

Grand  
**POITIERS**



**LET'S DREAM BIG...**  
**POITIERS**





# SUMMING UP OF GREATER POITIERS...

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# LET'S DREAM BIG... POITIERS

*Who has never dreamed of going back in time,  
to speak with the people who made history?*

*Who has never wanted to make  
an extraordinary trip to Futuroscope?*

The home of Eleanor of Aquitaine, the Counts of Poitou, Dukes of Aquitaine and Futuroscope, with its soil marked both by past and future, **the Greater Poitiers conurbation invites you to dream Big.**

Greater Poitiers contains 40 towns: while the **Futuroscope in Chasseneuil-du-Poitou** continues **to amaze**, **Chauvigny**, from its lofty heights, **is quite bewitching** with its exceptionally rich medieval heritage. **Poitiers'** heart is enchanting: the historic, lively, pedestrian hustle and bustle **shines bright** here today, one of the **leading student towns in France.**

But there's also: **Saint-Benoît**, Sanxay or the unmissable **Lusignan** which, suspended in time, recalls the Crusades ... you'd believe that a good fairy had passed by to **short-circuit time**... ask Mélusine!

**Greater Poitiers certainly invites you to get away from it all.** Staying here means choosing to **enjoy great experiences, to dream in the present**



# GREAT REGION

**40 towns**  
**1,060 km<sup>2</sup>**

going from Chauvigny to Lusignan, Ligugé to Beaumont Saint-Cyr passing, of course, through Poitiers



**200,000 inhabitants**

including 92,000 in Poitiers where 1 in 2 inhabitants is under 30 years old



**Over 15,000 beds**

(in hotels, holiday homes, bed and breakfasts, campsites)



**Over 150 classified**

historical monuments

**1 community tourist office**



**4 tourist information offices**



# GREAT ACCESS

*Do you live nearby?*

On foot, on horseback or by bike, hiking routes and road paths lead you straight to Greater Poitiers.

By car, Greater Poitiers is directly accessible via the A10 motorway.

*Are you coming from a little further away?*

**From Paris Montparnasse**, 1 hr 15 by TGV.

**Are you coming from Bordeaux?** You're 1 hr by TGV or 2 hr 30 by car from Greater Poitiers.

*More distant friends, are you coming from even further afield?*

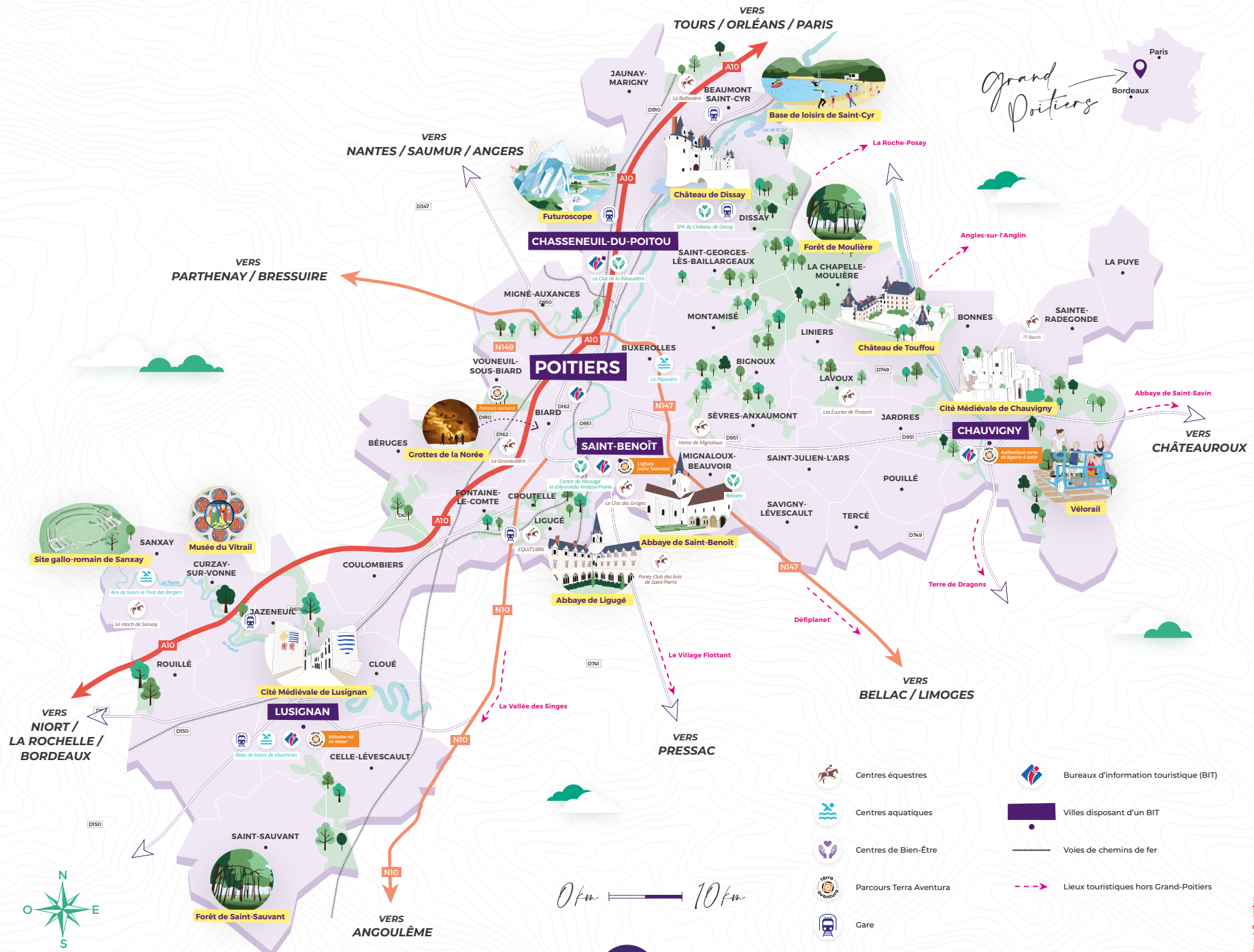
No worries! From Poitiers-Biard airport (PIS), regular connections are provided from national or European destinations: **Barcelona, London, Edinburgh, Lyon.**

For long haul, there's a **direct TGV connection** from Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport in 2 hr 20.





# INTRO LET'S DREAM BIG - POITIERS





# GREAT DYNAMISM

Over **2,000**  
cultural

events, concerts and  
festivities  
throughout the year



Over **27,000**  
students  
in Poitiers

i.e. 32%  
of the population



**400**

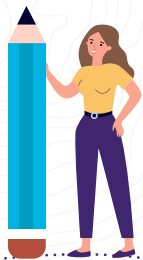
bars, cafes and  
restaurants



Poitiers classified

**1<sup>st</sup>**  
major  
student city  
in France

(L'Etudiant 2022 awards)





# GREAT GEMS

 **Notre-Dame-La-Grande Church**  
POITIERS



Can you decipher the famous facade of this monument to Romanesque art?

#church #architecture #poitiers

 **The medieval town of**  
CHAUVIGNY



The town with 5 ruins of châteaux on the same rocky promontory is labelled among "The Most Beautiful Places to Visit in France".

#château #medievaltown #chauvigny

 **The Futuroscope**  
CHASSENEUIL-DU-POITOU



40 attractions and shows to arouse the curiosity of young and old.

#attractions #thrills #futuroscope



 **The Palace of Poitiers**  
POITIERS



Eleanor of Aquitaine and the Counts of Poitou, Dukes of Aquitaine passed through the most remarkable ensemble of medieval civil architecture in France.

#medieval #architecture #poitiers

 **Tison Island**  
POITIERS



#PoitiersPlage, the unmissable gathering of "Pictavi" on the banks of the Clain.

#tisonisland #fun #poitiersplage

 **Archaeological site**  
SANXAY



Visit the heart of the Gallo-Roman remains of Sanxay, dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

#remains #ancient #sanxay



GREATER  
POITIERS  
GREAT  
SURPRISES





# GREAT GAMES

Because Greater Poitiers is at the forefront in terms of **gaming**, the region is full of **fun devices to discover its towns and villages while having fun!** Notice to seasoned gamers as well as amateur players, in Greater Poitiers, you haven't been forgotten!

## ► Terra Aventura

**100% free game, 100% geocaching**, on 4 unique routes in Greater Poitiers (Lusignan, Saint-Benoît, Chauvigny and Vouneuil-sous-Biard: special night course).

## ► Gamer's Assembly

THE festival of network games and e-sport, every year at the Exhibition Centre in Greater Poitiers.

## ► Life-size adventure games

In the city, to discover Poitiers while having fun, with family or friends:

- **"Eleanor - One way to Salisbury"**: Taken back to the year 1173, your mission is to crack an unsolved case: who was responsible for Eleanor's imprisonment in Salisbury Castle?
- **"Viking 2.0"**: Equipped with a kit containing puzzles to solve, take part in an outdoor adventure game in the footsteps of the Vikings!

## ► Valley of Legends

In **Saint-Benoît and Ligugé**: an app just for children to go in search of mysterious beings from ancient times, who have found refuge in the Valley of Legends.

## WIDE ANGLE

Gaming, a leading trend in tourism, Greater Poitiers on the ball

Gaming, or gamification, is a process that involves applying game codes in a non-game environment. Theatrical tours, Geocaching, Visit Poitiers app ... the Greater Poitiers destination has decided to gamify its region by offering fun, permanent or temporary activities for all generations.





# GREAT THRILLS

Ready for takeoff! Get your adrenaline pumping in Greater Poitiers where incredible activities await those who wish to make their wildest dreams come true: aim for the moon until you touch the sky, walk on water ... who's up for the experience?

## ► Paragliding in Chauvigny

A **flight over Vienne and the medieval town of Chauvigny in a paraglider**: a breathtaking experience!

📍 Chauvigny

## ► Zero Gravity

Floating in the air and **defying gravity** is now possible just a stone's throw from Futuroscope, where Zero Gravity lets you fly in a 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> complex dedicated to **indoor skydiving**.

📍 Chasseneuil-du-Poitou

## ► NoWave E-foil at Lake Saint-Cyr

**Flying over the water ...** a unique sensation offered by E-foil on Lake Saint-Cyr: water gliding guaranteed, from your first session!

📍 Beaumont Saint-Cyr





► **Futuroscope Park**  
**Technology serving your wildest dreams**

Find yourself in the heart of a tornado, fly over the 5 continents, dance with robots, escape into space without leaving your chair ... at Futuroscope, a leisure park with breathtaking architecture, technology lets you daydream with plenty of thrills in store!

 [Futuroscope](#) Chasseneuil-du-Poitou

**A complete offer**

On the same complex

- A **dozen hotels** less than 10 minutes' walk from the park entrance, including:
  - **Hotel Station Cosmos** at the gateway to the Park.
  - **Hotel du Futuroscope**, directly accessible via a pedestrian bridge.
  - The **Arena-Futuroscope** opened in April 2022: a new place dedicated to music (performance hall with 6,000 seats) and sport.

**All the powers of attraction**

**40**

attractions  
for the whole family

Nearly

**2 million**

visitors each year



**80%** individual visitors, **20%**  
in groups

**8**

restaurants

**10**

take-away  
outlets.

Picnics authorised  
on the lawns of the  
Park



**1<sup>st</sup>**

tourist site  
in the New  
Aquitaine  
Region

**1<sup>st</sup>**

amusement park  
inaugurated in  
France (in 1987)





## RENOWNED ATTRACTIONS AND SHOWS

### ► Tornado Chasers, new attraction crowned “best attraction in the world”

"Tornado Chasers", a new immersive attraction inaugurated in **summer 2022**, takes visitors into the laboratory of meteorologists Alex and Mélanie, from the queue to the core of the vortex. The idea? Immerse visitors in the heart of this weather phenomenon to witness an apocalyptic scene.

Magical scenography and special effects, which **allowed it to be crowned "best attraction in the world"** by a jury of professionals, brought together within the Themed Entertainment Association (TEA) in the United States, which has chosen to reward **both the artistic and technical excellence and the innovation** of Tornado Chasers.

Even more recently, in November 2022, the attraction received the coveted **"Thea Award for Outstanding Achievement"** from the IAAPA (International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions), **on the sidelines of the IAAPA Expo trade show in Orlando** (Florida).

The choice was made from among 300 competing candidates, including theme park giants from all over the world.



### ► The “La Clé des Songes” night show, the best multimedia creative show in the world



The night show, an original creation by Futuroscope, "La Clé des Songes" (The Key to Dreams, 2021) was awarded the international "Brass Ring Award", in other words, "best multimedia creative show in the world", at the IAAPA annual congress.

NEW

NEW FOR 2023

Futuroscope is preparing to launch in 2023:

- A new superhero-themed 4D animation
- A new "Eco-Lodges" hotel in summer 2023
- In 2024, the Aquascope, a new-generation water park.





# TALENT AND KNOW-HOW

In Greater Poitiers, **the unparalleled talents of craftsmen and designers are alive and well.**

Spotlight on their boundless imagination.


## ► The François Frères umbrella factory

Pierre and Louis, two brothers descended from 5 generations of craftsmen, have made us all love bad weather. In their workshop created in 1882, one of the last artisanal umbrella factories in France, **they make umbrellas that couldn't be more durable:** 15 to 20 years' life expectancy for a carbon fibre umbrella. People almost pray for rain to get a piece of this real Poitiers family institution, whose know-how is still handed down between generations, with the arrival of Lylian, Pierre's son-in-law.

 [François Frères, Manufacture and Repair of Umbrellas and Parasols](#)  
Grand Rue, Poitiers

## ► Monébari leather goods

In his workshop-boutique, **Chauvigny's Xavier Piganeau makes satchels, briefcases and other fancy shoulder bags.** The 30-year-old, who became a leather goods maker in 2019, was trained by Lydie Gallet, who notably worked for Hermès. You'll also find this square "French" style in his elegant, colourful creations.

 [Monébari leather goods](#)  
8 Rue de Montmorillon, Chauvigny





► **Fanny Laugier's ceramics**

**Fanny Laugier**, a ceramic artist inspired by abstract painting and architecture of the 1950s, **creates astonishing folded porcelain, often natural with no enamel.** In 2017, one of her creations, a "corrugated cardboard"-looking vase, was even sold in the shop of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, MoMA!

 [Fanny Laugier's workshop-boutique](#)  
151 Grand'Rue, Poitiers

► **Hologram, streetwear label**

Nostalgic for the 90s, influenced by cinema and music, the three childhood friends Florian Artu, Karim Sehili and Thomas Berges designed collections of sweatshirts and T-shirts called Hologram. An innovative, sustainable style "Designed In Greater Poitiers", combining quality, comfort and retro materials. You'll find them in their boutique-workshop combining showroom, office and photo studio.

 [Hologram](#)  
6 Allée Gilbert de la Porrée, Poitiers



# UNUSUAL GREATER POITIERS

Lifelong locals or day-trippers, the stories that follow will arouse everyone's curiosity! **The destination is full of anecdotes and places, each as surprising as the next.** Here are a few...

## ► Manneken Pis, for a touch of Brussels

Poitiers can boast **of hosting one of the six official copies of the Manneken Pis!** Indeed, in May 1940, when Belgium was occupied by the Germans, the Belgian government had to go into exile. It found refuge in Poitiers, which then became the capital of Belgium for 26 days, from 23 May to 17 June 1940. As a sign of recognition, Belgian police officials offered a perfect copy of the Manneken Pis to their Poitevin counterparts. It stands today in the hallway of the city's police station.

📍 38 Rue de la Marne, Poitiers

## ► A Statue of Liberty, for a New York feel

Located on Place de la Liberté in Poitiers, this statue actually has no connection with the United States. In fact, this is where the pillory was located, where criminals and other bandits were executed under the Regime of Terror. It was on this square that General Berton was executed in 1822. Accused of conspiracy, his last words were "Long live freedom!"». In 1903, this replica of Bartholdi's Statue of Liberty, funded by the Freemasons, was erected in homage to him.


📍 Place de la Liberté, Poitiers








### ► The Fanzinothèque, the largest alternative collection in Europe

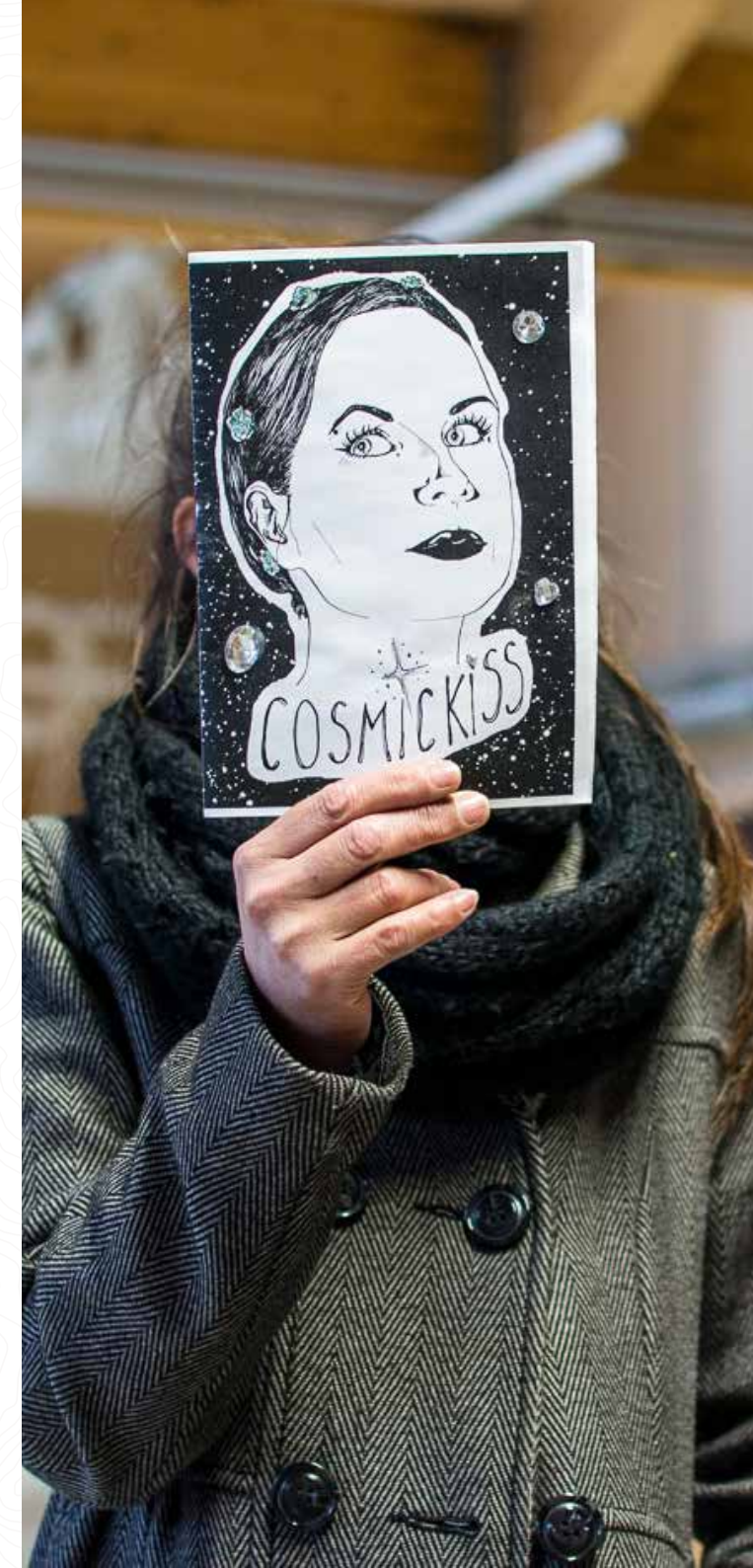
Have you ever heard of the Fanzinothèque? **A one-of-a-kind place whose mission is to keep Europe's largest collection of fanzines**, those amateur micro-publications created by enthusiasts of alternative arts and cultures. Since 1989, the Fanzinothèque has been fed by micro-publishers and artists' exhibitions, forming a space ideal for contemporary creation.

 [The Fanzinothèque](#)  
185 Rue du Faubourg du Pont Neuf, Poitiers

### ► Third places, boosting cultural life in Greater Poitiers

“Les Usines” in Ligugé, “La Caserne” in Poitiers, “Le Clou” in Chauvigny: these three unusual spaces located in Greater Poitiers were born from the repurposing of industrial wasteland or old buildings such as a fire station. Transformed and co-constructed into real living spaces, these cross-functional projects fall within the sectors of sustainable development, new technologies, arts and culture. Here, you'll find local markets, co-working spaces, fablabs and associative cafes. There's innovation going on in Greater Poitiers!

 [Les Usines](#), Avenue de la Plage, Ligugé  
 [La Caserne](#), 24 Boulevard Pont Achard, Poitiers  
 [Le Clou](#), 4 Rue Saint-Pierre, Chauvigny






# GREAT ART!

## ► The TAP, Poitiers Auditorium Theatre (National Stage)

Eclectic, surprising, multidisciplinary: take a look at the TAP programme! Labelled National Stage, this renowned architectural ensemble is recognised for its exceptional acoustics, the auditorium being a popular place for big names in classical music.

 [TAP - Poitiers Auditorium Theatre](#)  
1 Boulevard de Verdun, Poitiers


## ► Sainte-Croix Museum

It's the first museum in Poitou-Charentes and the largest in Poitiers! Standing since 1974 on the site of the former Sainte-Croix abbey, the museum now houses rich archaeological collections from prehistory to the High Middle Ages and works from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Bonnard, Vuillard, Sisley, Marquet...) A room is even dedicated to Camille Claudel's 3<sup>rd</sup> French public collection: 10 beautiful sculptures by the artist can be seen alongside a few by Rodin.

 [Sainte-Croix Museum](#),  
61 Rue St Simplicien Poitiers

## ► The Stained Glass Museum in Curzay-sur-Vonne

The idea that "stained glass is a thing of the past" is no more! The Curzay-sur-Vonne Stained Glass Museum is one of the few structures dedicated to stained glass in France. Operating since 1988 in a part of the Church of Saint-Martin, this museum helps enlighten the public on the history of this ancestral art so they can discover contemporary stained glass.


 [Stained Glass Museum](#)  
6 Route de Sanxay, Curzay-sur-Vonne






► **Le Confort Moderne: concert hall, national reference**

Le Confort Moderne is an artistic brownfield site, concert hall and art centre in Poitiers. A place of creation supporting artists, where art is made, exchanged, experienced. It's in this unique place that the Fanzinothèque and the Jazz à Poitiers association come alive, showcasing this musical style in all its forms.

 [Confort Moderne](#)  
185 Rue du Faubourg du Pont Neuf, Poitiers

► **Le Miroir in Poitiers**

Open to all fields of visual expression, Le Mirror, a singular cultural project, offers exhibitions that establish a dialogue between arts and forms, creative approaches and different eras. Since September 2022, the Le Miroir Exhibition Gallery has entered the walls of the old theatre on Place Leclerc in Poitiers. Decorating the entrance hall, the superb 100m<sup>2</sup> “verre églomisé” checkerboard representing the performing arts (1957) is the work of master glassmaker Robert Pansart, who also produced the decoration for the theatre of the liner France.

 [Le Miroir, Exhibition Gallery](#)  
1 Pl. du Maréchal-Leclerc, Poitiers



GREATER  
POITIERS

GREAT  
DISCOVERIES





# WOMEN AND MEN OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Eleanor of Aquitaine, a queen with two crowns, François Rabelais and René Descartes, French philosophers, Joël Robuchon, the chef with 32 stars... What do these personalities who left their mark on France have in common?

**You've guessed it - they all have a link with Greater Poitiers!**



Eleanor of AQUITAINE  
Duchess of Aquitaine,  
Countess of Poitiers,  
where her Palace is  
located, Queen of  
France and England,  
died in Poitiers in 1204



Laurent AUDOUIN  
children's illustrator  
and Poitiers author



René DESCARTES  
mathematician,  
philosopher, student  
at Poitiers



Malik DJOUDI  
Poitiers musician



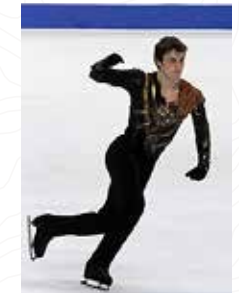
Franck FERRAND  
journalist born in  
Poitiers



JABBERWOCKY  
electronic music  
group from Poitiers



Joan OF ARC,  
questioned in Poitiers  
in 1429



Brian JOUBERT, figure  
skater from Poitiers,  
born and lives in  
Poitiers



Benjamin LAVERNHE,  
actor, member of the  
Comédie Française  
born in Poitiers



Marghe,  
author, composer,  
performer from  
Poitiers, winner of  
"The Voice" 2021.



Mahyar  
MONSHIPOUR, boxer,  
World, European  
and French Super  
Bantamweight  
Champion, lives in  
Poitiers



François RABELAIS  
writer, humanist  
studied in Poitiers



Radegund (519-587),  
queen of the Franks,  
founder of the first  
female monastery and  
patron saint  
of the town



Joël ROBUCHON  
multi-starred chef,  
"Best cook  
in the world" in 1990  
born in Poitiers



Luc TURLAN  
children's cartoonist  
lives in Chauvigny

# GREAT STORIES

## GREAT STORIES

A land of legends, Greater Poitiers is dotted with myths and tales that shape the region!

### ▶ Saint Radegund and the Grand'Goule

A frightening monster, a dragon with the body of a serpent, the wings of a bat, the talons of an eagle and the tail of a scorpion, **it was in the 6<sup>th</sup> century that the Grand'Goule terrorised the city.**

Haunting the underground, it devoured several nuns from Sainte-Croix abbey. **Saint Radegund, the patron saint of Poitiers, by dint of prayers, slayed it.**

**Associated with the cult of the Saint**, a wooden statue in the effigy of the monster was paraded during the procession on 13 August, the feast of Saint Radegund. Along the way, people threw little biscuits called "casse-museaux", shouting: **"Grand'Goule, holy vermin, pray for us".**

The procession was interrupted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the wooden dragon, kept in the collections of the Sainte-Croix Museum, can still be seen there today.

**📍 Head for the Sainte-Croix Museum in Poitiers.**





► **The legend of Mélusine, and its link with Lusignan**

Mélusine means "**wonder**" or "**sea mist**", the Latin origin melus also suggesting "melodious, pleasant". In Lusignan, she's called "**Mère Lusigne**" because she's considered the mother of all the "Mélusins" (inhabitants of Lusignan).

**The village of fairy Mélusine transports visitors between history and mythology** as soon as they pass through the fortified gates, a remnant of its medieval past.

Mélusine, cursed by her mother, was condemned every Saturday to have her body transformed into a serpent's tail from the navel. She met Raymondin and offered him her hand on the sole condition that he gave up seeing her on Saturday. Raymondin consented to this marriage and became the most powerful lord of Poitou. Ten boys, all afflicted with a strange sign, were born from this union. But one Saturday, Raymondin was deceived and broke the ban, surprising his wife taking her bath as a half-snake. **Her secret revealed, Mélusine then transformed into a dragon**, and flew over the towers of Château de Lusignan before disappearing forever.

► **The mystery of the keys to Notre-Dame-la-Grande**

The scene took place in 1202, when Poitiers was besieged by the English.

An employee of the town hall, or a clerk, depending on the version, sold out to the enemy, promising to deliver the keys to the city for a large sum of money. But when, on Easter night, he broke into the mayor's room, **the keys had disappeared**. They were found in the morning in the hand of the statue of the Blessed Virgin. That same night, the Virgin Mary, Saint-Hilaire and Saint Radegund appeared to the enemy soldiers, who killed each other. Today, **the north collateral window of the church recalls this miraculous episode and the divine intervention that liberated the town...**



# MONUMENTS... IN POITIERS

## ▶ Notre-Dame-La-Grande Church

You mustn't miss it! Anchored in the heart of Poitiers and an emblem of the city, Notre-Dame-La-Grande Church is one of its jewels. Its Romanesque Poitiers architecture is remarkable and the carved frieze on its facade, which traces certain episodes from the Bible - with the representation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the Annunciation, the birth of Christ etc - bears traces of polychromy.

 Place Charles de Gaulle, Poitiers

## ▶ The Palace of the Counts of Poitou, Dukes of Aquitaine

From the pedestrian street, **no one could imagine what's hidden behind this huge facade.** The Palace of Poitiers is indeed one of the most remarkable ensembles of medieval civil architecture in France. Different exercises of power followed one another in the Palace, which housed the Courthouse of the French Revolution until 2019. **Today, the monument allows the curious to learn about the city's past**, from Gallo-Roman times to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

It now hosts concerts, shows and cultural events and is the subject of a vast rehabilitation programme planned until 2029 / 2030.

 Place Alphonse Lepetit, Poitiers

## Saint-Pierre Cathedral

▶ In the Angevin Gothic style, built on the initiative of Eleanor of Aquitaine and Henri II Plantagenêt from 1160 and characterised by its large dimensions, **Saint-Pierre Cathedral is a jewel of the city's landscape.**

 1 Rue Sainte-Croix, Poitiers

## Saint-Jean Baptistery

▶ **One of the oldest Christian monuments in Europe**, the Saint-Jean baptistery dates back to the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Octagonal in shape, decorated with paintings with Gothic and Romanesque tendencies, it houses an old baptismal pool used for baptism by immersion until the 8<sup>th</sup> century, in addition to a collection of Merovingian sarcophagi.

 Rue Jean-Jaurès, Poitiers





# AND ALSO IN POITIERS

**Town  
Hall**



**Sainte-Radegonde  
Church**



**Saint-Hilaire-le-Grand  
Church**



(listed as a UNESCO  
World Heritage Site as part of the Routes  
to Santiago de Compostela)

**Mansions** (Fumé, Jean  
Beaucé, Pélisson, Gilbert...)



Not forgetting:

- **Hypogée des Dunes and its garden,**
- **La Pierre Levée,**
- **the remains of the Roman amphitheatre...**

# AROUND POITIERS

**The châteaux  
of Chauvigny**



**Saint-Martin Abbey in  
Ligugé**



**The Gallo-Roman site  
in Sanxay**



**Château  
de Touffou**



## **The City and Land of Art and History label**

On 7 December 2021, the Regional Heritage and Architecture Commission (CRPA) renewed the "City and Land of Art and History" label for a period of 10 years (2022-2032). The city of Poitiers obtained it in 1985 and it was extended in 2004 to the 40 towns of Greater Poitiers.



GREATER  
POITIERS  
GREAT  
OUTDOORS





# GREAT SPACES

## ► Chauvigny's Vélorail

The Vélorail is an **original way to discover nature around Chauvigny**. Railbikes take the old railway line which was once used to transport men and stone extracted from local quarries. Throughout its 8.7 kilometres, **the route offers visitors extraordinary viewpoints over the medieval town of Chauvigny**, as well as a green walk between dry valleys, undergrowth and wooded plains.

 [Vélorail](#), Chauvigny

## ► Lake Saint-Cyr and its bird sanctuary

Located 30 minutes from Poitiers, within the Saint-Cyr Estate and labelled Blue Flag since 2020, **the eponymous lake offers many activities during the summer season**. It has an aquazone with a floating inflatable structure and water slides, as well as an all-terrain electric scooter hire service, to wind your way through the 300 hectares of greenery without exerting yourself.

The League for the Protection of Birds (LPO) offers **discovery tours of the 40-hectare bird reserve**.

 [Lake Saint-Cyr](#), Beaumont-Saint-Cyr





# 300 hectares

That's the size of Domaine du Lac de Saint-Cyr, a protected green setting with many water- and land-based activities. Among them, the Haut-Poitou golf course adjoins Lake Saint-Cyr, amid lush nature. An 18-hole course ranked among the best in France!



# 9 hectares

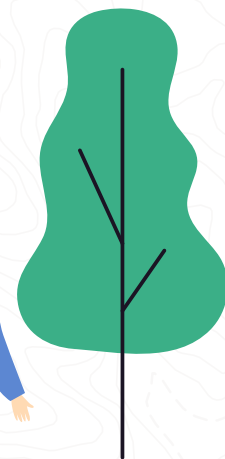
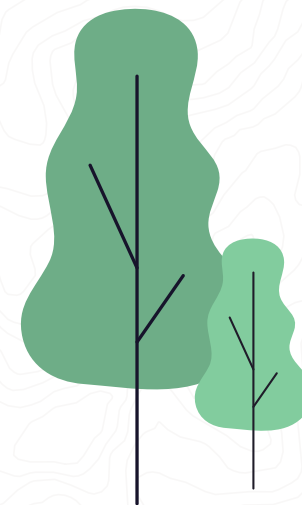
That's the size of Blossac Park, a true green lung of Poitiers, located above the Clain Valley and the largest park in Poitiers. It's one of the most beautiful public spaces in France, and is made up of several gardens, including an English-style garden.

# 6,800 hectares

of wooded areas make the Moulière Forest the largest in the department of Vienne.

# 2 hectares of nature

walks, entertainment and relaxation on the banks of the Clain, offering a great opportunity to switch off just 10 minutes' walk from the city centre: towards Tison Island in Poitiers, the favourite place among the locals!



# GREEN TOURISM

How about a trek, in slow mode? **Greater Poitiers has everything you need for soft mobility:** marked hiking trails, cycling routes, varied landscapes and flat terrain... In summer, canoe-kayak, paddleboard, pedalo and even, soon, swimming in the Clain are available! **Meet the surrounding nature...**

▶ **The best walks & hikes:  
Road to Santiago (Turonensis route)**

The famous Santiago de Compostela Grande Randonnée route starts in Paris at the foot of the Saint-Jacques Tower and connects with the Spanish border just over 1,000 kilometres away. But did you know that this route, called Via **Turonensis, crosses Greater Poitiers from north to south**, passing through Dissay, Poitiers, Ligugé and Lusignan? A route that corresponds to a natural historic traffic corridor from Northern Europe and the Kingdom of France to the Pyrenees. In the Middle Ages, pilgrims heading to Compostela and passing through Poitiers could gather in several sanctuaries such as Ligugé Abbey.

▶ **Cycling tourism: the Scandibérique in Greater Poitiers: heading South!**

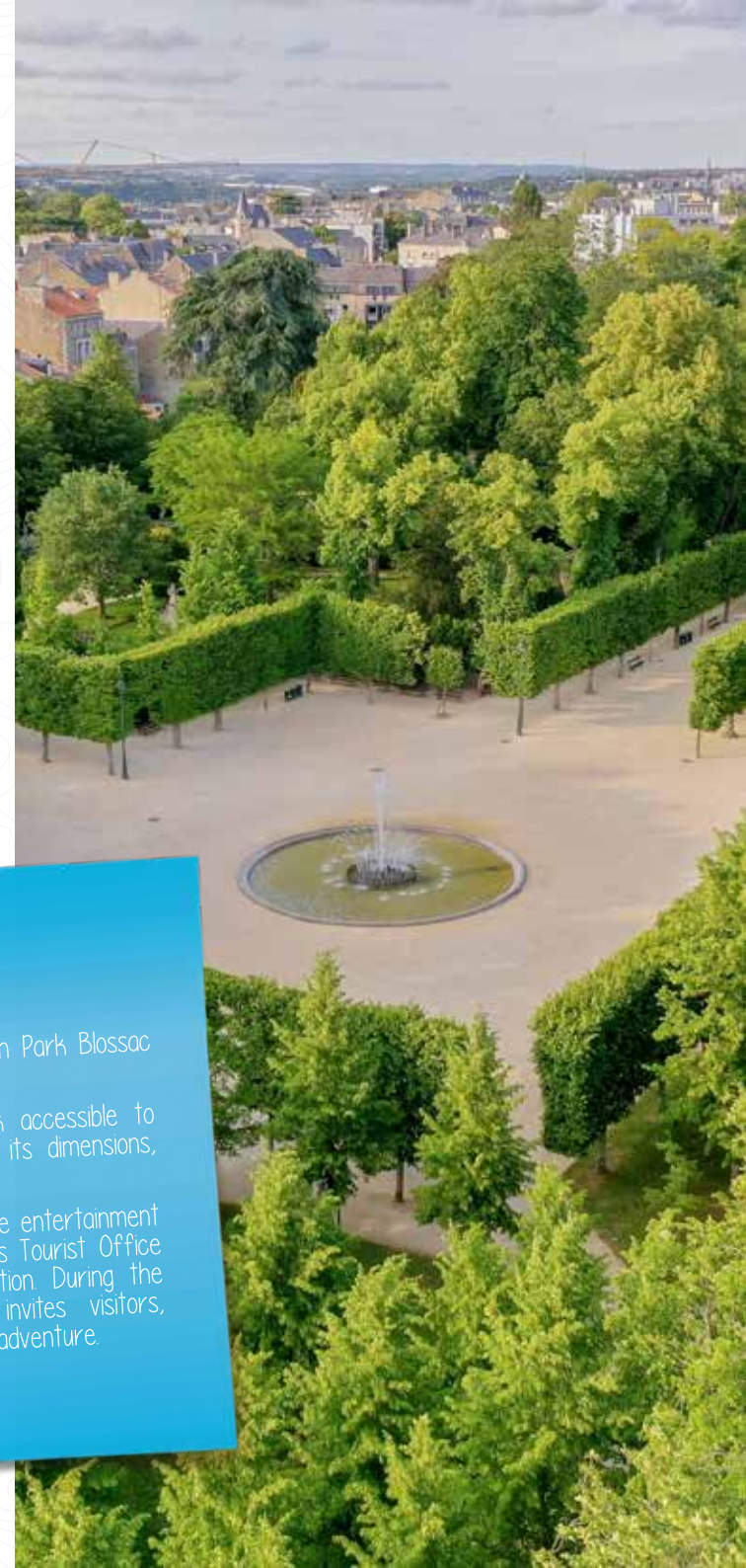
Just a few kilometres from Poitiers, the Scandibérique® route, crossing France to Spain, offers **an opportunity to escape from everyday life and go green for a weekend.** On the programme: a bike break through the Vienne and its treasures! After Chauvigny, cyclists can enjoy small, peaceful country roads. With very low gradients, this route is today a favourite among cyclists.

## WIDE ANGLE

Inclusive tourism: sensory walk in Park Blossac and the Plant Garden

Make the pleasure of a walk accessible to all, discover, feel nature in all its dimensions, rediscover your five senses

These are the objectives of the entertainment offered by the Greater Poitiers Tourist Office with the Armelhisca association. During the summer, a blind facilitator invites visitors, blindfolded, on a unique sensory adventure.





► **Accommodation labelled "Clef verte" (Green Key)**



- **Hotel Altéora** in Chasseneuil-du-Poitou, an eco-responsible hotel on the Futuroscope site
- **"Le Clos des Moulins"** guest house, elegance and nature, eco-responsible rooms in the heart of Poitiers
- The **Eco-lodges at Park Saint-Cyr**, rental accommodation combining canvas and wood, offering the charm of a cabin on stilts.

WIDE ANGLE

**Greater Poitiers, a sustainable region**

Greater Poitiers is a verdant region committed to the ecological transition which counteracts climate change and air pollution, as Bénédicte Breuls, Manager of the Greater Poitiers Tourist Office, explains

"In Greater Poitiers, we don't focus on mass tourism (...) but rather on nature, gastronomy and a whole range of activities related to sustainable tourism, zero-carbon activities."

**Hotel Altéora**



**Le Clos des Moulins**



**Eco-lodges in Saint-Cyr Park**





► **Greater Poitiers, partner of La Gravienne in 2024:**

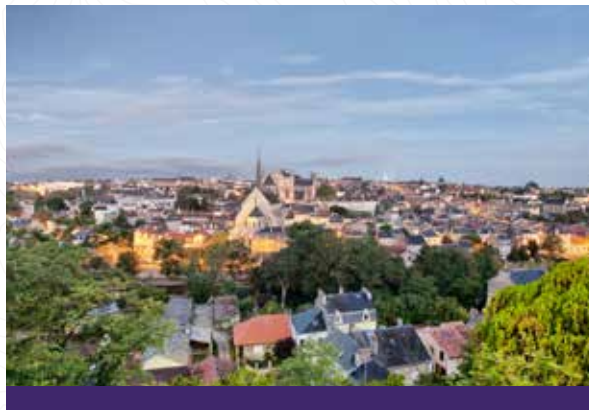
A fairly intimate event with just 200 participants, La Gravienne offers more or less experienced cyclists 2 routes of 280 and 486 kilometres, through Greater Poitiers, to discover its exceptional heritage. La Gravienne stands out from other gravel events in particular by its focus on highlighting local producers and their products, especially at the refuelling stations and in the participant packs.

[La Gravienne](#), from 2 to 4 June 2023

# GREAT PANORAMAS

Grab your cameras! Greater Poitiers offers breathtaking views for both amateur and experienced photographers. It may take a bit of courage to climb to the top, **but the landscapes are worth the hike and the view...**

**Panorama of the Dunes**



**View of the upper town of Chauvigny**



**View of Haut-Poitou golf course**





GREATER  
POITIERS  
**GREAT  
DELIGHTS**



# PRODUCERS & SPECIALITIES

Sometimes little known, Poitiers' gastronomy is full of gourmet treasures that make your taste buds tingle!

## ► **Cheeses: the Maras farm in Chauvigny**

Greater Poitiers still has plenty of surprises left in store! At the Maras farm in Chauvigny, which has just celebrated its 40th anniversary, **the goats are massaged with an electric brush to the sound of classical music** ... to produce the best cheese that's sold on site or less than 30 km from the farm!

## ► **Broyés du Poitou: Maison Goulibeur in Poitiers and Maison Augereau in Saint-Benoît**

Also called "assembly cake", **Broyé du Poitou is shared during friendly moments together**, breaking it by hand in the middle. That way, everyone can enjoy a piece, depending on how hungry they are!

## ► **Rannou Métivier Macaroons**

One of the specialities of the region, this macaroon with its soft almond centre has been famous for more than two centuries. **Its secret recipe has been passed down from generation to generation**, from the Chartier sisters to today's Maison Rannou Métivier.

## ► **Cheese cake**

Its black dome, deliberately burned, surprises at first sight. But this cheesecake, the flagship of Poitiers food culture, will delight the palate. With its light, creamy, slightly sweet centre, **it can be enjoyed as a dessert, aperitif or as a snack.**





► **Farci Poitevin**

Farci Poitevin is made from a mixture of green vegetables (sorrel, aromatic herbs, Swiss chard, spinach, etc.), eggs, cream and sometimes bacon, cooked in cabbage leaves. This vegetable pâté can be eaten hot or cold, as a starter or main course. **A real treat.**

► **Chocolatier Fink**

**Recognised throughout Poitou since 1828**, the elegant Maison Fink is an institution when it comes to chocolates, pralines, caramels, macaroons and ice cream. Enjoy to your heart's content.

► **Chabichou**

An undisputed star of the region, the famous Poitou goat's cheese has the characteristic shape of a small truncated cone!

**AS FOR DRINKS...**

► **Beers:** Pirates du Clain in Ligugé Manufacture de Bières in Poitiers, Microbrasserie du XIII in Saint-Georges-lès-Baillargeaux, De Mysteriis Picatvis in Smarves, Microbrasserie Beoir du Cluricaume in Poitiers...

► **Wines:** Domaine Ampélideae in Jaunay-Marigny, a pioneer in organic viticulture and Domaine de la Tour Beaumont in Beaumont Saint-Cyr, labelled high environmental value. Not forgetting Domaine de la Rôtisserie in Marigny-Beaumont or Domaine de Lavauguyot in Jaunay-Marigny.






# GREAT TABLES

## IN POITIERS

### ▶ The Archives

An unmissable place in Poitiers as much for the atypical venue as for its fine food, the Les Archives restaurant offers a refined menu that combines tradition and modernity.

Here, local products are prepared in an inventive way to awaken your taste buds and put stars in your eyes.

 [Les Archives](#)

14 rue Edouard-Grimaux, 86000 Poitiers

### ▶ L'Essentiel selon Pierric Casadebaig

Brought to life by Pierric Casadebaig, formerly of the Troisgros establishment in Roanne, L'Essentiel leaves a delicious memory in the mouth for customers who opt for monkfish pot-au-feu or kidney-sweetbread duo.

A completely affordable bistro style that doesn't overuse the term.

 [L'Essentiel selon Pierric](#)

188 Grand'Rue, 86000 Poitiers

### ▶ Auberge Le Cul de Paille

Known for its quirky approach, **this restaurant has been an institution since 1645.**

The walls are covered with artists' signatures, the cuisine is creative with dishes to share based on seasonal market produce. A place to eat, drink and celebrate!

 [Auberge Le Cul de Paille](#)


3 rue Théophraste Renaudot, 86000 Poitiers





► **Le Roy des Ribauds**


This medieval-inspired tavern offers **a taste adventure with specialties from yesteryear in a historic, friendly atmosphere.** These history enthusiasts work with local producers to prepare their own hippocras, the delicious medieval aperitif to enjoy, for example, with rillettes, also homemade.

 [Le Roy des Ribauds](#)  
39 rue Cloche Perse, 86000 Poitiers

**IN COULOMBIERS**

► **L'Auberge du Centre Poitou** 

25 minutes from Futuroscope and Poitiers, **this beautiful traditional inn has retained its rustic charm of yesteryear** with its warm dining room, full of trinkets and antique furniture. Here, everything is homemade: both "bistro" lunches and gourmet meals to savour under the arbour or by the fireplace!

 [Le Centre Poitou](#)  
39 Route Nationale, 86600 Coulombiers

**IN CROUTELLE**

► **La Chênaie** 

**Here, you're treated the old-fashioned way, with generosity and without fuss.** This beautiful traditionally-inspired cuisine, spruced up with a few more contemporary touches, can be enjoyed in the elegant dining rooms, and in particular under the veranda facing the park and its century-old oak trees. To give you an idea, pot-au-feu with foie gras, quail stuffed with foie gras, tatin-style apple and saffron ice cream... An invitation to dine well!

 [La Chênaie](#)  
RN 10 La Berlanderie, 86240 Croutelle





## IN DISSAY

### ► Ô Dissay


At **this 15<sup>th</sup>-century château, listed as a historic monument**, you're invited in for a truly exceptional experience. Gourmet, tasty cuisine, put together to match the seasons. A real culinary odyssey!

 [Château de Dissay](#)  
111 place Pierre d'Amboise, 86130 Dissay

## IN CHAUVIGNY

### ► Le Lion d'Or


Using **products carefully selected for their freshness and quality**, the young dynamic team of the Lion d'Or produces traditional cuisine that isn't lacking in creativity! The flavours of Poitiers guaranteed!

 [Logis Hôtel le Lion d'Or](#)  
8 rue du Marché, 86300 Chauvigny

## IN SANXAY

### ► Château de Marconnay

**In a sumptuous setting rich in history, and a Gothic architectural style mixed with the Renaissance**, Le Restaurant du Château de Marconnay offers a menu consisting of traditional versions of traditional French dishes: veal fillets, beef steaks, fish. Fresh products come directly from local producers.

 [Le Marconnay](#)  
Marconnay, 86600 Sanxay





# GREATER POITIERS

## GREAT MOMENTS





# HIGHLIGHTS

## ► Festival A corps

**A true ode to dance and the most enduring forms of bodily expression**, for 10 days, the festival explores a thousand aspects of the body in performance, from the most delicate to the most radical, renewing itself every year for 25 years now.

 [Festival À Corps](#), at the Auditorium Theatre in Poitiers, March/April

## ► Gamer's assembly

**THE festival of network games and e-sport**, bringing gaming enthusiasts together at the Greater Poitiers Exhibition Centre every year.

 [Gamer's Assembly](#), Poitiers Exhibition Centre, in April

## ► Basketball 3X3 Festival

Poitiers shines bright when the basketball players arrive for the 3X3 basketball festival. Men's and women's national category teams compete for the title, making the tournament one of the biggest events in French basketball. In a friendly atmosphere, **the tournament retains the human spirit of basketball and so honours the urban culture of Poitiers.**

 [3x3 Poitiers](#), June/July

## ► Sanxay Lyrical Evenings Festival

Each summer, the programme of an opera from the great repertoire is performed in a unique historical site, the Gallo-Roman theatre of Sanxay. **With its wonderful charm and exceptional acoustics**, spectators are enchanted by the lyrical art displayed by international artists.

 [Sanxay lyrical evenings](#), mid-August






▶ **Les Fleurs de Mai (the flower market) in Saint-Benoît**

The unmissable spring event for lovers of flowers and plants. 40 producers and 150,000 plants exhibited over more than 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> in the heart of Saint-Benoît town centre.

 [Saint-Benoît](#), late April/early May

▶ **Chauvigny Medieval Festival**

Medieval enthusiasts are well catered for during Chauvigny's Medieval Festival, which takes place every summer in August in the heart of the old town. Medieval market, ball, demonstrations ... **for two days, some thirty exhibitors take the town back to the time of the knights!**

 [Chauvigny Medieval Festival](#), one weekend in August

▶ **Urban Trail in Poitiers**

**On your marks, get set, run, walk!**

Every year in September, Urban Trail Poitiers returns through the city and its surroundings! Running or walking depending on everyone's ability and preference, it's an opportunity to really push yourself, discover heritage sites in a new light, and be surprised by the artistic and musical performances along the way.

 [Urban Trail Poitiers](#), every year in September


▶ **Festival Les Expressifs in Poitiers**

The Les Expressifs festival aims to **bring music and street art to the centre of Poitiers**. For 4 days, more than 200 amateur and professional artists bring the streets to life with their funny, committed atmosphere!

 [Festival les Expressifs](#), every year at the beginning of October

▶ **Poitiers Film Festival in Poitiers – Festival of film schools**

Spotlight on young Poitiers as well as national and international creation! **Each year, the Poitiers Film Festival invites the public to see the films and writer-directors to be spotted.** The festival is delighted to welcome film students from all over the world and their short films to Poitiers every year.

 [Poitiers Film Festival](#), every year in December





# ORIGINAL PLACES TO SLEEP

In a church



Mercure Hotel  
Poitiers Centre

In a château



Château  
de Dissay

In a space station



Hotel Station  
Cosmos  
Futuroscope 4\*  
Site

In a yurt



Lac de Saint-Cyr  
campsite

In eco-lodges



Ethic-Etapes at  
Saint-Cyr and  
Futuroscope  
(2023)

## VISITPOITIERS FREE APP

The Greater Poitiers Tourist Office offers an audio-guided tour app available in four languages, to download for free and compatible with Apple and Android. Different routes have been created, allowing everyone to adapt their visit according to their length of stay, as well as their interests and inclinations. We all have our own preferences!

## Greater Poitiers Tourist Office

- **Poitiers** – Greater Poitiers Tourist Office  
45 place Charles de Gaulle - 86000 Poitiers
- Quality Tourism
- **"Tourism and Disability"** label
- Services: luggage storage, secure lockers for mobile charging
- Guided tours for groups



[www.visitpoitiers.fr](http://www.visitpoitiers.fr)

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