP® trails with



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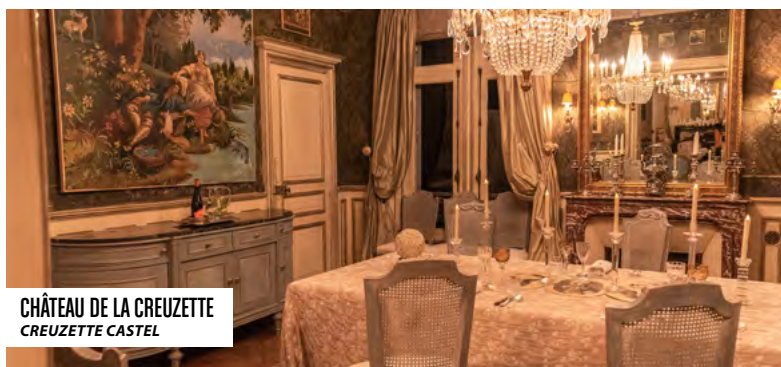
VILLAGE DU MOUTIER D'AHUN
VILLAGE OF MOUTIER D'AHUN



LES VACHES LIMOUSINES
LIMOUSINE COWS



CHÂTEAU DE LA CREUZETTE
CREUZETTE CASTEL



LE QUARTIER DE LA TERRADE - AUBUSSON
OLD DISTRICT OF AUBUSSON



HÔTEL NOUGIER



CHAMBRE DE GEORGE SAND À BOUSSAC
GEORGE SAND'S ROOM AT BOUSSAC

LA CAMPAGNE CREUSOISE
THE CREUSE COUNTRYSIDE





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