



R you
ready for **Rouen?**

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Foreword

French singer Vincent Delerm immortalised Rouen in his song, *Voici la ville*, evoking the panoramic hilltop view of its signs, shop fronts and the river Seine.

But there’s no need to climb the surrounding hills, as did Maupassant, Flaubert, and Victor Hugo, to see the real Rouen, a thriving merchant city encircled by wooded hills. You can also go down to the Seine, a lifeline to the open seas for a city that is proud to be a major inland port.

What better describes Rouen than the drive of the people who live in it? We have shopkeepers to add colour; cultural and athletic associations to inject enthusiasm and diversity; entrepreneurs to bring a dash of daring; and university students and researchers to round it all off with leading-edge technology.

And the scent of the sea gives our city a foreign touch. From one season to the next, the port is the stage for festivals of all kinds, bustling with yachts, liners, freighters and tall ships, lighting up the river...and our hearts!

The city council and I hope that this booklet will make you, too, fall in love with Rouen.

Together, we can reinvent our city making «living together better» our maxim. Rouen represents tolerance, solidarity, and respect for the environment. It is an attractive, major European city that embraces the world, with dynamic, ambitious citizens.

Are you ready for Rouen?

Valérie Fourneyron

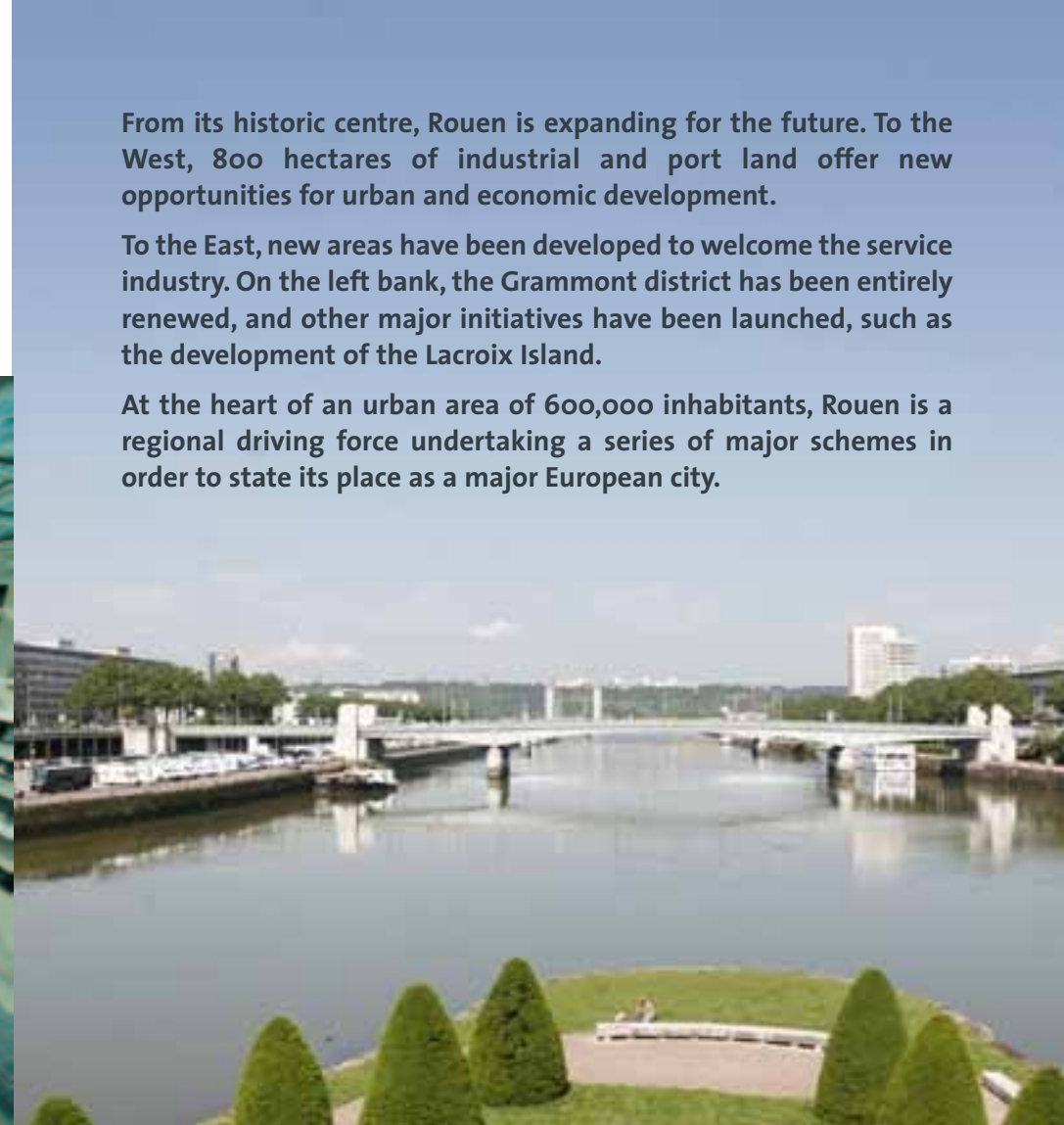
Valérie Fourneyron
Deputy Mayor of Rouen

(Photo pages 4 and 5: **Champs de vision** exhibit at the Musée des Beaux-Arts • 2004)





Dynamics



From its historic centre, Rouen is expanding for the future. To the West, 800 hectares of industrial and port land offer new opportunities for urban and economic development.

To the East, new areas have been developed to welcome the service industry. On the left bank, the Grammont district has been entirely renewed, and other major initiatives have been launched, such as the development of the Lacroix Island.

At the heart of an urban area of 600,000 inhabitants, Rouen is a regional driving force undertaking a series of major schemes in order to state its place as a major European city.





YOUTH HOSTEL
The new Rouen Youth Hostel illustrates how renovations can successfully pair modernity with tradition. It is located in one of the agglomeration's oldest industrial heritage sites, the Auvray dye works, built in 1780.



Nestling in a bend of the river Seine against a backdrop of hills and plateaux, Rouen's exceptional natural surroundings are one of the factors contributing to the prosperity and quality of life enjoyed by its inhabitants. Although renowned for its historical city centre, its architecture successfully blends past and future, as is attested to by recent constructions in developing zones or in the old town.

COLLINE SAINTE-CATHERINE
The sloping vineyards of Colline Sainte-Catherine were a site of pilgrimage during the Middle Ages. Now on the French national heritage list, it is a favourite destination for local sightseers who enjoy strolling through fields, taking in the beautiful panoramic views of both sides of the Seine in this region known for its sheep and violets.



AT THE CITY GATES
The city is surrounded by 12,000 hectares of forest, a veritable green lung that is a perfect site for a day out.

Along the river

The Seine is the symbol of a city that is rediscovering its river. It is the focus of many major urban development projects aimed at extending growth westward, on either side of the Gustave

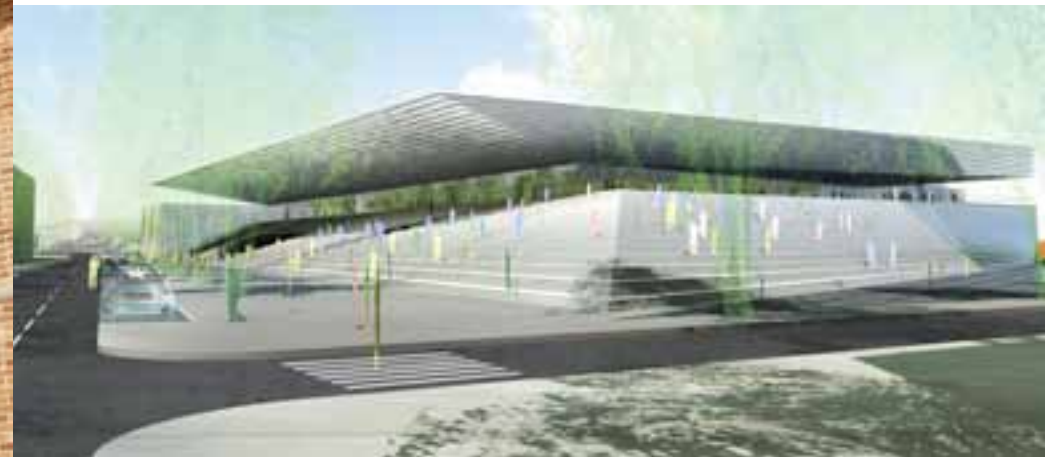
Flaubert bridge. Strollers already enjoy the restaurants and entertainment venues along the Seine banks, in converted warehouses with quays doubling as boardwalks.

The surrounding districts are increasingly launching initiatives to welcome new inhabitants and offer quality services, shops, and cultural activities.



GUSTAVE FLAUBERT BRIDGE

The Gustave Flaubert Bridge spans the Seine. It is now a major part of the landscape and one of the city's proudest achievements. Opened in September 2008, it is unusual for its innovative architecture, with butterfly-shaped pulley heads and two lift spans so that ships can pass underneath on their way to the port upstream.



LEISURE, SPORTS AND CULTURE

The redevelopment scheme for the Seine dock area includes the construction of several leisure facilities, such as a 6,000-seat capacity sports stadium, a contemporary music hall, a marina with 150 mooring rings, and a science centre. These new facilities will turn the city's western districts into thriving cultural and shopping areas.

NEW DISTRICT

At the foot of the Gustave Flaubert Bridge, on the Seine's left bank, a brand new, 80-hectare district is under development. It combines residential, service and office buildings as well as public facilities and a landscaped park on the Rollet Peninsula. By 2020, it is expected to welcome 10,000 residents and will focus on environmentally-friendly transportation.





Out on the town

Some 3,000 small businesses and major retail chains light up the city centre. Each year, sports shops, restaurants, clothing boutiques and home decoration shops draw millions of shoppers from the surrounding region and elsewhere, in search of everyday goods but also designer items.



ROUEN ON FOOT

In 1970, Rouen created France's first car-free zone, the Rue du Gros Horloge. City planning continues to promote the pleasure of pedestrian shopping in the old city centre.



CLOS SAINT-MARC

The Clos Saint-Marc market is a veritable institution that embodies the charm of the old city centre for many Rouennais. Each Sunday morning, thousands of shoppers throng to the colourful stalls to peruse the varied foodstuffs, flowers, and textiles. The exceptional market is also an antique-hunter's delight.



A CITY FOR ALL TASTES

From candy shops, cafés, and tearooms to cheese shops, delicatessens, bakers and chocolate makers: Rouen's culinary spread is plentiful indeed, with several regional specialties such as Rouen barley sugar, cider, shortcake, and apple *douillons* (dumplings made of millefeuille pastry). Come treat your taste buds at the *Fête du Ventre* fine food festival, held annually in October. It attracts thousands of treaters...and eaters.



THE DOCKS 76

The docks and warehouses and the Agrivin covered market were built at the beginning of the twentieth century by Eiffel. These cornerstones of Rouen's port history have been converted into a shopping and leisure centre known as Docks 76.



Meet me in the park



THE JARDIN DES PLANTES

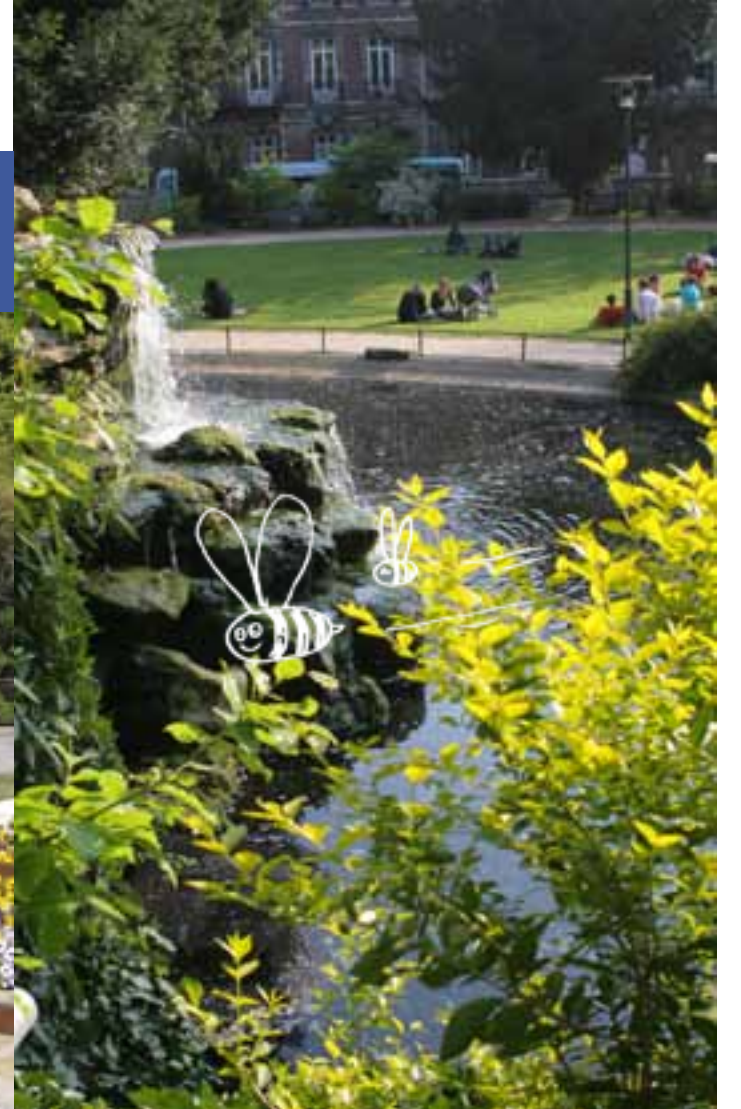
The Jardin des Plantes, open to the public since 1840, is the most popular park in Rouen. Spread over eight hectares at the heart of the city, the Jardin des Plantes can hold its own with the most beautiful gardens in France. It even boasts a few unique features, such as the country's largest collection of fuchsias, the conservatory orchard with rare varieties of Normandy apple and pear trees, the medicinal herb garden and the tropical greenhouse. A must-see.

One-thirty on a Wednesday afternoon. A swan lazily drifts by a couple lounging on a park bench in Square Verdrel, opposite the Musée des Beaux-Arts. This is just one of many spots where locals can meet up. The Hôtel de Ville gardens are even larger and offer lovely views of the City Hall and the Abbey Church of Saint Ouen. Musicians, children and sunbathers gather on the greens during the mild summer days.

Along the banks, near the University, Avenue Pasteur and the Jean-de-Verrazane Gardens are inviting places to unwind by the water. On the other side of the Seine, the Jardin des Plantes and Parc Grammont are beautiful places to relax, play and learn more about our environment. From public gardens to neighbourhood squares, the city is sprinkled with some thirty green areas for residents to have a breath of fresh air and get back to nature.

THE ROBEC PROMENADE

Enjoy a stroll along this romantic promenade that follows the meanderings of the Robec River. Step back in time under the arbours, enjoying the sights of historical millwheels at Dames de Saint-Amand and Pannevert. The most fortunate get a glimpse of a kingfisher nestled in the coves along the river.



PARC GRAMMONT

The city's other major green lung, Parc Grammont, is the most recent of the Rouen gardens. This three-hectare landscaped area was specially designed for play, and is a place where old meet young.





YOUR VOICE

Participatory democracy initiatives are designed to create closer contact with Rouen inhabitants by establishing a balanced relationship between elected officials and citizens. Neighbourhood councils, local deputies and surveys on major projects and neighbourhood facilities are all aspects of participatory dialogue. In Rouen, inhabitants and neighbourhoods all have their say.



Community!

Universal access to healthcare, housing, education and employment is a priority for the City of Rouen. Our aim is for each citizen to feel at home in a city where diversity counts. The city is there to listen, to understand our differences, and act in direct contact with the people who live in it, taking into account the reality of the field. Mixity and diversity are two key words in Rouen public policy.



THE MAJOR URBAN PROJECT

Although Rouen gives all of its districts a voice, five receive particular attention. Grammont, Sapins, Grand'Mare, Lombardie and Châtelet are involved in the major urban project (*Grand Projet de Ville*) designed to provide facilities adapted to the needs of inhabitants. The project involves a housing policy based on renovation and new home construction managed in close cooperation with property-owners. The programme relies on a consolidated network of neighbourhood contacts. Its economic development agenda is bolstered by the classification of these five districts as *zones franches urbaines* (zones exonerated from certain taxes for development purposes).



Open to the world

With nearly 600,000 inhabitants, the Rouen urban area has what it takes to assert its place on the world stage: a powerful industrial sector, one of France's largest inland ports, multiple international exchanges, an urban fabric teeming with small and medium-size companies, noteworthy contributions to groundbreaking scientific and medical research, and recognised tourist potential. All combine to form a diversified economic environment resolutely focusing on the future.



Economic capital

Rouen enjoys a longstanding industrial tradition. The automobile industry is the top local employer, and enjoys special status in this region where the world's first car engine was invented. When Renault set up operations here, auto suppliers Autoliv and Carrier Transcold followed close on its heels. One of France's largest chemicals/petrochemicals hubs grew up around the port, with Elf, Lubrizol, Grande Paroisse, Total, and Pétroplus. The local forest industry also led to the development of the paper industry, notably represented by Chapelle Darblay (UPM-Kymmene) and Otor. However, Rouen's main strength is its proven ability to diversity its economy, which is also anchored in the food industry (Eismann, Ferrero France, Novandie), energy infrastructure construction (Alstom, Sagem, Legrand), and public works (Quille, Socore, Troletti) and boasts one of France's eighteen wholesale markets. The service sector, accounting for 70% of jobs, is constantly growing, notably in the fields of banking and insurance (Matmut, Axa and MAE), telecommunications and call centres.

3,500 ships a year

Ideally located between Le Havre and Paris (with a population of 22 million over a 200-kilometre radius), the Port of Rouen is currently the sixth largest French port in terms of tonnage and the third largest in added value. Some 3,500 ships navigate its waters yearly. As Europe's leading grain port, foodstuffs are one of the port's leading consignments, along with paper, forest products, refined oil products and containers. Cargo handling reforms and competitiveness-boosting measures have helped keep investment in the port and encouraged businesses to move in. Today, the port provides 20,000 jobs and is the region's leading growth driver.



LUCILINE – RIVES DE SEINE

A new urban district, intended for housing, businesses and office space, is planned for the right bank. The goal is to welcome 1,500 new residents and to create 2,500 jobs.



LOGISTIQUE SEINE NORMANDIE

Since 2005, our logistics hub has been a certified business cluster. The cluster, known as Logistique Seine Normandie, aims to help companies make the move to the logistics of the future by developing connections between various transport modes and promoting new sustainable logistics. A further emphasis is on training.

ZONE FRANCHE URBAINE

The Rouen Bihorel Zone Franche Urbaine was established in 2004. It encompasses four districts in the area north of the city known as Hauts de Rouen (Grand'Mare, Châtelet, Lombardie and Les Sapins), as well as the Kennedy Shopping Centre and the southern portion of Rue des Canadiens in Bihorel. Eligible companies already implanted, or that move in before December 31, 2011, are exempt from certain taxes and social security charges.



MOV'EO

Mov'eo is a certified global business cluster under French law. With its headquarters at the Madrillet Technopôle, Mov'eo serves the regions of Upper and Lower Normandy and Île-de-France. It focuses on the development of «automobiles and mass transport systems that are safe for people and the environment». Mov'eo shares the strategic and technological vision of major stakeholders in the automobile, aeronautics, road engineering and mass transport industries.



Looking to the future

35,000 students

With a student population of 35,000, Rouen is one of France's largest university towns. The local university alone has an enrolment of 27,000 students in four faculties: Humanities, Service Sciences, Engineering, and Health Sciences. Rouen also has the distinction of being home to 49 research units, of which 16 are associated with the national scientific and medical research councils (CNRS and Inserm). To mention other disciplines, there are also the Chamber of Commerce business schools of the ESC Rouen Group (ECAL, ISPP, IFI, Rouen Business School), major engineering schools (Insa, Esitpa, Esigelec), and opportunities for professional development, distance learning, and on-the-job training. Other specialised establishments include the Normandy School of Architecture, the National Customs Training Centre, the Institute for Social Development, and the Regional School of Fine Arts. Rouen is a veritable hotbed of young talent.

A leading university hospital

At the heart of the Health Services Hub, the Rouen University Hospital is a major economic and social force in the region, with over 8,000 employees. Besides being a hub for local health services, the university hospital also welcomes students from the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy as well as around ten other schools and paramedical institutes. With eleven Ministry-approved research teams, over 800 international publications over the past four years, and 434 research studies underway, research is a strong point of the Rouen university hospital, particularly in the fields of cardiovascular disease, genetics, cancer, digestion, nutrition, the neurosciences, and biotherapies.

GROUP OF 4 UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS

Along with Caen, Amiens and Lille, Rouen belongs to a group of university hospitals known as the G4. The Group aims to promote joint endeavours in training, healthcare, research and development. A cardiology partnership has been signed with the Cleveland Clinic, a renowned establishment in the United States.



ROUEN HEALTH INNOVATION

Located in the heart of the hospital/university campus, in the western part of the city, *Rouen Innovation Santé* is the city's planned service and technological hub for the biomedical sciences. The hub, spread out over 6.4 hectares and offering a business incubator, will welcome medical biotech companies in conjunction with the university hospital and the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy.

A relaxing retreat

Weekend getaway

One hour from Paris, on the edge of the Fleurie and Alabaster Coasts, and not far from the Normandy D-Day Beaches, Rouen welcomes tourists who can't help but fall under its charm. The large numbers of French tourists mainly hail from Brittany and Normandy, the Paris Region, and Nord-Pas-de-Calais. The English account for the bulk of foreign tourists to the capital of Upper Normandy, followed by Germans, Italians and Americans. There has also been a noteworthy rise in the numbers of Japanese and Russian tourists. The economic consequences of this sector are thus far from negligible. With 6,000 hotel beds, Rouen holds 40% of the department's hotel accommodation capacity, while also boasting alternative guest lodgings such as bed and breakfasts, rental holiday homes, self-catering cottages, and campgrounds. Rouen also welcomes some thirty cruise liners each year in its harbour, veritable floating cities that create a striking contrast with the nearby old city centre. As a tourist destination, Rouen is also the gateway to exploring Normandy, Giverny, Honfleur, Deauville, Étretat, and Mont-Saint-Michel.

A meeting place

Some travel for pleasure, others for business. The Convention Bureau (Bureau des Congrès) is there to help professionals organise their meetings or seminars. Located as it is at the heart of Northwestern France, Rouen easily fulfils its role as a crossroads. Various locations are available to rent for business meetings, shows and conferences, such as the Palais des Consuls, the Halle aux Toiles, several amphitheatres and, above all, the Zénith concert hall.



ROUEN EXHIBITION CENTER

With over 25 trade fairs and other events organised throughout the year, the Exhibition Centre, beside the Zénith, is one of Rouen's prime venues for events. Its halls and exhibition grounds are regularly rented out to companies for various seminars and conventions (capacity 5,000). The SEINO north-western trade fair for companies and industry is an annual event drawing 200 exhibitors and up to 6,000 visitors. On a totally different note, the Rouen flea market and Fair are traditional attractions.



A PRESTIGIOUS LUXURY HOTEL

Rouen is proud of its 4-star luxury hotel nestling in the historic centre. With 69 rooms and suites, the establishment is located in the Hôtel de Bourgtheroulde, one of the city's most prestigious Renaissance buildings.





Culture year-round



Rouen is a thriving city with an endless choice of leisure activities. It has a robust cultural policy and large facilities, several cultural associations, small theatre companies, and individual talents. From dinner spectacles and festivals to open-air or night events, there is always a good excuse to stay up late.



Eclectic nights out

In Rouen, culture equals diversity. Prestigious musical, opera, and ballet productions are regularly featured at the Opera, while world music and contemporary dance are to be had at Hangar 23. Besides the big-draw names lighting up the Zénith's annual roster, contemporary music can be enjoyed at Club 106, and smaller venues cater to yet other tastes. Stage for the region's theatrical activities, the Deux Rives Theatre presents a wide-ranging programme of classical and contemporary plays along with the Scène Nationale de Petit-Quevilly/ Mont-Saint-Aignan. La Chapelle Saint-Louis, on the other hand, offers an eclectic line-up from a wide range of companies, including theatre, cabaret, story-telling, and marionettes. There are also special spots for quality children's entertainment. Finally, churches, small halls, and piano bars knit together a cultural space where newcomers and regulars can all come to enjoy music and live acts.

400 concerts

There are over 400 concerts a year, several dance and theatre productions, and a special programme just for younger audiences. The cultural season in Rouen is far from short on imagination. When the lights go out, the night lights up and the city's talents shine.



ROUEN CONSERVATORY

The Rouen Conservatory trains some 1,200 musicians, dancers and actors each year. It also features heavily on Rouen's cultural programme, with shows, conferences and concerts.



ZENITH

Opened in 2001, the Rouen Zénith has the highest attendance rate of all French regional Zénith concert halls.



HANGAR 23

Then there is Hangar 23 with its programme of cutting-edge music. It focuses on world premieres, with contemporary and urban music and dance from all over the world.

THE ROUEN OPERA

The Opéra de Rouen Haute-Normandie has long been a key cultural element of the city and region. It counts over 8,000 opera subscriptions each year, and features the chorus «Accentus» in residence and a permanent orchestra of 39 musicians under the baton on Oswald Sallaberger.

To the beat of the festivals

There is a special place for cinema in Rouen's schedule of festivals. Viewers travel from Africa to Asia via Northern Europe in three separate film festivals: the World Film Festival in October, the Korean Film Festival in November, and the Nordic Film Festival in March. Music lovers also find their niche here, with the spring singing festival, the *Musicales de Normandie* each summer, and the regional music, dance and theatre festival, «Autumn in Normandy».

Art in all its forms

Rouen is a city of art-lovers and welcomes all forms of art, with a special penchant for the original and unusual. For example, the *Art et Déchirure* festival, held in May every other year, explores the stunning artistic universe of psychiatric hospitals. Around Ascension, art-lovers come from far and wide in search of rare objects during the *Art d'exception* festival, sponsored by some thirty local galleries. As part of the *Rouen sur Mer* programme, musical workshops known as *Terrasses du jeudi* are held in various Rouen cafés and squares in July. Last but not least, the actors and audiences of tomorrow, our children, regularly enjoy their own cultural events, such as the *Récrés d'été* theatre festival in June, and the Youth Book Fair in December, held just in time for writing Christmas wish lists.



RAMDAM

Organised by Hangar 23, the *RamDam* sur scènes festival introduces thousands of spectators to the music of northern Africa. It gets a little bigger each year, with concerts, walk-about and story-telling, not to mention the samples of Middle Eastern cuisine.

PÔLE IMAGE

The Upper Normandy *Pôle Image* is a cinema support association based in Rouen, designed to promote the creation, presentation and preservation of all types of images. Its collection of 5,000 documents makes it a valuable resource for all interested in photography, cinema or audiovisual arts.



LES ARTS DES HAUTS

At the end of August, the Hauts de Rouen district welcomes an eclectic group of circus performers, singers and dancers at Place du Châtelet.



FOR STUDENTS

The City of Rouen hosts the week-long *Les Zazimuts* festival in November for students, especially first-year students and those new to the city. Young people are invited to enjoy the festivities while learning about the various facilities and events open to them in the city.

Open-air festivals

Rouen's streets are never empty for long; each season brings its own little pleasures. At the end of March, children merrily rush through the city dressed up for Carnival, infecting all with their smiles. The Spring in Rouen festival draws people outdoors once the days start getting longer. One month later, summer heats up the atmosphere at the city's bars and cafés while all four corners of the agglomeration dance to the beat of the music festival. In November, France's largest regional fun fair, *Foire Saint-Romain*, lights up the Rouen quays with 200 attractions, followed by the month-long Rouen Givrée festival.

Rouen Givrée

For the year-end festivities, Rouen resembles a winter sport resort, with Christmas magic sparkling in all its squares and streets. A festive, colourful, and cheerful spirit takes over the city, with bobsleighs, fur trappers, a skating rink, evergreen grove, and avalanche of activities for all tastes and ages! The children's village at Place de la Calende features the traditional Santa Claus' Cabin, but also story-telling, Christmas decoration workshops, and pastry courses. The symbol of both the city and the festival - the marmot - can be seen in all shapes and sizes in the streets, on television, and on the silver screen.



SUMMER BY THE WATER

Each summer, Rouen turns into a seaside resort for its renowned *Rouen sur Mer* festival. Locals and tourists are invited to enjoy a relaxing get-away at one of the city's beaches or swimming pools. Both in the downtown core and on the quays, the city spares no effort in demonstrating the quality of its welcome, offering a variety of activities and shows for all: a beach, morning sports events, marching bands, community dances, concerts, exhibitions, films, and evening shows.

THURSDAYS ON THE TERRACE

During the month of July, enjoy free street concerts of jazz, rock, reggae or traditional French music organised by the city. There is music for every taste Thursdays on the Terrace.



Ten million visitors

Rouen's most highly anticipated event happens every five years, when the Armada tall ships festival casts the city into the national limelight. From training ships and three-masted schooners to war ships and submarines, the world's most prestigious ships put in at Rouen for over seven days of festivities. France's largest free event now attracts over ten million visitors. Enjoy a programme chock-full of interesting activities, from boat visits, concerts, fireworks, workshops, and sailor parades to sport and cultural events, all in a warm, festive atmosphere. For one week, Rouen welcomes all languages and nationalities to become a home port for leisure and culture.

In 2008, *Rouen sur Mer* was organised to coincide with the Armada, offering a full programme of sports, entertainment and cultural events on the quays.



As capital of the former duchy of Normandy, Rouen is a city steeped in history. Not only was it the birthplace of Corneille, Flaubert and Fontenelle, but Joan of Arc holds an important place in the local collective memory. In the charming narrow streets, the dark courtyards, and the sunny city squares, past and present collide in perfect harmony. No wonder Rouen enchants locals and tourists alike.

A rich past



Past perfect

Although Rouen is a medieval city, time did not stop for it at the end of the Gothic age. Its heritage buildings are stunningly diverse. Nothing illustrates this better than the variety of architectural styles on the façade of the cathedral which was immortalised by Monet. Indeed, Rouen has embraced each era in its time. A panorama of the city of a hundred spires takes in the Abbey Church of Saint-Ouen (fourteenth to sixteenth centuries), the contemporary Eglise Sainte Jeanne d'Arc, and the Eglise Saint-Maclou, a flamboyant Gothic masterpiece. The Palace of Justice is another key monument, built in the Renaissance, enlarged in the nineteenth century, and unscathed during World War II. Under the courtyard of the Palace of Justice, the Jewish Monument is believed to be the oldest known rabbinical school of Western Europe. For a more unusual outing, the monumental Rouen Cemetery, our city's own «Père Lachaise», contains many beautiful examples of funerary art. As the tourist capital of a region renowned for its châteaux and gardens, many a pleasant day-trip also starts in Rouen. Norman abbeys, Giverny, Honfleur, Deauville, the Étretat cliffs and the Dieppe beaches are less than one hour away.

CHURCH OF SAINT-OUEN

The Abbey Church of Saint-Ouen is known for the purity of its architecture, its colossal size, its dizzying vaulted ceiling, its pipe organ, and its exceptional stained glass windows.



SAINT-MACLOU CHARNEL-HOUSE

The Saint-Maclou Charnel-house stands as an historical witness to the great plague that once swept through Rouen. It is almost the only surviving charnel-house in Europe, and is currently the home for the Regional School of Fine Arts.



CITY OF ART AND HISTORY

Rouen has been designated a City of Art and History by the French Culture Ministry. As such, it is proud to share its exceptionally rich heritage. The city counts 236 protected historical buildings and 53 official national heritage buildings. The «Laissez-vous conter Rouen» brochures help visitors discover the city's heritage from an original angle.

HIGHLIGHT

At the heart of the city, the entire history of gothic art can be traced in Notre-Dame de Rouen Cathedral.



ÉGLISE SAINT-MACLOU

Historians consider this church a flamboyant gothic masterpiece. After five years of restoration, the tower and the weathervane are once again open to the public.



The true face of Rouen

Rouen is famous for its winding little streets lined with some 2,000 half-timbered homes dating from the thirteenth to the nineteenth centuries. From the Place du Vieux-Marché to Rue Martainville, from the Cathedral to the Musée des Beaux-Arts, most of these streets are pedestrian-only and brimming with exciting discoveries.

Around the Eglise Saint-Maclou, the antiques district attracts customers from around the world with its exceptional wares. Rue Eau-de-Robec was once a bustling cloth-making district; you can still see the attics where the cloth was dried. The Quartier Saint-Patrice also features several magnificent buildings which were once private residences. Other picturesque streets to discover on foot include Rue Vicomté, Rue du Vieux Palais, Rue Saint-Nicolas, and Rue des Bons-Enfants.



RENAISSANCE OF THE PALACE OF JUSTICE

Renovation work on this flamboyant gothic monument started in 2005 and is slated for completion in 2010. The ceiling of the majestic Salle des Procureurs on the second floor is the hull of a large wooden ship. At the back of the hall, visitors may still see the marble table which was used by Pierre Corneille when he was a solicitor.



SQUARE TO SQUARE

Rouen's squares and fountains also add to its charm. They spring up around the narrow streets, providing fresh air, private meeting points or large pedestrian walks, and are as colourful as can be on lively summer days.



REMEMBERING JOAN OF ARC

At the height of the One Hundred Years' War, Joan of Arc heard voices entrusting her with a divine mission to fight for the restoration of the crown to Charles VI. She was taken prisoner by the English before being handed over to the ecclesiastical courts. She was sentenced to burn at the stake, and died on 30 May 1431 at the Place du Vieux Marché, Rouen. Charles VI had Joan of Arc pardoned in 1456. She was subsequently canonised by Pope Benoît XV, and then made the patron saint of France in 1920. Various commemorative events are organised each year in May and June.

HERITAGE DAYS

Each year, the Heritage Days attract some 50,000 visitors. Over the third week of September, around forty sites host nearly 150 visits or tours including public exhibits, film screenings, readings, dance shows, and concerts.

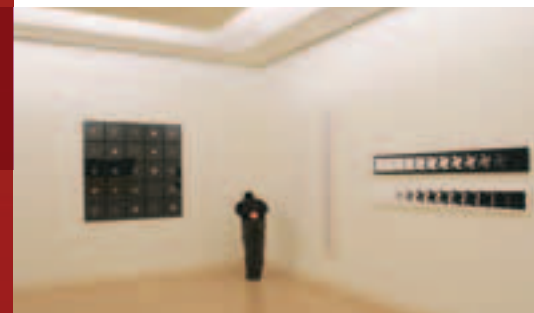
Off to the museum

Rouen, a French Culture Ministry City of Art, is deservedly famous for its three large museums. The Museum of Fine Arts is housed in an imposing building characteristic of museum architecture of the nineteenth century. It is home to one of France's largest rural collections of paintings, sculptures, drawings and *objets d'art* from the sixteenth century to our day. Its impressionist collection is considered one of the best. The ceremonial and decorative objects at the Ceramics Museum attest to the sumptuousness of Rouen faience of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Finally, the Le Secq des Tournelles Museum holds what is likely to be the city's most unusual collection, with over 12,000 iron objects: locks, tools, and wrought iron gates, both practical and decorative objects. The collection is housed in the former Saint-Laurent Church (sixteenth century). All three museums are enhanced each year with temporary exhibits devoted to various subjects or eras. For example, in 2010, the *Normandie Impressionniste* exhibit will showcase the museum's rich collections in addition to several major works from all over the world.

Literary life

Rouen is a stop on the French authors' tour. Indeed, the city was the birthplace or residence of some of France's finest literary talent, and many pages have sung its praises. Two major names come to mind when speaking of Rouen's literary past. Just steps away from the Vieux Marché, Pierre Corneille's birthplace has been refurbished as it was during the author's lifetime, and features a model reconstruction of the Place du Vieux Marché as it looked in Corneille's day. The city's other iconic author, Gustave Flaubert, grew up at the official residence of his father, chief surgeon of the Hôtel de Ville. Today, it is a Medicine Museum. To the east of Rouen, the Pavillon Flaubert features a small collection of memorabilia, while Flaubert is buried in the quiet heights of the city cemetery.

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GROS-HORLOGE

The Gros Horloge re-opened in 2006 after fifteen years of being closed to the public. It is one of Europe's oldest clocks, and also one of the few clocks with a working original movement. The clock tour takes visitors through this exceptional monument. The pavilion enables access to the clock face hall while the belfry contains the fourteenth-century movement, the first municipal bells, and a unique panoramic view of the city.

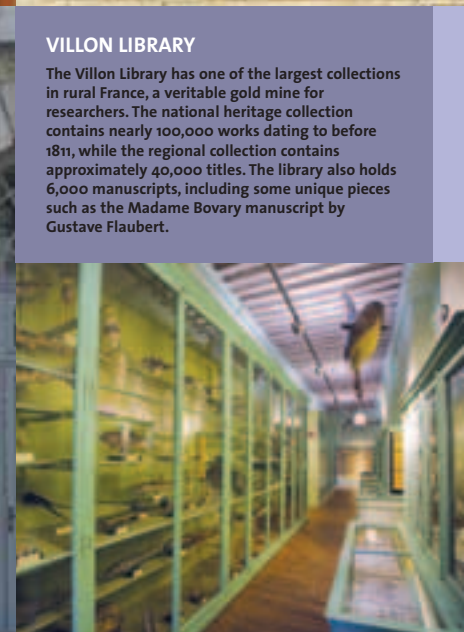
DISCOVERY

There are several ways to explore the city's multifaceted past: archaeological artefacts at the department museum of antiquities; remnants of ship-faring days at the maritime, river and port museum; the story of Joan of Arc at the museum and tower dedicated to her memory; notebooks and educational history at the national education museum, and the tour of the Gros Horloge.



VILLON LIBRARY

The Villon Library has one of the largest collections in rural France, a veritable gold mine for researchers. The national heritage collection contains nearly 100,000 works dating to before 1811, while the regional collection contains approximately 40,000 titles. The library also holds 6,000 manuscripts, including some unique pieces such as the *Madame Bovary* manuscript by Gustave Flaubert.



ROUEN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The Natural History Museum holds some 800,000 objects from all scientific fields. After Paris, it is the second largest natural history museum in France in terms of the wealth and variety of the collections. It also organises temporary exhibits and provides a series of educational workshops for children aged 8 to 12, called «Wednesdays at the Museum».

FAMOUS ROUENNAIS

They were born or lived in Rouen, and left their mark on the city... Flaubert, Corneille, Maupassant, Victor Hugo and Fontenelle wrote about it. Monet, Géricault, and Duchamp painted it. Cavelier de la Salle, de Béthencourt and Théodore Monod set sail from it. Even contemporary celebrities hail from Rouen, such as Philippe and Vincent Delerm (author and singer), Daniel Authouart (painter), Annie Duperey, Karine Viard and Philippe Torreton (actors), and many others from various fields.

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Athletic Rouen

Sport is one of the fundamental aspects of the city's development and events planning. This development is grounded in the values of respect, tolerance and openness, as can be seen in the vitality of its clubs and the international flavour of the events organised by the City and its sports associations.



HIGH-LEVEL COMPETITIONS

The city's enthusiasm for sports comes shining through when hosting high-level competitions: the European Cup for ice hockey (2002, 2003, 2006) and baseball (2004); the Junior World Cup and the French Cup for synchronised figure skating; international track and swim meets (20th and 7th respectively); international gym meets with the French national team (2004, 2005, 2007); and the international indoor hockey open (since 2004).

A stellar city



Each year, the capital of Normandy coordinates over 130 sports events at the national or international level. It boasts some 120 facilities, from the Île Lacroix skating rink to various swimming pools, stadiums and gymnasiums, 220 clubs and 20,000 licensed operators. Through the priceless know-how of its clubs, volunteers, and local accomplished athletes, as well as through active partnerships, Rouen has developed a tradition of excellence in organising prestigious sports competitions, such as the Tour de France (2 million spectators) for which it has played host once and taken part 17 times.



International experience

Many Rouen clubs attract top foreign talent each year, such as Canadian, Finnish and Swedish hockey players in the RHE, Venezuelan baseball players in Rouen Baseball 76, Americans in the SPO Rouen Basketball club or Argentineans in the Rouen rugby club.





CHILD FRIENDLY CITY

Rouen is a member of the UNICEF Child Friendly City network and, as such, develops artistic, cultural and sports activities as part of its educational policy.



Young athletes



GROWING UP ON SPORTS

One of the priorities for the City of Rouen is to promote sports and the related values of tolerance, perseverance and teamwork amongst the city's youth. On a wider scale, corporate endeavours year-round also strive to involve youth in the city's activities and in all social, cultural and educational activities (21% of the city's population is under age 20).



RÉCRÉS D'ÉTÉ

Récrés d'été is a week-long spring festival offering sports, activities, shows, exhibits and conferences for parents and children aged 0 to 18 years!

MY FIRST SPORT

The City of Rouen is developing its sports discovery programme for children. Municipal coordinators offer children a wide range of sports disciplines at the beginning of the school year. Children enrol with a professional, who introduces them to a sport. This programme has the double advantage of letting children try out a sport before committing themselves to a club.



Rouen in figures (December 2008)

							
Health	Population	Economy	Port	Tourism	Culture	Sport	Higher education
1 university hospital: 8,200 employees 260,000 appointments/year 90,000 patients admitted/year in five care facilities	110,276 inhabitants 22% of city residents are under 20 Area: 2,144 hectares, 306 hectares of park space	193,331 jobs within the agglomeration 81,446 jobs in Rouen proper, the largest tertiary regional hub of the Paris region 3,000 businesses	6th -largest French port by total cargo tonnage Europe's largest port by grain exports Leading French port for the food industry Leading French port for paper products Leading French port for containerised goods on the North/South route	236 protected buildings, including 53 national heritage sites 72 hotels in Rouen 8 km of pedestrian streets Armada: 10 million visitors 40 sailboats and war ships 6,000 sailors	(greater urban area) 22 libraries 15 theatres or theatre venues 6 cinemas (30 screens) 15 museums 1 national stage 1 opera company 1 Zenith with a 7,000-seat capacity 1 exhibition centre (15,000 m²) 1 regional drama centre 50 festivals and other major events	20,000 licensed operators 15 Elite clubs	1 university: 4 faculties, 6 university research units, 4 institutes, 5 vocational schools, 1 apprenticeship centre, 130 researchers, 49 research labs 20 institutes of higher education, 35,000 students and 1,200 professors



Photos by Arnaud Bertereau, except for:

cover: detail of stained glass

of the Église Jeanne d'Arc – E. Bénard

Picasso crane - F. Carnuccini - Heka

page 7: Faculty of Law - F. Carnuccini - Heka

page 9: Youth hostel (overview) - Artefact

Architecture Design, forest - Jean-Pierre Sageot

page 11: Palais des sports - Dominique Perrault

Presqu'île Rollet - Nicolas Goudin

page 19: top photo - SGS, bottom photo - GPM-UMR CNRS
6634-Université de Rouen

page 21: Luciline - Agence Devillers,
Zone franche urbaine - Jean-Pierre Sageot,

page 25: Hôtel de Bourgtheroulde - SLIH/Régis Martin
Chief Architect of Historical Monuments

page 31: Pôle image - Jean-Pierre Sageot

page 32: Skating rink - Guillaume Painchault
Rouen givrée - Nicolas Diologent

page 39: Heritage Days - Jean-Pierre Sageot

page 41: Natural History Museum - F. Carnuccini - Heka

page 42: Rowing - F. Carnuccini - Heka

page 43: Rouen Hockey Élite - Stéphanie Ouvry

page 45: Basketball - SPO Basket F. Carnuccini - Heka.

R you ready for Rouen?

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Translation

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Illustration

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Graphic design

Perroquet bleu • www.bleu.net

Printing

Imprimerie ETC

January 2010

www.rouen.fr



«We saw the most splendid landscape a painter could dream of: Rouen in the distance, the Seine winding below like a mirror, sunbathed slopes, splendid foregrounds... It was magical.»

Camille Pissarro