

## FONTAINEBLEAU FOREST

The forest of Fontainebleau is recognized by UNESCO as a World Biosphere Reserve and is a source of endless joy for nature lovers and a home to over 1,200 animal species and a variety of splendid landscapes. Designed by French sovereigns for hunting with hounds, artists paint its landscapes for posterity and today a host of associations have been set up to protect it and qualify it as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Boasting 25,000 hectares of well-preserved nature, the forest features a vast network of well-blazed trails for ramblers, cyclists and horse riders, eager to discover the sweeps of jagged rock, stretches of sand and clearings. It is also the birthplace of bouldering as a sport and nature tourism in general, thanks to Claude-François Denecourt, who dreamt up the first trails back in the 19th Century!

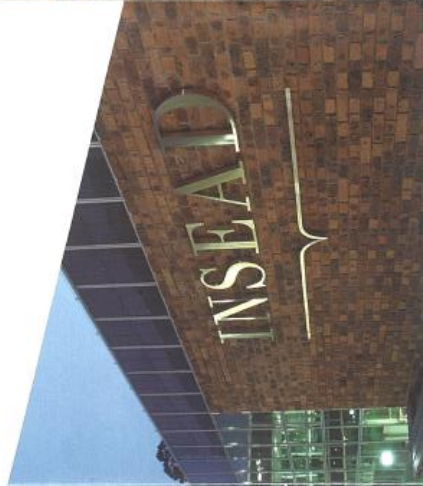


Fontainebleau Tourisme: 4, bd. Jean de la Roche, 77300 Fontainebleau  
 www.fontainebleau-tourisme.com | info@fontainebleau-tourisme.com | Tel: 01 70 73 30 30 | #fontainebleau1918

## AN INTERNATIONAL CITY

Fontainebleau is host to several international events including the Django Reinhardt Jazz Festival which takes place in the grounds of the Fontainebleau Palace in early July, the Art-History Festival in June and the Série Series European Series Summit featuring the best of European TV series. It also hosts several international horse-riding competitions at the Grand Parquet and horse-racing at the Spille raccourse. Over 126,000 foreign visitors visit the Chateau every year.

Life in Fontainebleau has a distinct international flavour, with over 600 students from all over the world enrolled each year at INSEAD, The Business School for the World®. INSEAD is ranked among the world's top business schools and is renowned for the quality of its teachers and its MBA programme. INSEAD also boasts over 57,000 alumni of 162 different nationalities who return regularly to visit the school and the town.



Fontainebleau has managed to preserve a lively city centre with artisans and shops proudly displaying the savoir-faire characteristic of French excellence: masters of cheese, chocolate and perfume; restaurants and brasseries with tables lining the pavement. Let's not forget its exceptional market, nominated runner up in the Paris region for the quality of produce on sale. This is the essence of what the French call *savoir-vivre* - taking time to indulge, meeting up with friends, enjoying the city, the Palace and the Forest: a beautifully preserved art de vivre à la Française, or French art of living.

### THE FRENCH ART OF LIVING

**FAMOUS FONTAINEBLEAU CITIZENS**

Claude-François Denecourt,  
Picasso, Proust,  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau,  
George Sand and Alfred de Musset  
and Madame de Sévigné



Fontainebleau

**FONTAINEBLEAU:  
LAND OF SOVEREIGNS**  
EXPERIENCE  
THE FRENCH ART OF LIVING



www.fontainebleau-tourisme.com

## FONTAINEBLEAU, A CITY OF KINGS AND EMPERORS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ITS SOVEREIGNS

Swayed by the charms of the forest, French sovereigns long favoured Fontainebleau as the royal residence over the centuries, giving the palace an important place in the history of France. The City of Fontainebleau grew in harmony alongside the Château, and has retained its royal and imperial aura. This has greatly contributed to preserving the French art de vivre. Many writers, painters, and important historical figures have valued Fontainebleau and its inhabitants, known as 'Bellifontains'.

The superb palace is the pride of the City. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site with its 130 hectares of gardens and grounds, Fontainebleau is the only palace to have been occupied by all French sovereigns from the 12th to 19th Centuries. With eight centuries of sovereign presence including 34 kings and 2 emperors, the Château de Fontainebleau boasts more furniture than any other palace in Europe, spread over 1,500 rooms. Napoleon I called it 'A True Home of Kings'. Fontainebleau features masterpieces of the French Renaissance commissioned by François I, refined interiors decorated to Marie-Antoinette's style, and the reception rooms used by Napoleon I, as well as many other masterpieces of significance in the history of France.



Embark on our short guided tour to discover the most remarkable monuments in terms of architecture and historical significance. Breathe in the very spirit of Fontainebleau with its rich heritage, which has adapted to the transformations of this century without sacrificing tradition. Admire the Place de la République, where locals spend time relaxing and enjoying themselves – a true reflection of a dynamic city firmly focused towards the future.

### THE MARK OF KINGS AND EMPERORS OF FONTAINEBLEAU

- 1 Château de Fontainebleau/Château des Adieux Gardens & Grounds: UNESCO World Heritage site
- 2 La Place d'Armes: known as the Carrefour du Grand Portail during the reign of Henri IV, transferred from the state to the city on 27 December 1905.
- 3 The municipal theatre: Built in the style of Louis XIII and inaugurated in 1912, it is one of very few French theatres built in Italian style.
- 4 City Hall: Rebuilt during the reign of Napoleon III, a replica of the former City Hall of Rouen-Malmaison, dating from 1864.
- 5 Saint Louis Church: built in 1611-14, extended and enhanced by Napoleon III.

### HORSE-RIDING: AN IMPERIAL PASSION

- 6 Military Riding School and Searmont Indoor Arena: listed as a historic monument, the Arena was built during the reign of Napoleon I in 1807 – proof that equestrian tradition lives on.
- 7 The Salle Flacetrack: inaugurated by Napoleon III, one of the oldest racetracks in France, dating from 1862.
- 8 The Grand Parquet: the former hunting grounds of sovereigns in the 11th Century and a stamming venue for horse-rifling competitions and events since 1924.

### PLACES AND MONUMENTS OVERFLOWING WITH HISTORY

- 1 The former hôtel de Guise: built in 1551 for the Duchess of Étampe (Et François I's beloved); converted to the Residence of Building Inspection then later, becoming Hôtel de France & d'Angleterre in 1830.
- 2 Hôtel de Londres: formerly Hôtel de Europe, built under the Directorate Governing Committee in the wake of the French revolution.
- 3 Portail de l'Hôtel de Ferrare: a magnificent doorway to the former residence of the Cardinal de Ferrare-Hippolyte Esté, 1545.
- 4 At 42 rue St Honoré: Residence of the Grande Pénitente Provost Guards. During the reign of Louis XV the Residence was converted to house cavalry; the magnificent wooden door features two carved 'L's, is also known as the Quartier Bouffiers, named after Marshal Louis-François de Bourffiers. These buildings are now home to the top engineering school, l'École des Mines.
- 5 Rue des Sablons: has had several changes of name, and was known as the Rue d'Étain in the 16th Century.
- 6 Hôtel de la Mission: built in classic style, a former home for orphans from Viscont de Pal in 1653 and now the home of the Fontainebleau Tourist Information Office.
- 7 Hôtel de la Surintendance des Bâtiements, 5 rue Denecourt: built in 1895 on the site of the Hôtel de Noé.
- 8 Bel Esbat Manor and Grounds, Avenue: residence of Henri IV, it was also a destination for many musicians including Ravel and Debussy. Its grounds cover 7 hectares, and dates back to the 17th Century.



### HOTELS

- 1 Hôtel de l'Église Noé: 27, place Marcellin Bonaparte
- 2 Le Domaine du Parc: 36, rue Paul-Jérôme
- 3 Hôtel Mercure Château de Fontainebleau: 41, rue Royale
- 4 Hôtel Ibis: 18, rue Perrine
- 5 Hôtel de Londres: 1, place du Général de Gaulle
- 6 Hôtel Victoria: 132/132, rue de France
- 7 Appartement: Indeslavoré Margenta
- 8 Hôtel La Carpe d'Or: 7, rue d'Orvin
- 9 Hôtel Le Richelieu: 4, rue Richelieu
- 10 Alois in town, 105 Budget: 46, avenue Franklin Roosevelt

### PLACES AND MONUMENTS

- 1 Fontainebleau
- 2 Fontainebleau
- 3 Fontainebleau
- 4 La République
- 5 Carrière
- 6 Fontainebleau
- 7 Fontainebleau
- 8 Fontainebleau
- 9 Fontainebleau
- 10 Fontainebleau