



WELCOME

Nestling in the lush Normandy countryside, Honfleur is a town proud of its maritime legacy whilst also looking to the future.

Successively a military stronghold, a notable commercial port, a town beloved by artists and the birthplace of many celebrities, Honfleur has made its mark on French history.

This small maritime town has maintained the landmarks of its rich past, making it today one of the most visited towns in France. The authentic charm of its narrow cobbled streets, its monuments and its cultural and artistic heritage also ensure its international reputation.

However Honfleur is not a museum-town. It is a dynamic port which offers many leisure activities, cultural events and traditional festivals.

Honfleur's ideal location makes it the perfect starting point for sightseeing in Normandy: the beautiful countryside of the Pays d'Auge; the seaside resorts along the Côte Fleurie; the Seine estuary, so loved by the Impressionists, and for enjoying the delicious local produce.



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Origins

There is evidence that there have been settlements around the mouth of the river Seine since the Gallo Roman period. Julius Caesar refers to a "portus niger" or black port, in his writings, "Commentaries on the Gallic War"

The town's development from the 9th century coincides with the Scandinavian invasions and the settlement of the Norsemen (the Vikings).

The town was formerly named "Honnefleury", from the Norse. According to some etymologists, the word "honna" may have been a local surname, whereas the word "flow" meant cove, creek or small estuary. This then became "fleu" and finally "fleur". We find the same word in other place names such as Barfleury, Harfleury...

Honfleury is an old town mentioned in historical documents as early as the 11th century. At that time, it was one among the most important townships in the Duchy of Normandy.

Its ideal location enabled it to develop in the 12th century and play an important role in the Duchy.

It was originally a favoured anchoring place for boats at the mouth of a small coastal waterway. Easy access from the sea and a position sheltered from the winds enabled Honfleury to become a commercial port and develop trade, notably with England.

The town grew steadily and at the beginning of the 14th century it already consisted of three parishes.

Because of its excellent position as a maritime port and its access to the Seine estuary, the role of Honfleury was both to defend this royal river and to be the embarkation point of great maritime voyages.



The Age of Wars

The 14th century was a period of great military activity to Honfleury, as it played a predominant role in the Hundred Years War. It was occupied by the English at the beginning of the conflict, again from 1357 to 1361 and from August 1365 to January 1366.

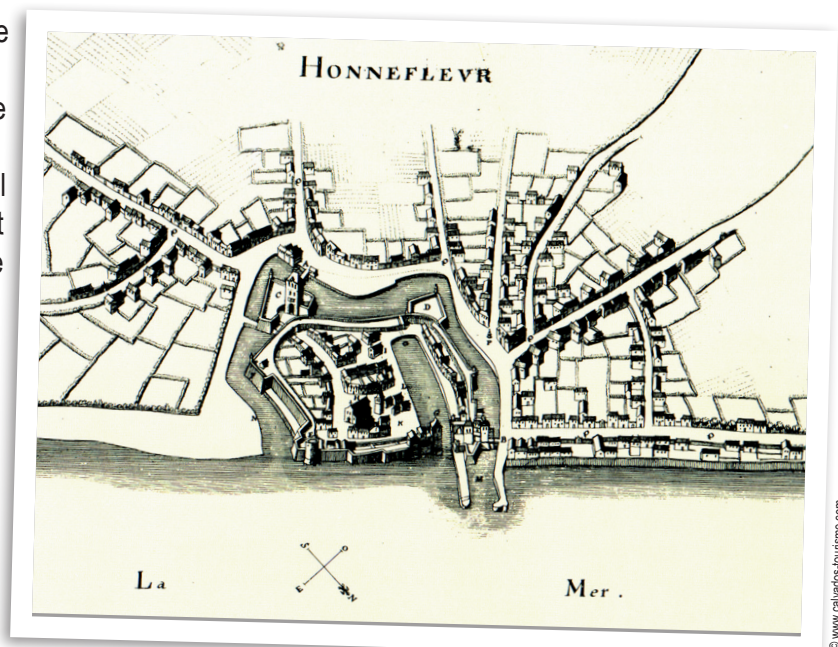
Charles V, looking for a defensive military position, and recognising the strategic location of Honfleury, erected fortifications around the town, turning it into a stronghold against the English invaders.

These fortifications, situated at the mouth of the river Seine and opposite Harfleury's walls, were vital to the defence of Normandy.

During this period, several military expeditions left the port for England.

Despite the strengthened fortifications, Honfleury fell into English hands again in 1419 and had to wait thirty-two years to be returned to France thanks to the victory of Dunois.

A period of demographic and economic growth encouraged reconstruction. At the end of the 15th century the prosperity of the town was due not only to the excellent economic climate but also to the silting-up of Harfleury which left Honfleury as the only outer harbour to Rouen, until port of Le Havre was founded by François Ist in 1517.



The Enclos and the Lieutenance

Nowadays little remains of the former fortification: the area aptly named the Enclos located in the centre of the town is the site of the old medieval fortress. This part of Honfleur was enclosed by stone walls until the end of the 17th century.

The medieval layout of the streets is still visible today. The main thoroughfare of the Enclos, rue de la Ville (Town Street), formerly Chemin du Roi (King Street), is surrounded by a maze of narrow cobbled streets. Le Cours des Fossés (Moat Avenue) is obviously located on the site of the rampart and the moat.

At the very end of the Vieux Bassin is the Lieutenance which has witnessed so much of the history of the maritime town. It is even mentioned in an 11th century document written in the reign of Richard III, Duke of Normandy, before Honfleur became a fortified town.

In the Middle Ages the Lieutenance was one of the two entrances to the fortress. According to a map of 1662, there were two gates that led to the town: the Porte de Rouen, removed around 1682 on Colbert's order, and the Porte de Caen, the present Lieutenance. From 1684 until the French Revolution the buildings on top of the fortifications were used as a residence for the King's Lieutenant, hence the name. The vault was used as a passageway. A drawbridge enabled the crossing of the western ditch. The Lieutenance was a corner bastion whose north part was destroyed and replaced by the present quay. Remains of the previous fortifications that surrounded the town can still be seen on the south and east walls of the bastion



The Faubourgs

The end of the Middle Ages saw a sharp increase in the population of Honfleur. The inhabitants lived in three definite areas. The central and fortified Enclos and two districts, outside the central fortification: Sainte Catherine and Saint Léonard.

The Faubourg Sainte Catherine, bordered by the sea, was the sailors' area.

During the late 15th century, the inhabitants built Sainte-Catherine's church, an extraordinary wooden edifice, to replace an earlier stone building, destroyed during the Hundred Years War. They used their ship-building skills to build the church in wood taken from the Forest of Touques. It was listed as a historical monument in 1879 and drew the attention of many archeologists and historians. It is the largest wooden church with a separate bell-tower in France.

The building was carried out in several stages. The northern nave and the bell tower, built over the house of the bell-ringer, were completed in 1468. Then, due to the demographic growth, a bigger church was needed and the second nave was built in 1496.

The Faubourg Saint Léonard faces the hinterland.

Its church was also destroyed during the Hundred Years War and rebuilt at the end of the 15th and beginning of the 16th centuries. It was partly burnt down in 1562 during the Wars of Religion and only the first traverse of the nave and the façade survived. The main portal is considered to be one of the most beautiful expressions of high Gothic style.

The high octagonal bell-tower dates from 1760. It is decorated in its upper part with elegant bas-reliefs depicting musical instruments.

The other parts of the building, notably the lateral portal, date from the 17th century.



The Age of Expeditions

Once the town had recovered from the hardships of the Hundred Years War, the glorious maritime history of Honfleur could begin. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Honfleur played an active part in the voyages of discovery. Although Honfleur ship-owners didn't necessarily initiate these expeditions, due to lack of financial means, the port of Honfleur itself offered many advantages: its rich hinterland was a valuable source of supplies, its salt warehouses were well-stocked, its shipyards useful for repairs and construction and above all there were plenty of seafaring men trained in the hard school of deep sea fishing and long haul cod fishing.

In the 17th and 18th centuries the port of Honfleur developed its trading activity with Canada, the West-Indies, the African coast and the Azores. To cope with this expansion the Vieux Bassin (Old Harbour) was built at the end of the 17th century. During this period, Honfleur was a dynamic centre for pilots, ship-owners, traders and even privateers.

With signing of the Treaty of Paris, at the end of the Seven Years War, France lost the territory of Canada. Honfleur, almost ruined by the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, turned towards the West-Indies and became the fifth largest slave-trading port of France in the 18th century.

In the early 19th century, after the Wars, commercial expansion grew again with the import of wood from Northern Europe. This trade still thrives today and has further evolved into the import of exotic wood.



Sailors

At one time Honfleur seafarers were among the best sailors in the kingdom of France. The illustrious Marco Polo was one of their brotherhood and King Charles VIII wrote that Honfleur had the "best and biggest fleet of ships in Normandy". Great expeditions started again after the Wars of Religion, this time heading towards the St-Lawrence river and Canada. Pierre de Chauvin, Dupont-Gravé, Samuel de Champlain and other navigators sailed to these far distant countries.

Binot Lepaulmier de Gonneville : (Honfleur end of the 15th - mid 16th)

He was a navigator and a rich ship-owner. In 1503 he set sail in L'Espoir (Hope) attempting to discover a trade route to India. He returned to Honfleur on 20th May 1505, after an extraordinary voyage during which he landed in Brazil (Sao Francisco do Sul), the first French ship ever to do so.

Samuel de Champlain : (Brouage 1567 - Quebec 1635)

"Father of New France", geographer and explorer, Samuel de Champlain chose Honfleur to be the main port from where he prepared his expeditions in the name of the king. Champlain's first voyage to Canada was on 15th march 1603 and on 3rd April 1608 he set sail on an expedition which led to the foundation of Quebec

Pierre Berthelot : (Honfleur 1600 - Achem 1638)

Initially a pilot and cartographer for the king of Portugal, mostly in Indonesia. he later became a monk, taking the name of "Denis de la Nativité", in a convent in Goa. He was killed as a martyr in Achem during a diplomatic mission. In 1900 he was proclaimed "Blessed" by the Vatican.

Jean Doublet : (Honfleur 1656 - Barneville la Bertrand 1727)

He is little known although he had a long and successful career at sea. He was a captain of a ship and a "corsair" of King Louis XIV. He was an experienced and bold sailor. But he was also a privileged witness of the maritime history of his time which he told in the memoirs he wrote at the end of his life.



Colbert's Great Constructions

The works of Jean-Baptiste Colbert reflected the maritime ambitions of King Louis XIV and his mercantilist plans. For Honfleur this meant the demolition of the ramparts in 1670, the transformation of the anchoring place into a harbour (the present Vieux Bassin, which was finished in 1690) and the building of the Greniers à Sel. These new works symbolised a new era for the town.

The Vieux Bassin was designed following plans drawn up by Abraham Duquesne and ordered by Colbert in 1681 to replace the previous anchorage place which was narrower and situated inside the fortifications. The western side of the ramparts was demolished to make way for its construction. Today it is Honfleur's marina.

On one side, along the Quai Sainte-Catherine, a row of tall houses create a striking backdrop. The distinctive feature of these houses is that, squeezed against each other and of different sizes, their upper floors open onto the back streets (rue du Dauphin and rue des Logettes), so that most of them are owned by two different owners. They date from the 17th and 18th centuries, some are corbelled and many are covered with slates. On the side of the Lieutenance some of the houses are more ancient, dating back to the 16th century.

The two Greniers à Sel (Salt Warehouses) in the rue de la Ville are large 17th century stone buildings built by the Ferme des Gabelles under the approval of Colbert. They replaced the smaller warehouses mentioned in Honfleur as early as the 14th century. They were the fourth and last large salt warehouses in Normandy. Most of the stones used to build them came from the former fortifications of the town and the oak framework was based on shipbuilding techniques. 10 000 tons of salt could be stored in these two warehouses and a third one, destroyed by fire in 1892,

The salt trade developed at the end of the 16th and at the beginning of the 17th centuries with the introduction of cod fishing on the banks of Newfoundland and at the mouth of the St Lawrence River.

The two Greniers à Sel, listed as historical monuments since 1916, have been the property of the town since 1952 and were restored at the beginning of the 1970s. These imposing buildings house exhibitions, concerts, conferences and many seminars and congresses throughout the year.



The Maritime Museum and the Ethnographic Museum

Housed in the church of Saint Etienne, the Maritime Museum pays tribute to the great maritime history of Honfleur. The collection of model ships illustrates the work of the shipwrights and the ships which sailed the seas in the 18th and 19th centuries. Etchings, paintings, drawings, and maps depict the evolution of the harbour and the life of the seamen.

The Ethnographic Museum in the rue de la Prison is located in a beautiful half-timbered house. It consists of nine rooms restored and furnished in traditional Norman style (furniture, objects, traditional costumes), a journey through time revealing the crafts and traditions of Normandy.



Quai Saint-Etienne - Rue de la Prison
 tél. +33 (0)2 31 89 14 12 - fax +33 (0)2 31 89 54 06
 www.musees-honfleur.fr - musee.eugeneboudin@wanadoo.fr

date	mid february - march	april - september	october - november	december - mid february
weekdays	2.30 pm - 5.30 pm	10.00 am - 12.00 am 2.30 pm - 6.30 pm	2.30 pm - 5.30 pm	closed
weekend (saturday and sunday)	10.00 am - 12.00 am 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm	10.00 am - 12.00 am 2.00 pm - 6.30 pm	10.00 am - 12.00 am 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm	
Closing	monday	monday	monday	



AN ARTISTIC TOWN

The Age of Painters

Artists were already aware of Honfleur, and the remarkable light of the estuary, as early as the 18th century. At the beginning of the 19th century, however, following in the footsteps of talented watercolour and landscape English painters their numbers increased.

As early as 1810-1820, they discovered the romantic panorama of the medieval town surrounded by two hills. At that time painters were starting to paint outside in natural light and tourism was just beginning.

Professional painters and amateur artists, shouldering their rucksacks, sketchbooks under their arms, roamed the countryside. The Napoleonic wars had not destroyed the charm of Normandy. Artists were enchanted to discover the picturesque scenery. They followed the banks of the river Seine to the sea. The countryside offered many scenes for landscape painters who were also interested in depicting local life with its traditions, costumes and fishing activity.

Among the artists seduced by these landscapes and atmospheric phenomena were: Bonington, Turner, Huet, Leprince, Corot, Isabey... and this generation taught the following one. So the Barbizon painters set up their easels in the Auberge Saint-Siméon and in Villerville and taught the young artists: Boudin, Dubourg, Jongkind, who in turn gave their advice to Monet and Bazille. It was a long and lasting friendship between these artists who met and advised each other without the limitations of any particular school or dogma.

In the 1860s, Eugène Boudin, born in Honfleur in 1824, was the unifying element between the old generation of artists and the young ones. An artistic circle developed around him and Alexandre Dubourg. They used to meet in the Auberge Saint-Siméon where Boudin painted his famous skies of the Seine estuary, so much admired by Baudelaire.

After this impressionist movement came the Nabis (Vuillard and Valloton), then the Fauvists (Dufy, Friesz, Saint-Delis) followed by the painters coming from north or east of France (Herbo, Gernez, Driès) and those from Spain (Lagar, Grau-Sala). They all came to Honfleur to find their inspiration. Art is everywhere in Honfleur today, not only in the Eugène Boudin Museum but also notably in the exhibitions organized in the "Greniers à Sel" (salt warehouses).

There are still many painters today who set up their easels alongside the Vieux Bassin to try to find new ways to depict the Lieutenance and the houses of the Quai Sainte Catherine. The many art galleries and workshops also bear witness to Honfleur's attachment to art. Local and foreign artists still come to Honfleur capture the miracle of Normandy's skies.



Artists

Honfleur has been the birthplace or residence of many famous people.

Eugène Boudin : (Honfleur 1824 - Deauville 1898)

The first French painter to paint landscapes outdoors he was considered to be the precursor of impressionism. In Honfleur he composed his pastel skies admired by Baudelaire and actively participated in the meetings of artists at the Auberge Saint-Siméon. He remained particularly attached to the town of his birth and encouraged the creation of a municipal museum to which he bequeathed part of his collection of paintings.

Claude Monet : (Paris 1840 - Giverny 1926)

In 1858, he met Eugène Boudin who introduced him to painting landscapes outdoors. He was very attached to Normandy and the Seine and they inspired much of his paintings. He often stayed in Honfleur and many of his works were painted there.

"Here, my dear, it is adorable and every day I discover even more beautiful things." (letter to Bazille, July 1864)





AN ARTISTIC TOWN

Artists

Johan Barthold Jongkind: (Latrop 1819 - Grenoble 1891)

From 1863 to 1865, Jongkind lived mostly in Honfleur. He met all the other painters in Saint Siméon and was Boudin and Monet's dear friend. His time in Honfleur corresponds to a particularly creative period of his work (oil paints and watercolors).

Charles Baudelaire : (Paris 1821 - 1867)

A poet and an art critic, Baudelaire stayed part of the year 1859 in Honfleur at his mother's house the "Maison Joujou". He wrote : "*Settling in Honfleur has always been one of my dearest dream*".

He met Eugène Boudin the same year and wrote about his pastel skies which he much admired.

Alphonse Allais : (Honfleur 1854 - Paris 1905)

He began his studies to become a pharmacist but soon gave up and decided to study journalism. He was one of the main figures of the parisian cabaret "Le Chat Noir" and directed its journal. He is especially well-known for his remarkably modern absurd sense of humour. He advocated, among others, that "*cities should be put in the country*". Nowadays the spirit of Honfleur owes much to Alphonse Allais.

A humour festival pays tribute to this author : «Estuaire d'En Rire».

Erik Satie : (Honfleur 1866 - Paris 1925)

Satie was a complete artist. He was a musician, a composer and a pianist. He also enjoyed literature and painting. He declared that "*painters had taught him music much better than musicians had done*". He worked with the greatest : Picasso, Picabia, Braque, Cocteau and influenced artists such as Debussy, Ravel, Stravinsky...

His birthplace, since 1998, has been a memorial in the form of a very original musical tour with audio commentary.



Eugène Boudin Museum

This art museum was created in 1868 by Alexandre Dubourg and Eugène Boudin, both born in Honfleur. It displays works of art by precursors of Impressionism and contemporary artists who have lived or sought inspiration in the area: Romantics, Impressionists, Fauvists... such as Isabey, Boudin, Courbet, Jongkind, Monet, Cals, Valloton Friesz, Gernez, Saint Delis, Dufy... It also houses an important Norman ethnographic collection.

The museum possesses more than 2,000 paintings, sculptures, drawings and etchings, more than 1,000 objects, headdresses, traditional costumes, pieces of furniture, as well as a collection of 80 tourist posters

Some temporary exhibitions are also organized every year showing works on loan to the museum or selected from the archives.



Place Erik Satie

tél. +33 (2) 31 89 54 00 - fax +33 (2) 31 89 54 06

www.musees-honfleur.fr - musee.eugeneboudin@wanadoo.fr

date	mid february - march	march - september	october - december	january - mid february
weekdays	2.30 am- 5.30 am	10.00 am - 12.00 am 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm	2.30 pm - 5.30 pm	Closed
weekend (saturday and sunday)	10.00 am - 12.00 am 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm	10.00 am - 12.00 am 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm	10.00 am - 12.00 am 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm	
Closing	tuesday	tuesday - 01/05 - 14/07	tuesday - 25/12	



Maisons Satie

The house in which Eric Satie was born in 1866 has been transformed into an extraordinary museum which recreates, through sound and visual displays, the talent and eccentricities of the composer and his age.

The visitor, helped by audio guides, is led through a series of musical tableaux, each one reflecting an aspect of this witty, mystical, obsessive, musical genius.

Much more than a simple exhibition, this visit involves the visitors in series of playful and informative theatrical scenes.

This visit is a unique way of discovering, or rediscovering, an extraordinary musician, who was a true precursor of modern music.



67, boulevard Charles V
 tél. +33 (2) 31 89 11 11 - fax +33 (2) 31 89 09 99
 www.musees-honfleur.fr - musee.eugeneboudin@wanadoo.fr

date	mid february - april	may - september	october - december	january - mid february
opening ⁽⁴⁾	11.00 am - 6.00 pm	10.00 am - 7.00 pm	11.00 am - 6.00 pm	closed
closing	tuesday	tuesday	tuesday - 25/12	

La Forge

Discover the artist Florence Marie's amazing universe in her house/studio, la Forge.

Imagine yourself in a little street in the medieval center of Honfleur. You go through a door and find yourself in a strange, colourfull world. La Forge has been classified as «Art Singulier».

The house and garden are art works in themselves.

Every wall, every space is a blank canvas to be transformed into sculpture, painting, mosaic, fresco. All are strong and evocative manifestations

Let this strange bestiary with its mythical creatures catch you by surprise.

Everyone sees what they want to see : Alice's white rabbit, King Ubu, Medusa, a lost giraffe, a Holly Chapel, dozens of elves and other colourfull creatures.

25 rue de la Foulerie
 tél. +33 (2) 31 89 49 39 - www.florencemarielaforge.com
 Open friday, saturday and sunday at 3.00 pm
 (by appointment)



Alphonse Allais's Laboratory

The laboratory is located above the Pharmacie du Passocéan, which once belonged to Alphonse Allais's parents.

He began training to become a pharmacist but soon abandoned his studies and decided to be a journalist /writer /humorist.

He compiled a unique and very personal collection of which he was really proud. It contained, for example, the skull of the 17 year old Voltaire, a real piece of the fake Cross, a cup of tea for lefties (with the handle on the left of course)...

The laboratory preserves, beside these particularly rare artifacts, some of Alphonse Allais's ingenious and essential inventions, such as the water unpurifier (to make drinking water undrinkable), black earplugs for sorrowful days and all kinds of fanciful potions.

This very small museum is a tribute to a local boy.

Pharmacie du Passocéan - 4 place Hamelin
 tél. +33 (2) 06 74 07 72 29 - alphonse-allais.blogspot.fr/
 (by appointment)





The Côte de Grâce

Honfleur nestles between two hills, the Côte Vassale and the Côte de Grâce, a natural site combining the landscape of the Pays d'Auge and the estuary of the River Seine. Notre-Dame de Grâce Chapel, standing on the plateau de Grâce is one of the oldest sanctuaries in the region. It was built in 1600-1615 by the townspeople and seamen of Honfleur, replacing a former chapel destroyed during a landslide.

The original chapel was built by Richard II, Duke of Normandy, in fulfillment of a vow he had made when he was saved from drowning during a storm.

Notre-Dame de Grâce is still an active place of worship. Marble plaques and paintings preserve the memory of famous people who have worshipped in here: Samuel de Champlain, Pierre Berthelot, Louis XIII, Napoléon, Thérèse de Lisieux... Pilgrims have lined the walls with marble ex voto plaques, whereas seamen offered model ships and paintings.

Each year, on Whit Monday, the traditional Fête des Marins is marked by a picturesque and colourful procession of model ships, carried by sailors, from the Place Sainte-Catherine to the chapel of Notre-Dame de Grâce.

The Côte de Grâce offers magnificent panoramic views.

On one side the mouth of River Seine and the port of Le Havre, which is about ten kilometers away as the crow flies. On the other side Mont Joli with a stunning view over Honfleur and the Seine Valley with the Pont de Normandie, one of the longest cable stay bridges in Europe, linking the two banks of the river since 1995.



The Jardin des Personnalités

From the Côte de Grâce you can also see the Jardin des Personnalités.

Opened in 2004, this large, 10 hectare, landscaped area is located on a former mudflat along the estuary.

It is dedicated to Honfleur's famous sons and daughters, who were either born, or lived and worked, in Honfleur.

Their busts are on display in small boat-shaped gardens all round the park. It is a fun way to learn more about Honfleur's past.

During this attractive walk you will come across :

Painters : Eugène Boudin, Claude Monet, Johan Bartold Jonkind, Léon Leclerc, Alexandre Dubourg

Artists : Erik Satie, Alphonse Allais, Charles Baudelaire, Lucie Delarue Mardrus, Albert Sorel, la Comtesse d'Aulnoy, Françoise Sagan, Michel Serrault

Sailors : Binot Lepaulmier de Gonneville, Samuel de Champlain, Jean Doublet, Pierre Berthelot, Alexandre Exmelin

Historical figures : Charles V, Jean-Baptiste Colbert, Anne-Marie Louis d'Orléans



The Naturospace

Tropical butterflies in their natural habitat

Enter this exotic world and you can almost imagine what it was like for Binot Lepaulmier de Gonneville who set sail from Honfleur in 1503 and discovered the equatorial forest of Brazil. Naturospace butterfly farm is the largest tropical hot house (28°C, 82.4°F) in France. Over 200 meters (218 yards) of footpaths wind through the tropical forest of this 800 m² site.

The visitor walks through an amazing diversity of tropical plants : orchids, bougainvilleas, palm trees, pineapples, vanilla etc. accompanied by hundreds of fluttering butterflies.

There are more than fifty species of butterflies from all over the world. The chrysalises are kept in a "hatching incubator" and every day you can watch them open and new butterflies emerge.



Boulevard Charles V
 tél. +33 (2)31 81 77 00 - fax +33 (2) 31 81 77 01
www.naturospace.com



date	february - march	april - june	july - august	september	october - november	december - january
opening	9.30 am - 1.00 pm 2.00 pm - 5.30 pm	9.30 am - 1.00 pm 2.00 pm - 6.30 pm	9.30 am - 6.30 pm	9.30 am - 1.00 pm 2.00 pm - 6.30 pm	9.30 am - 1.00 pm 2.00 pm - 5.30 pm	Closed



Le Canton de Honfleur

The countryside around Honfleur and its fourteen neighbouring villages is a good place for hiking or just rambling. Honfleur's position at the mouth of the River Seine and in the heart of the Pays d'Auge offers many opportunities for discovering the flora and fauna specific to this estuary environment.

The surrounding woods, the Bois du Breuil, and forest, Forêt de Saint-Gatien, are well and sympathetically maintained by the Conservatoire du Littoral, and are perfect for those who love walking between the sea and the countryside.

The "canton" of Honfleur, full of contrasts and different traditions, encourages you to discover local crafts and produce in the villages of Ablon, Barneville la Bertran, Cricqueboeuf, Equemauville, Fourneville, Genneville, Gonneville sur Honfleur, Pennedepie, Quetteville, La Rivière Saint Sauveur, Le Theil en Auge, Vasouy, Saint-Gatien des Bois.

MAIN EVENTS

Traditional festivals

La Fête des Marins - Sailors festival (Whitsuntide weekend)

A special event that has taken place in Honfleur since 1861.

This festival is a gathering of all those whose lives are linked to the sea.

On Whit Sunday all kinds of craft gather in the Seine estuary for a benediction to remember the dead and to bless the boats.

On Whit Monday a procession including sailors and their families, carrying model ships, winds its way in pilgrimage from the town centre to the chapel of Notre Dame de Grâce where an outdoor Mass is celebrated.

During this weekend, a fair visits the town and the Société des Marins organises an exhibition and concerts in the Greniers à Sel and concerts in homage to fellow seamen.

La Fête de la Crevette - Shrimp festival (october)

The little brown shrimp (crevette grise), one of Honfleur specialities, is now the symbol of a traditional maritime festival: the Fête de la Crevette.

This event, which has been organized by the municipality since 1994, is dedicated to the sea, to Honfleur's fishing boats and their crews, and is a "must see" for lovers of shrimp, and all kinds of fish and seafood.

There are a variety of entertainments and activities: performances of sea shanties, shrimp peeling competitions, a fish market, an exhibition of old rigs, concerts, an arts and crafts market...

Some of our best chefs also perform cooking demonstrations of local fish recipes and give advice to the public.

Come and taste the "petite grise", as we call it in Honfleur, while you wander along the quays of the Vieux Bassin.



The tourist office's entertainments

Let us tell you more about Honfleur

All year round, the tourist office organises walking tours of the medieval town to help you understand Honfleur's prestigious history.

We take you into a 37 hectares conservation area to discover a unique and very well preserved heritage site.

The walking tours program is extensive:

Several times a week we offer "Discover the Town", a guided visit around the cobbled streets.

Every Saturday: "History and Legends", an evening tour to experience Honfleur by night.

From time to time themed or theatrical tours are organised:

On Valentine's day: romantic readings in the moonlight.

In Summer "Seafarers": experience the life of Honfleur's sailors, navigators, fishermen, pirates...

Around Halloween and All Saints Day (end of October): "Legends and Witchcraft": become immersed in the mysteries of the medieval town.

Most of those tours are only available in French but it is possible to rent an "audio city walk" (available in French, English and German - 16 stops with a commentary.) for an informative guide to the historic centre.



Family entertainment and activities

In addition the Tourist Office organises all kinds of events for young children and families: craft sessions for children; treasure hunts in the steps of the pirates, a police investigation into the theft of a painting, a food quiz focusing on local produce; a picnic, with music, in the Jardin des Personnalités; sandcastle competition on the beach; witches' ball and fancy dress parade for Halloween etc.

Festivals

Paroles, paroles - (March)

The French language is celebrated in Honfleur... For a week in early spring "Paroles, Paroles" offers a coming together of professionals, amateurs and the public in a varied program of cultural events: song, poetry, theatre, dance, music...

Salon des artistes contemporains - Artists Fair (Easter)

Honfleur town of the arts! This is a great exhibition and sale in the Greniers à Sel. More than 80 contemporary artists are on display.

Salon du Vin - Wine Fair (March/ April)

Wine Fair in the Greniers à Sel, about 50 producers from the best wine regions of France : Bordeaux, Bourgogne, Loire, Alsace, Roussillon, Provence...

Passionément Jardin – Passionate about Gardens - (April)

This unmissable event for all plant lovers is held in Honfleur's beautiful Park located along the estuary of the River Seine. 80 stallholders offer everything a gardener needs or desires as well as advice and demonstrations.

Jazz aux Greniers - Jazz festival (August)

During this festival, Honfleur's old streets are full of jazz music... Internationally well-known artists, such as Claude Bolling, Ladies Blues, Bobby Durham, Rhoda Scott... as well as local bands are invited to come and play in Honfleur. Over several days, jazz lovers can attend concerts, dinner-cabarets, conferences and events.

Estuaire d'En Rire - (September)

Each year the festival is organized to keep alive the wit and spirit of Alphonse Allais in his birthplace. The aim of the festival is to showcase established comedians and new talent as they follow each other on stage to fill the famous Greniers à Sel with laughter and applause.

Festival de Cinéma russe - (November)

The Russian Film Festival has taken place in Honfleur since 1995. Russian cinema is still little known in France. The organisers believe that the Russian film industry produces cinema of a quality which deserves a wider audience. Honfleur promotes recent Russian movies to a growing French and international audience and the festival has a growing number of enthusiastic French and international followers. Each year famous Russian artists participate in judging the films featured.



Markets

Weekly Market : Saturday morning

Place Sainte-Catherine, Cours des Fossés and Rue de la Ville.

Organic Market : Wednesday morning

Place Sainte-Catherine.

Fish Market : from Thursday to Sunday, in the morning

Jetée de Transit - Transit pier.

Night Market : Wednesday evening in July and August only

Cours des Fossés and Rue de la Ville

Honfleur Brocante - Flea market : first Sunday of the month

Place Sainte -Catherine

Potters' Market : Easter Sunday and Monday

Place Sainte-Catherine.

Christmas Market : Several days around Christmas

Place de l'Hôtel de Ville and Place Arthur Boudin



OFFICE DE TOURISME DE HONFLEUR & SON CANTON

Quai Lepaulmier - 14600 Honfleur

+33 (0)2 31 89 23 30

www.ot-honfleur.fr

Opening time	from Monday to Saturday	Sunday and public holidays
from Easter to June and September	9.30 am - 12.30 am / 2.00 pm - 6.30 pm	10.00 am - 12.30 am / 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
July and August	9.30 am - 7.00 pm	10.00 am - 5.00 pm
From october to Easter	9.30 am - 12.30 am / 2.00 - 6.00 pm	10.00 am - 1.00 pm (school holidays only)



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