

SEINE ET MARNE:

a taste of real France at 45 minutes  
from the centre of Paris...

*This area is a must see with two UNESCO world heritage sites, lovely landscapes and wonderful natural settings and an authentic lifestyle right at the gates of Paris!*



château Fontainebleau

Two international airports - TGV (high speed train) connections towards Europe and UK - a 45 minutes drive from the heart of Paris...

Here you may meet authentic France!

Highlights and world heritage...

♥ *Witnesses of French History*

Every great name of French history has marked this area close to the capital which offers an ideal frame for lavish residences and medieval strongholds... Two UNESCO World heritage sites and many other appeals attract visitors.

Château Fontainebleau

Nicknamed "home to the centuries" by Napoleon this outstanding palace was the residence of all French sovereigns during eight centuries. Every King as well as the Emperors have embellished this palace and commissioned the finest artists to create breathtaking decorations and artworks. Follow the threat of History across the state apartments and enjoy the beauty of the gardens.



medieval city of Provins

Provins: a journey to the Middle Ages

During the Middle Ages, the city belonged to the powerful earls of Champagne who made this place Europe's most important trading centre. Merchants came from Orient and Occident to meet here for trade fairs which made this town one of the wealthiest in medieval Europe. From its "Golden Days" Provins has preserved an important heritage permitting today's visitor to discover a unique medieval site.



CONSEIL GÉNÉRAL DE SEINE ET MARNE

Across the landscape of Seine-et-Marne estates and château bear witness to the main historical periods from the Middle Ages to Baroque...

Ferrières-en-Brie, former residence of the wealthy Rothschild family, is a smashing example of the eclectic taste of the third empire. This extraordinary château created by Joseph PAXTON for the Baron James de Rothschild was the setting for many high society events in the 19th century. The splendid park is also definitively worth a visit.

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**Blandy-les-Tours**, is the last conserved medieval castle in the surroundings of Paris and a fine example of 15th century military architecture. Owned by the Seine-et-Marne county council since 1992, the castle was entirely refurbished and will open its gate to the public in September of this year.

The typical town of **Brie-Comte-Robert** has preserved

important parts of its medieval castle and has created within this space an interesting heritage centre exposing a nice collection of archeological pieces found during the local research.

Château Vaux-le-Vicomte, is considered as France's most beautiful and prestigious private estate. This lavish Baroque residence with superb formal gardens



organizes unusual candlelight visits during the tourist season. Many other events are proposed to the public: open air theatre and opera, picnic on the lawn in 17th century costumes or the great feast of August 17th with its parades and fireworks commemorating the historical royal reception offered to the sun king Louis XIVth by Nicolas Fouquet who commissioned this château.

**Many remains of the spiritual past with their remarkable architecture and art works are to be admired all over the area.**

The **bishop town Meaux** preserved a rich heritage retracing more than 2000 years of history. From the Gallo - roman era up to today, this city on the banks of the Marne river offers quiet some discoveries. Around the Saint Steven's cathedral the Episcopal centre is a unique example of religious architecture in the Ile-de-France region. The gothic architecture of the cathedral offers a kaleidoscope of styles from the early 12th up to the late 15th century. The Bishop's palace shelters a rich museum of fine art and a formal French garden links it to the Gallo-roman ramparts.

The Merovingian crypts of the Jouarre Abbey are one of the most ancient examples of religious architecture remaining in Europe. Saint Paul's crypt dates back to the 7th century and still shelters three vaulted naves and the abbey's founders' stone sarcophaguses decorated with beautiful reliefs.

♥ Artist villages

**Barbizon: village of the landscape painters...**

A recent exhibition at the Orsay museum paid tribute to the landscape painters

who created a real "revolution" in French art and who were the real pioneers of impressionism. The painters of Barbizon living and working in this quiet and modest hamlet on the edge of



Fontainebleau forest were the first artists to practice open-air painting. Gathering in the famous Inn of "father" Ganne, landscape painters came from all over the world to find here their "promised land". Nowadays the famous Inn became a very interesting museum and the homes and workshops of Théodore Rousseau and Jean-François Millet are open to the visitors. Famous all over the world Barbizon village is a must see!

**Moret-sur-Loing, hometown of Alfred Sisley...**

The romantic medieval town of Moret is situated on the banks of the Loing river and on the edge of the Fontainebleau forest. Its medieval dungeon, church, fortified gates, ramparts and narrow street made Moret a inspiring place for the impressionist Alfred Sisley. This Englishman fell in love with the area as he left the Parisian workshops of Montmartre where he used to paint with his friends Monet, Renoir or Bazille. The romantic setting of Moret, the river banks of the Loing,



the small villages of the surroundings were a well of inspiration for this painter who spent twenty year in this place.

The nearby Villages of Grez-sur-Loing and Bourron Marlotte have also attracted painters and artists from all over the world. The edges of the Fontainebleau forest offer a wide range for cultural strolls.

## Get a breath of fresh air!

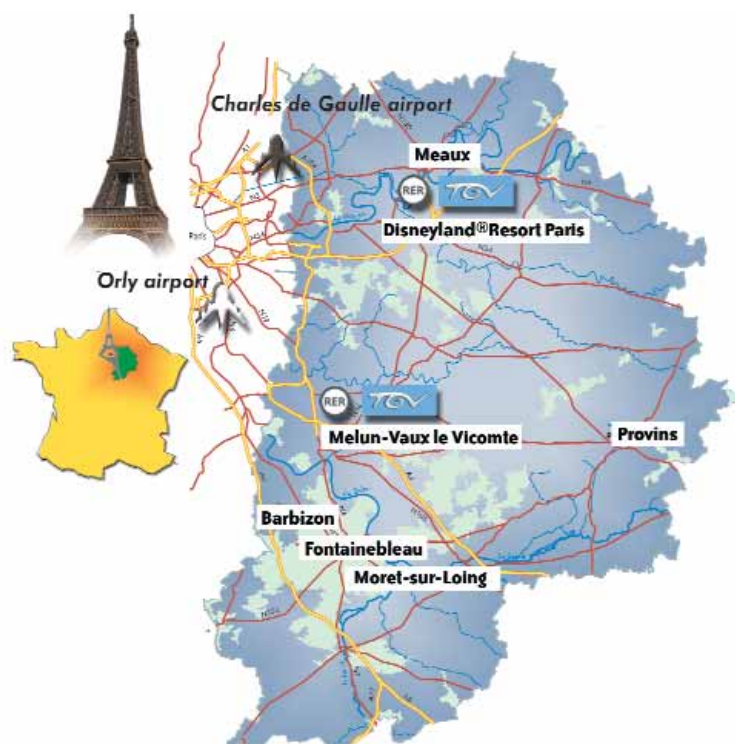
Preserved nature is also one of Seine-et-Marne greatest assets. The UNESCO protected forest of Fontainebleau (M.A.B) offers an ideal setting for nature lovers. Walking paths, hiking trails, ridding possibilities or cycling...if you like the outdoors Seine-et-Marne is the right choice of destination. Cruises or canoeing on 2000 km of the waterways make this area a real spot for hobby sailors. The rocks of Fontainebleau forest are the real Mecca for climbers from all over the world. Offering various training conditions for every level more than 200 rock climbing trails are to be experienced.



## Life style...

### Authentic flavors and crafts...

The rural and authentic character of the Seine-et-Marne area offers nice occasions for visitors to meet local producers and craft men. Art works and ancient crafts are the passion of many artisans in Seine-et-Marne. Woodwork, cabinet-making, stained glass, ceramics or tapestry... many ancestral skills but also modern techniques are to be admired in the local workshops. Local produce are famous and very much appreciate by gourmets: Brie cheeses from Meaux, Melun or Coulommiers, Rose flavored sweets from Provins or Poppy specialties from Nemours not to forget the famous mustard from Meaux or foie gras invite for delicious tasting...



In the very heart of local countryside B&B guesthouses and country cottages labeled Gîtes de France as well as high quality hotels offer real personalized comfort and welcome.

## Treat yourself to real good times!

Relax and enjoy unique and outstanding leisure parks settled in the Seine-et-Marne area!

**Disneyland Resort Paris** and its two theme parks invite you join the fantasy world of Walt Disney. This year's 15th anniversary of Disneyland Paris is the occasion to experience some new attractions...

Beside the Disneyland Resort, la **Vallée Outlet Shopping Village** offers pleasant conditions and at least 30% of retail on 75 prestigious French and Italian brands every day all year round.



Within an easy reach from Disneyland Resort Paris, **Europe's first Felines Park** preserves in an ideal natural setting about 60 species of big cats from 5 continents.

## Enjoy the show!

Be it theatre, music or historical pageants, Seine-et-Marne offers many festivals, events and shows to enjoy. The medieval feast (in June) and historical shows in Provins, the international Django Reinhardt Jazz festival (end of June beginning of July) in Samois-sur-Seine, the Baroque feast at château Vaux-le-Vicomte (on August 17th) and many other highlights for a stay in this region.

Plan and book your stay on line!

You can discover tourism in the Seine-et-Marne area on

[www.tourisme77.fr](http://www.tourisme77.fr)

you may book your next stay online according to your favorite theme: wellness, relaxation, cultural visits, events, festivals, hotels, B&Bs and country cottages...

The Seine-et-Marne Tourist board  
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