



911 · 2011  
**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
NORMANDIE**  
[happybirthdaynormandie.com](http://happybirthdaynormandie.com)

# PRESS REPORT

**FEBRUARY 2011**



# Summary

## **1** NORMANDY HAS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE... p. 3

911-2011: Happy Birthday Normandie!

## **2** A TASTE OF THE YEAR TO COME... p. 4

From April to October 2011

## **3** A BIRTHDAY IS ALSO THE IDEAL OCCASION TO CONCOCT A BIRTHDAY CAKE... OR EVEN SEVERAL BIRTHDAY CAKES... p. 47

Throughout the year, our pastry cooks and chefs will be concocting their own, special cake to celebrate Normandy's centenary.

The first recipe: by Jean-François Foucher

## **4** 911-2011, NORMANDY'S 11TH CENTENARY! p. 50

• **ABECEDARIUM:**  
FROM «**ABBEYS**» TO «**VIKINGS**», VIA «**MATILDA**», «**WILLIAM**» AND «**ROLLO**»: THE FIGURES, THE EVENTS AND THE PLACES THAT HAVE SHAPED THE DUCHY OF NORMANDY'S GREATEST HOURS...

- **GENEALOGY**
- **CHRONOLOGICAL REFERENCES**
- **BIBLIOGRAPHY**
- **ILLUSTRATIONS**

# 1

# Normandy has something to celebrate...

## 911–2011 : HAPPY BIRTHDAY NORMANDIE!

In 2011, 1,100 years after the signature of the Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte, which was to mark the first step towards the creation of the dukedom of Normandy, Normandy is celebrating the anniversary of its foundation.

**11 centuries of history! 11 centuries of conquest and innovation!**

In all evidence, Normandy's tourism could but celebrate this centenary year.

Celebrate Normandy too - and let its History, the great figures that have contributed to making the region what it is today and its medieval heritage all shine... in both a joyful and entertaining spirit.

### MEDIEVAL NORMANDY: A HERITAGE TO TREASURE

Step back in time. Trace your roots right back to the year 911 and follow your ancestors' footsteps as we get set to celebrate the creation of the duchy of Normandy!

William the Conqueror, one of the most brilliant warriors of all time, is a central figure at the crossroads of Anglo-French history. The Norman Conquest of England and the Anglo-Norman kings' great efforts to establish their independence from the mainland constitute significant events in the history and the making of England.

During the 10th and the 13th centuries, the glorious period of the Dukes of Normandy, the region gradually acquired independence - starting with the Viking chief Rollo, followed by William the Conqueror and Richard the Lionheart, who edified castles, churches, abbeys and other architectural masterpieces that were to rank Normandy as one of the richest provinces in the kingdom.

Despite the 1000 years of history that now separate us from this eventful period, Normandy has always remained a popular destination for tour operators and groups, keen to discover its medieval landmarks and vestiges. In Normandy, your groups will discover the legacy left by its fascinating medieval past and its many sacred places.

### THE CELEBRATION? THE CELEBRATIONS! ANIMATION IN ALL FOUR CORNERS OF NORMANDY!

#### An agenda that includes over 200 events

Given the diversity of the certified projects, the programme promises to be both rich and attractive. It will of course be focusing on a number of medieval fairs and activities organised within the region's abbeys and other historic sites... but that's not all. By October 2011, over 200 events will be contributing to ensuring that Normandy radiates tourism and culture, vivacity and exuberance, via both its medieval past and its vibrant present.

### EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND GENEROUS HOSPITALITY

Be it in a restaurant, at the entrance to a museum or in a souvenir shop... visitors to Normandy will be treated with a gift, a reduction... or even free entry.

Normans are committed to their region's anniversary celebration and are delighted to share their enthusiasm with their visitors.

... So, may all the Williams and Matildas from France and across the globe be duly advised, this year's destination is indubitably Normandy...

# 2

## A taste of the year to come...

**On 21st January 2011, the programme, although not yet complete, is sufficiently attractive to offer an appetizing taste of the year to come!**

**The final programme will be published late March.**

\* Please feel free to contact the event organiser(s) or the Michèle Fréné Conseil agency should you require further information on the organisation of events.

## A taste of the year to come... (continued)

**Be it in a restaurant, at the entrance to a museum or in a souvenir shop... this year's visitors to Normandy will be treated with a gift, a reduction... or even free entry. Normans are committed to their region's anniversary celebration and delighted to share their enthusiasm with their visitors.**

### CELEBRATE NORMANDY'S ANNIVERSARY ABOARD A TER (REGIONAL EXPRESS TRAIN)

For Normandy's 1100th anniversary, the Lower Normandy Regional Council is looking to pursue the TER's tourism and cultural initiative to encourage visitors to discover the Côte Fleurie by train during the summer months.

An excellent opportunity to highlight the tourist and leisure attractions covered by the rail link, following in the footsteps of the 2010 initiative, organised for the «Normandie Impressionniste» festival.

#### THE CÔTE FLEURIE TOURIST TRAIN ON TIME FOR NORMANDY'S ANNIVERSARY...

On the platform or onboard, the trains that run on the internal Trouville / Deauville ↔ Dives / Cabourg (Dives / Cabourg, Dives Port Guillaume, Houlgate, Villers-sur-Mer, Blonville / Bénerville, Trouville/Deauville) line will be organising cultural and tourist events and activities throughout July and August 2011.

#### A PREVIEW OF WHAT'S IN STORE ABOARD THE REGION'S TRAINS...

...Plunge into a performing arts show brought to life by puppets, then relish in a «Teurgoule» stopover for a taste of Normandy's famous rice pudding, before heading for the silver screen via «Cinétrain». For walking enthusiasts, enjoy a (free) 22km hike from station to station (Port Guillaume to Deauville) along the Côte Fleurie, or spark your imagination with a series of reading-shows in Houlgate and Trouville-sur-Mer.

For those who prefer to travel to the sound of music, the 15th edition of FestiJazz will offer a feast for your ears... or why not lose yourself on Deauville's railroad literary tours.

So, no excuses for missing the train and taking part in the many events organised for Normandy's 1100th anniversary celebration!

\* All of these events are organised by the Lower Normandy Regional Council in partnership with the SNCF.

*VENUE/SITE: aboard the trains on the internal Trouville / Deauville ↔ Dives / Cabourg line*

*DATES: July and August 2011*

*CONTACT: Claudine Mauger*

*Lower Normandy Regional Council – Intermodality and Transport department*

*Tel: 02 31 06 96 21*

*mauger@crbn.fr*

## «BIEN MANGER EN NORMANDIE 2011» (EAT WELL IN NORMANDY 2011) FAIR

Our region's time-honoured gastronomic and culinary heritage is not to be neglected. That's why IRQUA Normandie\* is suggesting that Normandy's restaurateurs create their own special «1100th anniversary» menu.

Specially concocted using produce «100% made in Normandy», via a medieval and an innovative recipe (both using the same ingredients) accompanied by a selection of ciders, this certified «NORMANDIE 1100» menu is sure to delight families and gastronomy enthusiasts alike. Finally, to immortalise this culinary initiative, a recipe book will be available for guests having chosen the 911-2011 menu.

\* Normandy Regional Institute for Agrifood Quality

---

DATE: 19th May 2011

CONTACT: IRQUA Normandie

Isabelle David-Buchet

Tel: 02.31.47.22.52

---

# A taste of the year to come... (continued)

## Abbeys in the spotlight

### 1. **Abbeys in the spotlight**

2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

- **Dinner and «Les Falaise Ardentes» show in the Abbey of Valasse**
- **Millennium of the Abbey of Saint-Pierre-sur-Dives**
- **«Tours and tales» at the Abbey of Grestain**
- **«Le Trésor des Vikings» (The Viking Treasure) at Radepont**
- **Theatre inspired by Richard the Lionheart in the Abbey of Bonport**
- **Theatre show at the Abbey of Saint Georges de Boscherville**
- **Night show and music at the Abbey of Saint Nicolas in Verneuil-sur-Avre**
- **Photographic exhibition «La Normandie dans l'oeil d'un Viking» (Normandy through the Viking eye) at the Ladies' Abbey**
- **«Abbayes Normandes – route historique» (Norman abbeys – historic route) exhibition**

**... are all preparing to welcome you.**

## 1. **Abbeys in the spotlight**

2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## **DINNER AND «LES FALAISE ARDENTES» SHOW IN THE ABBEY OF VALASSE**

Relish in the «Falaise Ardente» menu, before plunging into the story of Normandy's rich and fantastic epic, in the old Cistercian rooms of the magnificent 13th century Abbey of Valasse. From the Vikings to the D-Day Landings, via its great and adventurous figures, the feasts and the follies of the royal court, from the French to the industrial revolution... are but a few of the highlights of this production retracing Normandy's quite unique historic events.

---

*VENUE/SITE: Abbey of Valasse in Gruchet-le-Valasse*

*DATES: 29th & 30th July, 5th & 6th August, 12th, 13th, 14th & 15th August, 26th & 27th August, 2nd & 3rd September.*

*Show lasts: 1h30*

*CONTACT: Parc Enea - Sophie Heluin*

*ENTRY: Show with dinner €33.90, show alone €16.90*

---

## 1. **Abbeys in the spotlight**

2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## **MILLENNIUM OF THE ABBEY OF SAINT-PIERRE-SUR-DIVES**

To celebrate the thousandth anniversary of its abbey, Saint-Pierre-sur-Dives is donning its medieval costume to revive the abbey's bygone historic aura. The entire year 2011 will be welcoming an abundant programme of events focusing specifically on the Middle Ages: conferences, concerts and musical banquets, exhibitions, walking tours, rallies (following the Vikings' footsteps of course!), carnival... Not forgetting a special tribute to medieval plants thanks to the Jardin conservatoire des Fleurs et Légumes du Pays d'Auge (Pays d'Auge Flower and Vegetable Conservatory Garden), located in Saint-Pierre-sur-Dives... we could fill entire volumes with the programme of events which includes, among many others, a sound and light show on the 22nd and 23rd of July, retracing the Benedictine abbey's history: its foundation by Countess Lesceline, William the Conqueror's aunt, the Viking invasions and the martyr Wambert; the consecration of the abbey-church attended by William, Duke of Normandy and King of England; the fratricide wars that were to follow his death and lead to the abbey fire... Another event not to be missed: on the 10th and 11th of September, the town square will be transformed into a medieval market. Craftsmen will be demonstrating their skills, a genuine medieval camp in the public gardens will take you back in time to the Middle Ages and catering will be available in the indoor market.

**VENUE/SITE:** Saint-Pierre-sur-Dives

**DATES:** April to October

**CONTACT:** Amandine Eudes

**APOMA** (Association for the organisation of the Abbey of Saint-Pierre-sur-Dives' millennium celebrations):

[millenaire-stpierre@orange.fr](mailto:millenaire-stpierre@orange.fr)

**Tel:** 02 31 20 73 28

### 1. **Abbeys in the spotlight**

2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

### «LE TRÉSOR DES VIKINGS» (THE VIKING TREASURE) AT RADEPONT

Since 2004, the Abbey of Fontaine-Guérard has been organising a yearly event entitled «Menez l'enquête en Famille!» (Investigate with the whole family!), essentially targeting children (from 8 years upwards) and their parents. The chosen theme for the 2011 edition «The Viking Treasure» is, of course, associated with the 11th centenary of the Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte. Here, Gothic Norman architecture unveils all its splendour: the parlour, the rib-vaulted chapter house and the dormitory with its superb barrel-vaulted roofing are

all sources of great admiration. And at dusk, the atmosphere turns to mystery... By candlelight... will the abbey walls unveil their secrets? So where indeed is the Viking treasure? That is precisely the question you will be asking yourself throughout your discovery tour, filled with riddles and specially developed for children aged 8 to 14. This captivating investigation offers you an original way to discover the abbey, as if you were back in the Middle Ages, with torches and candles to light your way.

---

*VENUE/SITE: Abbey of Fontaine-Guérard, Radepont (between Rouen and Les Andelys)*

*DATES: Saturdays - 23rd April, 7th May, 4th June and 16th July at 9.30 p.m.*

*Saturday 17th September at 8 p.m.*

*ENTRY: €15 per family (parents + children).*

*Welcome gift for each participating family.*

*To book: 02 32 49 03 82*

---

## 1. **Abbeys in the spotlight**

2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## «ABBAYES NORMANDES – ROUTE HISTORIQUE» (NORMAN ABBEYS – HISTORIC ROUTE) EXHIBITION

Initially burned and pillaged by the Vikings - after peace was restored Normandy's abbeys became the subject of their great attention. It was under the reign of the Norman dukes that the region's monachism reached its peak: in the Middle Ages, the duchy boasted no less than 120 abbeys, powerful not only thanks to their deep-rooted spiritual values, but also their knowledge, their erudition and their wealth. Owing to their bygone authority and their fundamental role in the region's evolution, Normandy's abbeys continue to bear witness today to these highly symbolic and historic links: be they living abbeys, ma-

jestic ruins or simple vestiges, they are a constant reminder. «Norman Abbeys - historic route» invites you precisely to discover this fascinating aspect of our history, via an exhibition entitled «841-1204: Histoire des abbayes Normandes» (841-1204: the history of Normandy's abbeys) throughout the 35 abbeys comprising its network. The exhibition includes a series of explanatory panels depicting their historic chronology, from the Vikings' cultural adaptation to architectural transformations, destruction and reconstruction, via monastic life.

---

*VENUE/SITE: Please ask for information*

*DATES: May to September*

*CONTACT: Association Abbayes Normandes - route historique  
contact@abbayes-normandes.com*

*Tel: 02 35 12 41 60*

---

# A taste of the year to come... (continued)

## Medieval fairs

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
- 2. Medieval fairs**
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

- **«Terre de Vikings» (Land of the Vikings) Festival in Dieppe**
- **«911 et la Normandie naissait» (911 and Normandy was born)**
- **Medieval weekend in Dives-sur-Mer harbour**
- **Les Médiévales (Medieval Fair) in Bayeux**
- **Les Andelys at the time of the Vikings**
- **The Vikings land in Surtainville**
- **Grand medieval fair in Mortemer**
- **Weekend in Bourteroulde**
- **Medieval weekend in Pont de l'Arche**
- **«Le temps des barbares» (The time of the barbarians), medieval fair in Verneuil-sur-Avre**
- **Medieval fair in Crêvecoeur en Auge**
- **Medieval fairs in Domfront**

**... are all preparing to welcome you.**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
- 2. Medieval fairs**
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## «TERRE DE VIKINGS» (LAND OF THE VIKINGS) FESTIVAL IN DIEPPE: «911 ET LA NORMANDIE NAISSAIT» (911 AND NORMANDY WAS BORN)

With «911 and Normandy was born» the «Land of the Vikings» festival has chosen to focus on Normandy's founding event: the signature of the Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte, which was to draw a halt to the conflict between the Vikings and the Franks. The historic dramatisation of this event, via which Rollo became the first Duke of Normandy, will be preceded for four days by a grand medieval fair, in the heart of a reproduction of a genuine Viking village with tents, workshops, longboats, craftsmen and a medieval market. Several events and activities are on the agenda: equestrian shows, stunts and fighting, tournaments, jousting...

**VENUE/SITE:** Dieppe

**DATES:** 2nd to 5th June

**CONTACT:** Terre de Viking  
Simon Ibled

**Tel:** 06 64 29 15 60

[www.terre-de-viking.fr](http://www.terre-de-viking.fr)

also on Facebook

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
- 2. Medieval fairs**
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## **MEDIEVAL WEEKEND IN DIVES-SUR-MER HARBOUR**

In 1066, William gathered his fleet at the mouth of the River Dives before setting off to conquer England. Dives-sur-Mer's harbour is commemorating this major event in Normandy's history over a weekend full of festivities. In Port Guillaume, alongside the River Dives, a Viking encampment will be set up (including art, crafts, Nordic sail production, a Viking farm with curly-hair hogs and four-horned goats...). On the agenda: reproductions of battle scenes, demonstrations on how to manoeuvre a longboat, grand parade in period costume, medieval banquet with troubadours and jugglers in Dives' famous indoor market, medieval market with workshops and knights' encampments. Also worthy of note: a ceremony in honour of William the Conqueror, in the presence of his French and English descendants, and the signature of a cultural charter between Dives-sur-Mer, Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme and Battle, three major sites associated with William's conquest over England.

---

*VENUE/SITE: Dives-sur-Mer*

*DATES: Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st August*

*CONTACT: Arlette Girard*

*Association La Ruée vers l'Art (Houlgate)*

*larueeverslart@live.fr*

*Tel: 06 34 42 10 59*

---

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
- 2. Medieval fairs**
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## BAYEUX: A LIVING HERITAGE CELEBRATES NORMANDY

Oyez, oyez, dames and damsels, gather together in Bayeux for a three-day feast in true medieval style! The city of Bayeux will be highlighting its deliciously preserved heritage to create the ideal setting to celebrate the formation of the Duchy of Normandy.

For the occasion, the highly popular atmosphere of Bayeux's medieval fairs will be taking on a totally new dimension. The event will, exceptionally, be launched on the Friday evening with a grand medieval parade by night. No less than twenty historical reconstruction companies from France and throughout Europe will be taking up camp and offering us a fascinating portrayal of the day-to-day lives of the Vikings, the Saxons and the Normans (costumes, typical dishes, musical instruments, crafts, games, fighting...).

A genuine plunge back into history! To celebrate Normandy, its art and crafts will also be honoured via public demonstrations (stone-cutters, blacksmiths, sculptors...) Take the time to stroll by the old workshops and to meet with the authors from the book fair who will also be contributing to this truly varied programme. The town of Bayeux, actively involved in Normandy's 11th centenary celebrations, will be offering a wide range of events all year long.



**VENUE/SITE:** Bayeux

**DATES:** Friday 1st July (medieval parade from 10 p.m.),

Saturday 2nd July (from 10 a.m. to midnight), Sunday 3rd July (from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.).

**ENTRY:** Open to all - no charge

**CONTACT:**

<http://fetesmedievals.bayeux.fr>

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
- 2. Medieval fairs**
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## LES ANDELYS AT THE TIME OF THE VIKINGS

This year the «Médiévales des Andelys» will be honouring the founders of the Duchy of Normandy – the Vikings. As in previous editions of the event, the fair's ambition will be to offer learning through play, via exhibitions, conferences, activities and shows... Discover the «coin des lutins» kid's corner (medieval games, tournaments, costumes...), the hanse (medieval trades), medieval market,

campes, medieval ball followed by a fireworks display and musical show. But be warned, many a surprise is in store throughout the city streets - goats on stilts, somewhat ham-handed catapulters or Vikings on the hunt for kisses. Finally, a Viking longboat on the Andelys coast – the luckiest visitors will even be invited on board to pull the oars.

In the evening, the author and historian Michel de Decker will be commentating «1100 ans normands» (1100 Norman years), a sound and

light show offering a medley of actors, film and picture projections retracing the history of Normandy, from its foundation to the present day.

---

**VENUE/SITE:** Les Andelys

**DATES:** Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th June

**ENTRY:** Free entry

**CONTACT:**

*Sound and light:* Olivier Bicot

*La Chaîne d'Or Hotel-Restaurant (Les Andelys):* [chaineor@wanadoo.fr](mailto:chaineor@wanadoo.fr)

*Tel:* 02 32 54 00 31

*Médiévales des Andelys:* Cédric Lemagnent

[clemagnent@ville-andelys.fr](mailto:clemagnent@ville-andelys.fr)

*Tel:* 02 32 54 52 56

---

**A taste of the year to come... (continued)**

## **Sound and light**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
- 3. Sound and light**
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

- **A formidable epic in Camembert**
- **Legendary Gisors**
- **Sound and light at Bayeux Cathedral**
- **Sound and light on the facade of the Grand Hotel in Cabourg**
- **«La Chevauchée du Blanc Buisson» Sound and light show in Saint-Pierre-du-Mesnil**

**... are all preparing to welcome you.**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
- 3. Sound and light**
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## **A FORMIDABLE EPIC IN CAMEMBERT**

If there is one truly emblematic product from Normandy, it is surely camembert cheese. A cheese that was to offer the small eponymous Norman village worldwide renown. That inimitable cheese that is well worthy of tribute via a sound and light show!

That's precisely what the «Formidable épopée du camembert et l'histoire si peu ordinaire du Pays de Camembert» (The formidable camembert epic and the extraordinary story of camembert country) aims to do – via a historic panorama retracing the key events in camembert country's history, from the very origins of Normandy to the present day. From the Viking

invasions to William the Conqueror, via Charlotte Corday, the eventful history of camembert, the life of the artist Edgar Degas, the 1944 bombings, to end with the creation of the Tibetan Centre for World Peace and the Dalaï Lama's blessings... The show will be held at the Manoir de Beaumontcel, the same manor where Marie Harel is said to have hidden the non-juring priest from Brie who shared with her the secret of cheese making. New technologies will be employed to create a giant-sized projection on the manor, where image and stage will be one: 4.0 surround sound, automated trichromatic light, pyrotechnic special effects...

**VENUE/SITE:** Camembert

**DATES:** Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th July

**CONTACT:** Karin Baddily

*Pays de Camembert Tourist Office*

*ot.paysducamembert@orange.fr*

*Tel: 02 33 67 49 42*

## **LEGENDARY GISORS: «NORMANDIE, FUREURS ET GRANDEURS» (NORMANDY, FURY AND GRANDEUR)**

An action-packed weekend in Gisors, including a sound and light show at the castle, a historic account, from the finer details of the Norman Vexin and the bailiwick of Normandy – to Big History.

**VENUE/SITE:** Gisors

**DATES:** Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd May

**CONTACT:** Gisors Town Council

Not to be missed: The outdoor «legendary dinner» held in the church square including a visual show (fire-eaters, music, dance).

# A taste of the year to come... (continued)

## Exhibitions

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
- 4. Exhibitions**
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

- **The Rollo Tapestry – ambulant exhibition**
- **Viking art exhibition in Saint-Pair-sur-Mer**
- **William the Conqueror exhibition in the Bois de Guilbert gardens**

**... are all preparing to welcome you.**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
- 4. Exhibitions**
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## THE ROLLO TAPESTRY – AMBULANT EXHIBITION

ROUEN, VILLERS-SUR-MER, SAINT-CLAIR-SUR-ÉPTE AND BAYEUX



To celebrate the eleventh centenary of the Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte, and to tell the story of the exceptional Viking chief Hrólfr (also known as Rollo), a multidisciplinary team has joined forces around the original idea to produce a «tapestry», in the manner of the famous Bayeux Tapestry. Pierre Efratas, novelist and author of *La Saga de Rollon*, is behind the initiative for which he drafted the texts.

The latinist and medievalist Pierre Bouet then translated them into Latin. The illustrator Gilles Pivard drew the tapestry's thirty scenes. Jean Renaud, the author of a number of publications on the Vikings, oversaw the work's historic accuracy and drafted a commentary for each scene. Marie-Catherine Nobécourt, an embroidery specialist, supervised needlework performed by a team of twenty volunteer embroiderers. This ecru-coloured linen hanging, measuring over 21 metres in length and 50 centimetres high, entirely hand-embroidered in Oriental stitching, will be displayed all summer long throughout Normandy. Each exhibition will include conferences, storytelling, educational discoveries and embroidery demonstrations.

**VENUES/SITES:** Rouen, Villers-sur-Mer, Saint Claire-sur-Epte, Bayeux.

**DATES:** 17th June to 27th July in the Saint-Ouen abbey-church in Rouen.

29th July to 7th September in Villers-sur-Mer.

9th to 11th September in Saint-Clair-sur-Epte.

16th to 18th September in the Espace Saint-Patrice in Bayeux.

**ENTRY:** Free entry.

**CONTACT:** Jean Renaud

Association la Tapisserie de Rollon (Bayeux) renaud-bx@orange.FR

## NOT FORGETTING...

### VIKING ART IN SAINT-PAIR-SUR-MER

An exhibition of Viking art via a presentation of around 180 objects.

**VENUE/SITE:** Saint-Pair-sur-Mer

**DATES:** Mid July to mid August

**CONTACT:** Saint-Pair-sur-Mer Tourist Office (Manche)

**Tel:** 02 33 51 83 69

## A taste of the year to come... (continued)

# Medieval shows

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
- 5. Medieval shows**
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

- **«Les marches normandes» / the Royal Valley of the Eure**
- **«Les seigneurs des aigles» (Lords of the eagles) in Bâlines**
- **Normans in Val-Es-Dunes**
- **Medieval weekend in Monfort-sur-Risle**
- **1100 years of history in Creully**
- **The «Médiévales des Andelys»**
- **Medieval show at the Domaine d'Harcout**

**... are all preparing to welcome you.**

1. Abbeys  
in the spotlight

2. Medieval fairs

3. Sound and light

4. Exhibitions

**5. Medieval shows**

6. Dramatised tours

7. Tours by night

8. Treasure hunts  
and rallies

9. For the kids

10. Events not to be  
missed

11. Original

12. Beyond our frontiers

13. Never before...

## «LES MARCHES NORMANDES» / THE ROYAL VALLEY OF THE EURE

The «Royal Valley of the Eure», Normandy's eastern border, will be commemorating the 11th centenary of the Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte with an abundant and varied programme of festivities, aimed at «bringing the past to the present» via creativity and innovation. A mission already accomplished thanks to the creation of a brand new, and quintessentially Norman rose, for it will be named «Queen Matilda». A symbol of both beauty and peace, the new rose will be baptised by the French actress Mathilde Seigner. Historical aspects have not for as much been neglected: medieval troop encampments and medieval banquets are also on the agenda, together with film projections, falconry demonstrations, site visits, exhibitions, Viking workshops for the kids... and even a reproduction of a longboat landing expedition!

---

*VENUE/SITE: The Royal Valley of the Eure*

*DATES: 19th & 20th March, country fair in Ivry-la-Bataille;*

*6th & 7th August, equestrian show in Ezy-sur-Eure and baptism of the Queen Matilda rose;*

*17th & 18th September, European Heritage Days*

*Contact: Nathalie Velin*

*Val d'Eure & Vesgres Community of Communes*

*levieuxchateau28@orange.fr*

*Tel: 06 18 87 34 20*

---

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
- 5. Medieval shows**
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

### «LES SEIGNEURS DES AIGLES» (LORDS OF THE EAGLES) IN BÂLINES

Located just a stone's throw from Verneuil-sur-Avre, in Bâlines, the Volerie du Bois des Aigles falconry centre will be endeavouring to revive the Duchy's greatest moments via an impressive equestrian falconry show. Directed by Ioann Latscha, horsemen, falconers and eagle falconers will be offering a dramatisation of the history of Normandy, from the Vikings to Louis

XIII. An hour of travel through time and History, to the sound of the stamping horses and the fascinating sight of the birds of prey. Temporary exhibitions focusing on the birds of prey that have occupied Normandy since the year 911 and on the symbolism of falconry in the Bayeux Tapestry, will complete this voyage into Normandy's epic history.

*VENUE/SITE: Bâlines*

*DATES: Show programmed as from July*

*CONTACT: Ioann Latscha*

*Falconarius (Bâlines)*

*falconarius@orange.fr*

*www.leboisdesaigles.fr*

*Tel: 06 33 92 36 99*

### NOT FORGETTING... NORMANS IN VAL-ES-DUNES

A weekend full of surprises at Argences and Valmeray, including a reproduction of the king's visit and the donation of Argences to the Abbey of Fécamp, an

11th century encampment, fighting demonstrations, games, workshops, tasting sessions...

*VENUE/SITE: Argences and Valmeray*

*DATES: Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th September*

*CONTACT: Val-ès-Dunes Community of Communes Tourist Information Office*

*Tel: 02 31 85 38 82*

*www.valesdunes.fr*

**A taste of the year to come... (continued)**

## **Dramatised tours**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
- 6. Dramatised tours**
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

- **Follow the footsteps of Saint-Michel**
- **Theatre show at the Château de Colombières**
- **Barfleur, the Norman Dukes' harbour**
- **Labyrinth in Bayeux**

**... are all preparing to welcome you.**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
- 6. Dramatised tours**
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

### FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT-MICHEL (ST. MICHAEL)

Pilgrimages to the Mont Saint-Michel began to develop in the 10th and 11th centuries, concurrently to the foundation of Normandy. The Mount was soon to become one of the Western medieval world's major sanctuaries, attracting pilgrims of all origins, who were referred to as «miquelots». The «Chemins de Saint-Michel» association invites you on a journey to the very heart of this historic period... From 4th to 29th September, small walking groups will be relaying their way from Rouen to the Mont Saint-Michel, carrying a declaration stating Normandy's open

and welcoming values: a region of hospitality, preserved nature and heritage and a forceful cultural identity. You can all accompany these walkers throughout their journey, and discover on your way, in a recreational and original manner, the «Chemins de Saint-Michel» (guided and dramatised walks, day events open to associations initiating the disabled to walking tours...).

The event will close on the 29th of September, St. Michael's day, with a symbolic and festive crossing of the bay.

---

*VENUE/SITE: Mont Saint-Michel*

*DATES: September 2011*

*CONTACT: Association Les Chemins de saint Michel (Vire)*

*chemins-st-michel@wanadoo.fr*

*Tel: 02 31 66 10 02*

---

1. Abbeys  
in the spotlight

2. Medieval fairs

3. Sound and light

4. Exhibitions

5. Medieval shows

## 6. Dramatised tours

7. Tours by night

8. Treasure hunts  
and rallies

9. For the kids

10. Events not to be  
missed

11. Original

12. Beyond our frontiers

13. Never before...

## THEATRE SHOW AT THE CHÂTEAU DE COLOMBIÈRES

The Château de Colombières is a listed historic building located between Bayeux and Isigny-sur-Mer; it is also a valuable testimony to over 1,000 years of Norman history, from William the Conqueror to the Second World War. A thousand years of history that will be retraced in the theatre show entitled «Colombières au cœur de l'histoire

normande» (Colombière at the heart of Norman history). Use of the lighting specially installed for the «Bessin a festival of light» operation will offer a spectacular theatre show in a natural setting. An explanatory flyer on the show and on the castle will be given to each visitor – the flyer is available in French, English and Braille.

---

VENUE/SITE: COLOMBIÈRES

DATES: Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th July

CONTACT: Christian NISSE

ADTLB (Bessin local territorial development association)

[adtlb@orange.fr](mailto:adtlb@orange.fr)

Tel: 02 31 22 17 44

---

## NOT FORGETTING... BARFLEUR, THE NORMAND DUKES' FAVOURITE PORT, OR WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR'S EPIC ADVENTURE.

Dramatised tour of Barfleur, throughout the town and the harbour, following William the Conqueror's footsteps.

---

VENUE/SITE: Barfleur

DATE: Saturday 16th July

CONTACT: Barfleur Tourist Office

Tel: 02.33.54.02.48

[office.tourisme.barfleur@wanadoo.fr](mailto:office.tourisme.barfleur@wanadoo.fr)

---

**A taste of the year to come... (continued)**

## **Tours by night**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
- 7. Tours by night**
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

- **Rally by night, «Chapitre 2, retour en l'An 1000» (Chapter 2, back to the year 1000) in Pont-Audemer**
- **Harley Davidson night tour**
- **Torchlight procession in Mont Saint-Michel bay**
- **Walks by night at La Roche d'Oetre**
- **Torchlight evening in Formigny and Trévières**

**... are all preparing to welcome you.**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
- 7. Tours by night**
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## RALLY BY NIGHT, «CHAPITRE 2, «RETOUR EN L'AN 1000» (CHAPTER 2, BACK TO THE YEAR 1000) IN PONT-AUDEMER

Pont-Audemer is challenging you!

Challenging you along with your family or friends... Every Friday evening, from mid July to mid August, Pont-Audemer's medieval streets will be brought to life thanks to a rally by night for both the young and the not so young – an excellent opportunity to discover the town's history. In a friendly and convivial atmosphere, equipped with all the perfect adventurer needs

(map, compass, torch...), participants will gather at dusk to collect their parchment questionnaire and sealed emergency envelopes to help them solve the many riddles on the subject of the year 1000. The rally will offer participants a tour of every nook and cranny of Pont-Audemer, the former tanners' city, famous for its narrow medieval streets and canals, and an insight into the importance of Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte for the town.

---

*VENUE/SITE: Pont-Audemer*

*DATES: Friday 15th, 22nd and 29th July and Friday 5th and 12th August*

*CONTACT: Pont-Audemer Tourist office*

*tourisme@ville-pont-audemer.fr*

*Tel: 02 32 41 08 21*

*Booking required (limited places available)*

---

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
- 7. Tours by night**
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## **HARLEY DAVIDSON NIGHT TOUR FOLLOWING WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR'S FOOTSTEPS: ROUTE 1066**

Falaise, Dives-sur-Mer and Caen were all the theatres of important events in William's life...

On the night of Saturday 21st to Sunday 22nd of May, on their steel and chrome chargers, the knights of modern times will be setting off on board their Harley Davidsons for an encounter with legendary sites along what we might refer to as our «route 1066», a nod in the direction of America's legendary «route 66», for a breathtaking discovery of Normandy's

sublime landscapes and its mouth-watering gastronomy. French and foreign «bikers» alike are invited to follow this truly original trail, from the Caen plain to the Bessin, via the Pays d'Auge, the Falaise countryside and the undulating Suisse Normande... with many amusing stops along the way. Come and share in their passion for «two-wheelers» and meet with this enthusiastic, peace-loving and wickedly friendly «army».

**DATE:** *The night of Saturday 21st to Sunday 22nd May*

**CONTACT:** *Jean-Pierre POSTEL*

*Caen Côte de nacre chapter*

*jeanpierrehfd@dbmail.com*

*Tel: 06 76 63 30 37*

## **NOT FORGETTING... TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION IN MONT SAINT-MICHEL BAY**

From the Mont Saint-Michel and Bec d'Andaine to Genêts. A walk along the shores, bare-footed and in shorts, reminiscent of the medieval pilgrimages. Medieval accompaniment by musicians and guides in period costume. «Pilgrims» will gather at Tombelaine to collect their torches, then head for their departure point.

**VENUE/SITE:** *Mont Saint-Michel and Bec d'Andaine to Genêts*

**DATE:** *Monday 8th August (8.30 p.m. / 11 p.m.)*

**CONTACT:** *Chemins de la Baie du Mont-Saint-Michel 50530 Genêts*

*Booking required*

*Tel: 02.33.89.80.88*

**A taste of the year to come... (continued)**

## **Treasure hunts**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
- 8. Treasure hunts and rallies**
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

• **«Le Trésor des Vikings» (The Viking Treasure) (CLIC)**

• **Treasure hunt in the medieval city of Domfront**

**... are preparing to welcome you.**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
- 8. Treasure hunts and rallies**
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

### «LE TRÉSOR DES VIKINGS» (THE VIKING TREASURE) A TREASURE HUNT THROUGH NORMANDY'S INDUSTRIAL FABRIC

Regional enterprise is also joining forces for Normandy's anniversary celebration via an original, interactive and recreational treasure hunt open to families. Participants will set off to discover Normandy's ancestral skills and crafts, whilst arousing all five senses. Five senses for five riddles – concealed throughout the members of the «Tourisme de Découvertes d'Entreprises» (Enterprise Discovery Tourism) network. For each riddle they solve, participants will be given a gift... and the following riddle. And so it will continue until they have completed all five riddles! And even if they don't manage to solve them on site, all is not lost, for a virtual tour via the Internet or local tourist offices will help them to complete the hunt. At the end of the season, a prize draw will be held and a gift worthy of such an anniversary celebration will be attributed!

---

*DATES: June to September*

*CONTACT: Vincent Berthelot*

*CLIC (Normandy Interconsular Liaison Committee)*

*vberthelot@cra-normandie.fr*

*Tel: 02 31 47 22 18*

---

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
- 8. Treasure hunts and rallies**
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## **NORMAN TREASURE HUNT IN DOMFRONT**

The great treasure hunt organised by the Domfront Tourist Office on 8th June will offer the ideal opportunity to discover the great hours of Normandy's history, with friends or the family. Each team (maximum of five participants per team) will be asked to answer a number of questions on Normandy and on Domfront in particular, whilst meandering their way through the castle and the town's medieval streets. The aim? To find the password – a sort of «open sesame» that will tell them where the treasure is hidden. The treasure hunt will be held over one day; however, from the 15th of June to the 15th of September, all Guillaumes, Williams, Mathildes and Matildas will be offered a free guided tour of Domfront.

---

*VENUE/SITE: Domfront*

*DATE: Wednesday 8th June*

*CONTACT: Bocage Domfrontais, Passais et Pays d'Andaine Tourist Office  
ot.bocagedomfrontais@wanadoo.fr*

*Tel: 02 33 38 53 97*

---

**A taste of the year to come... (continued)**

## **For the kids**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
- 9. For the kids**
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

- **Guided children's tour of Pont de l'Arche**
- **Bilingual treasure trail in Villedieu-les-Poêles**
- **Enquiry at the Avranches Scriptorial**
- **Have fun discovering Caen and its castle**

**... are all preparing to welcome you.**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
- 9. For the kids**
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

### **BILINGUAL TREASURE TRAIL: WILLIAM GOLDENHANDS AND THE COPPER STEALER IN VILLEDIEU-LES-POÊLES**

Designed to suit children aged 7 to 12 years, «William Goldenhands and the copper stealer» is a treasure trail aimed at offering participants fun time whilst discovering the medieval history and age-old craftsmanship that symbolise Villedieu-les-Pôeles, the copper city. Plunge into the past, back to the year 1328, with William,

a pan maker, and his valet Jehan Têtedure... Available in both French and English, this quite original treasure trail is open to individuals, families and school groups. And to add a hint of authenticity to your tour, the tourist office is happy to lend you a cape and a pair of binoculars. A gift awaits you at the end of the trail...

---

**VENUE/SITE:** Villedieu-les-Poêles

**DATES:** 1st May to 2nd November

**FAMILY RATE:** €5 for one child, €7 for two children and €9 for three children

Free of charge for all children called Henry, Matilda, William and Adelaide.

You can reclaim your €70 deposit as soon as you return the cape and binoculars.

**CONTACT:** Villedieu-les-Poêles Tourist Office

[contact@ot-villedieu.fr](mailto:contact@ot-villedieu.fr)

---

## A taste of the year to come... (continued)

# Events not to be missed

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
- 10. Events not to be missed**
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

- **In 2011, Deauville is celebrating Normandy**
  - **Photography contest: «William and Matilda in 2011»**
  - **Normandy's anniversary date in human figures**
  - **Human reproduction of the Norman flag in Villers-sur-Mer**
  - **Bayeux stitch embroidery contest**
  - **Competition organised by the French Post Office to create 4 original stamps**
- ... are all preparing to welcome you.**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
- 10. Events not to be missed**
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## IN 2011, DEAUVILLE IS CELEBRATING NORMANDY

### AMONG THE MANY EVENT ON DEAUVILLE'S AGENDA, «DEAUVILLE DE VILLE À VILLE» (DEAUVILLE FROM TOWN TO TOWN)

To celebrate Normandy's anniversary, the town of Deauville is organising «De ville à ville» (From town to town), an original initiative including outdoor exhibitions, cultural games and the installation of objects of contemporary art... Normandy's major towns (Rouen, Le Havre, Évreux, Saint-Lô, Cherbourg, Alençon...) will be represented throughout the town via coloured cubes around which events and activities will take place throughout the summer. Each cube will display a bilingual text on the town it symbolises, other Norman

towns being represented by a series of stickers scattered throughout Deauville. A guide enabling visitors to visualise superimposed maps of Normandy, Deauville and the location of the cubes will complete the initiative. The aim is, via this original tour at town level, to arouse the curiosity of Deauville's local and foreign visitors on the great wealth offered by an entire region of which Deauville is an emblematic tourist destination.

---

*VENUE/SITE: Deauville*

*DATES: 23rd April (inauguration) to 31st October*

*CONTACT: Aurélie Renou*

*a.renou@deauville.fr*

*Deauville Town Council*

---

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
- 10. Events not to be missed**
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## FALAISE CELEBRATES NORMANDY'S 11TH CENTENARY

A programme of events from May to October. «La Culture anglo-normande» (The Anglo-Norman culture) exhibition at the castle, organised in partnership with the Normandy Museum in Caen, the Bayeux Tapestry, the Avranches Scriptorial and the English sites of Colchester, the Tower of London, Norwich...

The exhibition offers a traditional presentation of a variety of objects from museum collections, scale-models, together with portrayals of the day-to-day lives of building craftsmen and the life of the Anglo-Norman lords inside their keeps via new technologies (iPad, augmented reality), foreshadowing the castle's future scenographic display.

On the 23rd and 24th of July, the «Vals d'Antesques», a medieval weekend including an equestrian show, life in the encampment, music...

13th and 14th August: The theme of 2011's games fair will be «come and play builders and knights», during which the public will be offered the opportunity to take part in activities focusing on medieval construction and daily civil and military life in the castle's lower courtyard.

On the 6th, 13th and 20th August, Les Falataisies: Street festival offering an array of performances with a hint of medieval inspiration to highlight the town's historic and urban heritage.

---

*VENUE/SITE: Falaise*  
*DATES: May to October 2011*  
*CONTACT: Sandrine Morisset*  
*Falaise Town Council*  
*Tel: 02 31 41 61 66*

---

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
- 10. Events not to be missed**
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

### **PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST IN CAEN: «GUILLAUME ET MATHILDE EN 2011» (WILLIAM AND MATILDA IN 2011)**

Caen's founders, William and Matilda have left a profound mark on the duchy's history. The aim of the photography contest organised by the Caen Tourist Office is to encourage participating amateur photographers to adopt a new view of their environment and of the town's history, and to try to highlight its monuments via the town's two most emblematic figures. Over and above its historic heritage approach, the contest will also

encompass an artistic approach aimed at presenting a parallel between the masculine and the feminine. The ten best photographs, selected by a multidisciplinary jury of local personalities, will be displayed at the Caen Tourist Office from the 9th of July to the 28th of August. Furthermore, the contest winners will be awarded a number of prizes including a trip to London.

---

*VENUE/SITE: Caen*

*DATES: 12th February to 31st May*

*For further information and to take part: Caen Tourist Office*

*12 Place St Pierre*

*14000 Caen*

*Tel: 02.31.27.14.14*

*edesaunay@caen.fr and on [www.tourisme.caen.fr](http://www.tourisme.caen.fr)*

---

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
- 10. Events not to be missed**
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

## BAYEUX STITCH EMBROIDERY CONTEST

What would William the Conqueror's epic adventure be without the testimony provided by the Bayeux Tapestry which narrates, just like a comic strip, Duke William's conquest over England.

This embroidery is the quintessential emblem of Normandy: and what could be more natural than celebrating Normandy's anniversary via an embroidery contest (in Bayeux stitch of course! - the same stitch that was used in the 11th century to produce

this work which is now famous across the globe).

Following Queen Matilda's footsteps, keep the legend alive through embroidery and creation! The contest includes three categories: tradition, innovation and school category. Just follow the threads of Normandy's history and take on the embroidery challenge! The prize-giving ceremony will take place in Bayeux in September 2011 during the European Heritage Days.

---

*VENUE/SITE: Bayeux*

*DATES: Up to the 15th of June 2011*

*CONTACT: James Chantal*

*contact@bayeux-broderie.com*

*Tel: 02 31 51 05 81 / 06 89 84 32 36*

---

**A taste of the year to come... (continued)**

## **Original**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
- 11. Original**
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

- **The little museum of torture in Verneuil-sur-Avre**
- **Springtime on the farm with the Vikings**
- **The Dreknor lands in Trouville**
- **Exhibition - cross examination of an Emakimono and the Bayeux Tapestry**  
**... are all preparing to welcome you.**

## A taste of the year to come... (continued)

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
- 11. Original**
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. Never before...

### THE LITTLE MUSEUM OF TORTURE IN VERNEUIL-SUR-AVRE

Created late last year, the little museum of torture (petit musée de la torture) in Verneuil-sur-Avre met with immediate success. The secret? Informing without taking life too seriously. As such, the museum's collection offers an array of the respectable torturer's finest tools and devices: quartering table, nailed chair, choke pear, iron maiden and gallows... Yet the horror that the sight of such an accumulation of barbaric

devices might provoke is mercifully diluted thanks to the two deliberately comical actors who are there to accompany you on your visit.

The public, in reality more amused than terrified, can get a genuine kick out of being scared whilst listening to Maître Tiretripes the torturer and Pied-Gras his faithful jailer explaining, in an extremely educational manner of course, the fine «art» of skinning one's fellow man.

*VENUE/SITE: Verneuil-sur-Avre*

*DATES: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 29th, 30th and 31st July;*

*1st August; 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st October; 1st November.*

*Tours at 1.30 p.m., 3.30 p.m., 4.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.*

*ENTRY: €2, free of charge for children aged under 12 years.*

*CONTACT: Verneuil-sur-Avre Tourist Office*

*Tel: 02.32.32.17.17*

### NOT FORGETTING... SPRINGTIME ON THE FARM WITH THE VIKINGS

For the spring open days, an opportunity to try out «Kubb», an old outdoor Viking game played with pieces of wood.

*VENUE/SITE: «Bienvenue à la ferme en Normandie» (welcome to Normandy's farms) network*

*DATES: 16th and 17th April*

*CONTACT: Bienvenue à la ferme en Normandie / Regional Chamber of Agriculture*

*juliette.ceccarelli@normandie-chambagri.fr*

*Tel: 02 31 47 22 97*

### NOT FORGETTING... THE DREKNOR LANDS IN TROUVILLE: A NORMAN DREAM COMES TRUE

Visits on board the «Dreknor», a certified «ship of heritage interest» by the French Maritime Heritage Foundation. Sea outings. Village with games and crafts for the kids (creation of Viking helmets and boats, painting, storytelling, sculpture workshops, exhibition).

*VENUE/SITE: Trouville*

*DATES: Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd May*

*CONTACT: Trouville Tourist Office*

*Tel: 02 31 14 60 70* **41**

## A taste of the year to come... (continued)

# Beyond our frontiers

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
- 12. Beyond our frontiers**
13. Never before...

- «The most Norman of Norman markets» in Jersey
- «La Russie viking... vers une autre Normandie ?» (Viking Russia – towards another Normandy?) exhibition in Caen
- Exhibitions on woodcraft in partnership with Norway

... are all preparing to welcome you.

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
- 12. Beyond our frontiers**
13. Never before...

## «THE MOST NORMAN OF NORMAN MARKETS» IN JERSEY

The Channel Islands have always been closely linked with Normandy, of which they formed an integral part at the time of the Norman dukes. To this very day, on the islands, British sovereigns continue to hold the title of Duke of Normandy. Saint-Helier, Jersey's capital, has therefore quite naturally decided to join in the celebration of Normandy's 11th centenary during the island's traditional «Fête Normande». And since Saint-Helier's open air market is generally held by stallholders from Normandy, Jersey is looking to create «the most Norman» of markets. Local produce (cider, cheeses, cooked meats...) and crafts will of course be in the limelight. Musicians and poets will be performing throughout the entire weekend. Also on the agenda: Norman dance and song, costume parade, treasure hunt, demonstrations of traditional Norman games (choule, doque, etc.).

**VENUE/SITE:** Weighbridge, Saint Helier (Jersey)

**DATES:** Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th June

**CONTACT:** Aurélie Leroy

*La Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche in Jersey*

*info@maisondenormandie.com*

*Tel: 00 44 15 34 280 110*

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
- 12. Beyond our frontiers**
13. Never before...

### «LA RUSSIE VIKING... VERS UNE AUTRE NORMANDIE ?» (VIKING RUSSIA – TOWARDS ANOTHER NORMANDY?) EXHIBITION IN CAEN

We know that Normandy owes its name to the Scandinavian «Northmen». However, we are less familiar with the fact that the word «Russian» also stems from the name given to those adventurers from the Baltic shores: «Rūs» or «Rhos». In both cases, a small minority of Scandinavian warriors succeeded in settling and establishing themselves within their host societies, more or less voluntarily. In Normandy, very few archaeological vestiges relating to the Vikings remain, apart from a few weapons and pieces of jewellery. However, on the road eastwards, excavation work has unveiled a number of elements retracing the story of the «Rūs». Sub-headed «Novgorod et la Russie du Nord, des migrations scandinaves à la fin du Moyen âge» (Novgorod and Northern Russia, Scandinavian migrations in the late Middle

Ages, the «Russie viking... vers une autre Normandie» exhibition offers an exceptional opportunity to present to the public a heritage that unveils lesser known aspects of the Viking adventure, and to offer a parallel between our own region's history and that of «another Normandy». Several associated cultural events are also scheduled: series of conferences, visits and activities, literary tour, children's show, Viking trades and crafts workshops, archaeological restoration workshop, modelling workshop, luxury goods workshop, bronze work, course open to leisure centres. This major exhibition is the product of a partnership between the Normandy Museum and the Russian Academy of Sciences, the State Hermitage Museum (Saint Petersburg) and the Novgorod Museum.

*VENUE/SITE: Caen - Musée de Normandie (Normandy Museum)*

*DATES: 25th June to 31st October*

*CONTACT: [mdn@caen.fr](mailto:mdn@caen.fr)*

*Tel: 02 31 30 47 60*

**A taste of the year to come... (continued)**

## **Never before...**

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
- 13. Never before...**

- **Ornavik / creation of an archaeological site and Viking village in Hérerville Saint-Clair**
- **Reviving Cherbourg's fortified castle thanks to augmented reality**
- **Exhibition at La Baronnie**

**... are all preparing to welcome you.**

## A taste of the year to come... (continued)

1. Abbeys in the spotlight
2. Medieval fairs
3. Sound and light
4. Exhibitions
5. Medieval shows
6. Dramatised tours
7. Tours by night
8. Treasure hunts and rallies
9. For the kids
10. Events not to be missed
11. Original
12. Beyond our frontiers
13. **Never before...**

### ORNAVIK, AN EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN HÉROUVILLE SAINT-CLAIR

One could initially think Ornavik to be a rather eccentric project: bringing medieval Normandy back to life! However, nothing could be more serious, nor more modern... In a small valley located within the Beaugard estate in Hérouville Saint-Clair, archaeological sites will be successively excavated over ten years. The site will soon be welcoming a village, farms and a castle, all built according to medieval techniques and using traditional materials. Animals will be bred, cereals and vegetables grown, boats built... An invitation to total immerse oneself in Normandy's history, Ornavik promises to be a living site,

inhabited by its craftsmen, decidedly turned towards education and knowledge transmission, and exchange with other European countries (Denmark, Scotland, Sweden and Norway). This human, environmental and historic adventure will be associating archaeologists, skilled workers, enthusiasts, but also people suffering from social exclusion, in an aim to collectively rebuild a durable road to reinsertion. Before the site's official opening, next May, the «Les Vikings, an 911» (The Vikings, year 911) association is co-organising Hérouville Saint-Clair's carnival, which will be focusing precisely on the 11th centenary.

---

*VENUE/SITE: Hérouville Saint-Clair*

*DATES: village open from 28th May to 2nd October. Every day except Tuesday and Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Open every day throughout July and August.*

*Contact: Ornavik*

*«Les Vikings, an 911» association*

*[www.lesvikingsan911.fr](http://www.lesvikingsan911.fr)*

---

### NOT FORGETTING... REDISCOVER CHERBOURG'S FORTIFIED CASTLE THANKS TO AUGMENTED REALITY

Visit the town and the castle as they were in the 17th century, including access to filmed accounts by historians and 3D animated views of the fortified town. Making use of new «augmented reality» technologies (mobile phone, internet, interactive terminals...) to serve History...

---

*VENUE/SITE: Cherbourg-Octeville*

*DATES: As from April 2011*

*CONTACT: Guillaume Hamel, Cherbourg-Cotentin Tourist Office*

*Tel: 06 70 69 73 88*

---

# 3

**A BIRTHDAY IS ALSO THE IDEAL OCCASION TO CONCOCT A BIRTHDAY CAKE... OR EVEN SEVERAL BIRTHDAY CAKES...**

**THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, OUR PASTRY COOKS AND CHEFS WILL BE CONCOCTING THEIR OWN, SPECIAL CAKE TO CELEBRATE NORMANDY'S CENTENARY.**

**THE FIRST RECIPE: BY JEAN-FRANÇOIS FOUCHER**

A birthday is also the ideal occasion to concoct a birthday cake... or even several birthday cakes... (continued)

Here is a cake, covered with a white mantel, inspired by the snowy Scandinavian landscapes. A truly refreshing cake... just like a snowflake... and deliciously light... surprisingly light for a fresh cream dessert... Its gentle, powdery surface is perked up by the tangy taste of cranberries... berries that could well have been picked up there in the great North... Normandy's inhabitants still have a hint of «Northmen» in them and the «Nord Manie» could well become their next «mania». The cake is on sale in its creator, Jean-François Foucher's bakery in Cherbourg.



## THE NORD MANIE

A recipe  
by Jean-François Foucher

For 6

### NORMANDY CREAM MOUSSE

#### INGREDIENTS

- . 5 egg yolks
- . 160g of sugar
- . 500g of double cream
- . 400g of whipped cream
- . 1 whipped egg white
- . 25g of Calvados
- . 6g of gelatine

### APPLE DISCS

#### INGREDIENTS

- . 200g of apple pulp
- . 25g of sugar
- . 150g of raw apples
- . 10g of gelatine

#### PREPARATION

Prepare a zabaglione. Soak the gelatine leaves in cold water. Mix the egg yolks with the sugar. Place this preparation in a bowl over a bain-marie heated to 80°C. Leave the zabaglione to cool for a few minutes then add the gelatine, the cream, the calvados and the whipped egg white.

#### PREPARATION

Peel and core the apples. Mix 200g in a blender to obtain a pulp. Heat 10% of the apple pulp with the sugar. Soak the gelatine in cold water. Add the gelatine to the heated apple pulp, then add the rest of the cold pulp. Place in small pastry circles and sprinkle with small cubes of raw apple. Leave to set for 24 hours.

#### DECORATION:

make small apple balls using a melon baller, then dip them into red-coloured caramel to create mini toffee apples.

### CRANBERRY PANCAKES

#### INGREDIENTS

- . 500g of flour
- . 3 eggs
- . 125g of icing sugar
- . 1 sachet of baking powder
- . 1 sachet of vanilla-flavoured sugar
- . 12.5cl of oil
- . 1 egg yolk for glazing
- . 60g of cranberries

#### PREPARATION

Preheat the oven to 180°C (thermostat 6).

Mix all of the ingredients together, except the egg yolk. Form small pancakes using pastry circles then glaze them with the beaten egg yolk. Sprinkle the cranberries on top. Place in the oven for 30 minutes.

### CAKE ASSEMBLY:

Place the cranberry pancake at the base of a pastry circle then place the apple disc in the centre. Cover with the Normandy cream mousse and chill for 24 hours. Mix 100g of cocoa butter with 100g of white chocolate. Apply this preparation over the cake using a pastry brush.

A birthday is also the ideal occasion to concoct a birthday cake... or even several birthday cakes... (continued)

## An anniversary cocktail!



### THE «DRAKKAR ROUGE» (RED LONGBOAT)

Cocktail created by Bruno Oberti,  
winner of the 2003 Calvados Nouvelle Vogue International Trophies,  
Bartender at the «Petit Nice» in Cassis, member of the ABF (French  
Bartenders' Association) Provence Côte d'Azur.

---

4cl of Calvados  
3cl of Mangalore liqueur  
1cl of grenadine syrup  
6cl of passion fruit nectar

---

# 4

# 911 - 2011, NORMANDY'S 11TH CENTENARY

- ABECEDARIUM 50
- GENEALOGY 70
- CHRONOLOGICAL 71-73
- REFERENCES
- BIBLIOGRAPHY 74
- ILLUSTRATIONS 75-79

## ABECEDARIUM

FROM «**ABBEYS**» TO «**VIKINGS**», VIA «**MATILDA**», «**WILLIAM**» AND «**ROLLO**» : THE FIGURES, THE EVENTS AND THE PLACES THAT HAVE SHAPED THE DUCHY OF NORMANDY'S GREATEST HOURS...

**In 2011, Normandy will be celebrating the 11th centenary of its foundation. An opportunity for the entire region to express its pride, to relive its major historic events, to celebrate its illustrious figures and to rediscover the great wealth of its medieval heritage. In the form of short accounts, this abecedarium reunites the key milestones that punctuated this prosperous period in Normandy's history. Three eventful centuries from the year 911 to 1204 - from the foundation of the duchy of Normandy to its annexation to the Kingdom of France. A formidable acceleration of historic events during which Normandy successfully imposed its military, political and cultural influence in France, across the Channel, in Italy... Rollo the Viking chief, William the Duke of Normandy and King of England, Richard the Lionheart the valorous warrior and Philip Augustus the Capetian King-a truly impressive cast indeed.**

## Contents

Abbaye aux Dames - Caen (Ladies Abbey - Caen)	57
Abbaye aux Hommes - Caen (Men's Abbey - Caen)	62
Art Roman (Romanesque art)	52
Bayeux	53
Caen	55
Château de Caen (Caen Castle)	55
Châteaux forts (Fortified castles)	59
Châteaux de frontière (Frontier castles)	59
Château-Gaillard	56
Conquête de l'Angleterre (The Norman Conquest of England)	64
"Domesday Book"	57
Falaise	58
Fécamp	58
Guillaume le Conquérant (William the Conqueror)	60
Hastings (Bataille d') (The Battle of Hastings)	60
Henri Ier Beauclerc	61
Henri II Plantagenêt	61
Italie	62
Jean sans Terre (John Lackland)	63
Jumièges (Abbaye de) (Jumièges Abbey)	63
Mathilde (Matilda)	64
Naufrage de la Blanche-Nef (Shipwreck of the Blanche-Nef)	54
Philippe Auguste (Philip Augustus)	65
Pierre de Caen (Caen stone)	65
Rattachement de la Normandie (Normandy's annexation)	66
Richard Cœur de Lion (Richard the Lionheart)	56
Rollon (Rollo)	66
Rouen	67
Tapiserie de Bayeux (The Bayeux Tapestry)	67
Tinchebray (Bataille de) (Tinchebray Battle)	68
Traité de Saint-Clair-sur-Epte (Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte)	68
Val-ès-Dunes (Bataille de) (Val-ès-Dunes Battle)	69
Vikings (The Vikings)	69

## ABBAYE

### ABBEY

You may also refer to « ROMANESQUE ART », « THE LADIES' ABBEY », « THE MEN'S ABBEY » and « JUMIÈGES »

## ALIÉNOR D'AQUITAINE

### ALIÉNOR D'AQUITAINE

You may also refer to « RICHARD THE LIONHEART » ET « HENRI II PLANTAGENET »

## ART ROMAN

### ROMANESQUE ART

An exportable expression

THROUGHOUT THE 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, NORMANDY WAS GRADUALLY ADORNED WITH COUNTLESS ROMANESQUE EDIFICES. THEY WERE OF A HOMOGENEOUS STYLE THAT WAS TO SUCCESSFULLY IMPOSE ITSELF IN ENGLAND.

Throughout the period, the entire nation gradually donned a «white mantel of churches», and Normandy was no exception. All the more so since the Viking incursions had spoiled so many existing edifices. The Norman dukes were behind many constructions, imposing their harmonious yet eclectically inspired style. High three-levelled churches, groin-vaulted side aisles, wooden ceilings... these new edifices adopted the «Benedictine» plan with a marked transept and a tower above the transept crossing. Their Norman-style choirs terminated with a semi-circular apse, enhanced by two apsidioles. The facade was often adorned with two towers forming what was to become famously referred to as a «harmonic facade». Strikingly simple,

the decor comprised stylised foliage, minimal rosaces and diamond-shaped motifs. The abbey-churches of Jumièges, Bernay, Saint-Georges-de-Boscherville or even the southern half of the nave of the Mont Saint-Michel abbey are among the finest remaining examples of this architectural style. Caen's two abbeys also bear witness to a style which was then at its peak. Yet Romanesque art was also applied to humbler constructions, such as the many small churches scattered throughout the Normandy countryside. After 1066, the Normans also successfully exported their art across the Channel (Waltham Cathedral, Durham Cathedral, etc...).

## BARFLEUR

B

BARFLEUR

You may also refer to « [BLANCHE NEF](#) »

## BATAILLE

BATTLE

You may also refer to « [HASTINGS](#) », « [TINCHEBRAY](#) » AND « [VAL-ÈS-DUNES](#) »

## BAYEUX

BAYEUX

The Episcopal Seat

INCORPORATED WITHIN THE DUCHY OF **NORMANDY** IN **924** FOLLOWING BATTLES WON BY THE **DANISH**, THE TOWN OF **BAYEUX** CONTINUED TO PROSPER UNDER **WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR'S** REIGN.

Once he had consolidated his political power, William sought to establish his religious authority. Hence, Bayeux, the Episcopal Seat, became a place of influence. When crowned King of England, William the Conqueror appointed his half-brother, Odo of Conteville, Bishop of Bayeux. The latter had a cathedral built in the town. All of the Norman and English dignitaries were present, alongside William, Matilda and Odo, for its consecration in 1077. The famous Tapestry commissioned by Odo was kept in a wooden casket and was displayed inside the cathedral only a few days every year. Of the original cathedral, only the crypt, the

facade towers and the nave piers remain. The Tapestry, presented since 1983 in the Centre Guillaume le Conquérant (William the Conqueror Centre), in a long and dimly lit corridor which perfectly highlights its iconographical details, continues to this very day to be admired by many foreign visitors, essentially British and American, hence exporting William's story well beyond our frontiers. Other attractions include a mystery tour through the medieval city's streets with William, Matilda and Odo as guides.

You may also refer to « [BAYEUX TAPESTRY](#) »

## BECKET (THOMAS)

### THOMAS BECKET

You may also refer to « HENRY II »

## BLANCHE-NEF

### SHIPWRECK OF THE BLANCHE-NEF

A tragedy in Barfleur

«AND NEVER WAS THE KING SEEN TO SMILE AGAIN,» CLAIMS WACE WHEN HE EVOKES HENRY I'S GRIEF AFTER THE SHIPWRECK OF THE BLANCHE-NEF DURING WHICH HIS HEIR WAS TO PERISH ALONG WITH THE PRIDE OF NORMANDY'S ARISTOCRACY.

On a November day in 1120, Henry I and his court were preparing to head for England. It was in Barfleur - the Norman dukes' favourite port, where William himself had embarked for England a few years earlier - that his fleet hurriedly prepared to welcome immense crowds aboard. And the Blanche-Nef was to board no less than three hundred passengers! The weary vessel reached no further than the Gatteville rocks, its drunken crew incapable of manoeuvring in

the currents on what was, nevertheless, a fine day for sailing. William Adelin, Henry I's son by Matilda of Scotland, perished in this short journey. His sister, Empress Matilda, was finally to succeed their father. Upon Henry's death, the majority of barons pledged allegiance with Stephen of Blois. The war of succession was raging...

You may also refer to «HENRY I»

## CAEN

### CAEN

Regional Capital  
of Lower Normandy

CAEN'S OWES ITS RAPID EXPANSION TO WILLIAM'S GENIUS. DESPITE THE BLOODY BATTLE OF NORMANDY, ITS MEDIEVAL STREETS, ABBEYS AND CASTLE STILL BEAR WITNESS TO WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR'S INFLUENTIAL ROLE.

In the early 11th century, Caen was but a small parish town built on a hillside and organised around its church. Charmed by its central location, ideal for watching over the region's barons, William decided to fortify the town's rocky outcrop with ramparts. Hence began the construction of the castle. The foundation of two Benedictine abbeys was then to accelerate the formation of an authentic burgh with a genuine urban organisation. Today, the town's abbeys, castle, churches, port and old quarters continue to evoke the great intellectual, cultural and economic wealth inspired by the duke. Not forgetting the many legends

that still haunt the town... the most eccentric of which concerns one of its oldest streets, Rue Froide, and portrays William as a violent sovereign : weary of his wife's frequent scorn over his illegitimacy, William is said to have attached her by the hair to his horse's tail and to have dragged her through the city streets. The terrified inhabitants took refuge in their houses whilst Matilda exclaimed, «*Mon dieu la Froide Rue*» ( *My God, the Cold Street*)! From that day on, the street has been referred to as the Rue Froide...

You may also refer to «*WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR*»

## CHÂTEAU DE CAEN

### CAEN CASTLE

One of Europe's vastest  
castle enclosures

THE DUCAL CASTLE, BUILT AROUND 1060 AND PROGRESSIVELY EXTENDED OVER THE CENTURIES, CONTINUES TO COMPEL REVERENCE FROM ITS CENTRAL POSITION IN THE HEART OF THE TOWN. IT WAS WILLIAM'S FAVOURITE RESIDENCE AND THE LONG RAMPARTS THAT ENFOLD THE RUGGED OUTCROP STILL FOLLOW THEIR ORIGINAL ROUTE.

Built by William on the rocky outcrop that dominates the marshy valley of the River Orne, this vast castle enclosure houses the ducal palace and the Saint-Georges parish. Following the construction of the Men's and the Ladies' Abbeys, the town became one of the most influential throughout the duchy. Henry I Beauclerc had a keep added around 1120, at the same period as the construction of the Hall of the Exchequer, a splendid reception room of Romanesque architecture to welcome distinguished guests. After his conquest over the duchy, the King of France, Philip Augustus, took over the castle and made further transformations. Today, the walls of Europe's vastest

fortified enclosure still embrace many a treasure: an array of archaeological vestiges dating back to both William's reign and those of his successors, ancient buildings, the Fine Arts Museum and the Normandy Museum. In 2006, the north ramparts were renovated and surmounted with a belvedere offering both the castle and the town a new outlook. More recently, in 2008, the inauguration of the Rampart Rooms, an extension to the Normandy Museum, was to conclude the first phase of the site's major redevelopment programme.

You may also refer to «*WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR*»

## CHÂTEAU-GAILLARD

### CHÂTEAU-GAILLARD

Built by Richard the Lionheart

«WHAT A BEAUTY MY ONE YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER IS!» RICHARD THE LIONHEART IS SAID TO HAVE EXCLAIMED WHEN HE CAME TO ADMIRE THE FORTRESS OF CHÂTEAU-GAILLARD. INDEED, THE FORTIFICATION'S FORMIDABLE SILHOUETTE IS AN ARRESTING SIGHT. SYMBOLISING THE POWER OF THE HOUSE OF PLANTAGENET, THE CASTLE OFFERED NORMANDY MILITARY PROTECTION AGAINST THE KING OF FRANCE'S COVETOUS ADVANCES.

The construction, which was intended to stop Philip Augustus' troops in their tracks, was to cost a colossal fortune. For an entire year, from 1197 to 1198, thousands of labourers busied themselves throughout the immense construction site. Naturally protected thanks to the escarpment, the castle, surrounded by a series of ramparts, was accessible only from the east. Designed and built by the exuberant King Richard, familiarly referred to as the Lionheart thanks to his great bravery during the Crusades, the castle was reputed to be impregnable. However, as early as 1203, Philip Augustus took advantage of the weak John Lackland's accession to the throne to advance

to Les Andelys and besiege the fortification. The oh too numerous refugees fled the castle to err for several days between the two camps and finally die of hunger and of cold... A few months later, the French decided to launch their attack. They succeeded in hauling themselves up inside the castle thanks to a defenceless latrine window. The surrender of Château-Gaillard was to mark the beginning of Normandy's demise. Today, its remarkable vestiges remain steadfastly perched on the Les Andelys heights, towering above the meanders of the river below.

You may also refer to «RICHARD THE LIONHEART», «JOHN LACKLAND»

## COEUR DE LION

### RICHARD THE LIONHEART

Son of Henry II of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine

«MAY MY BODY BE BURIED IN FONTEVRAULT, AND MY HEART IN ROUEN CATHEDRAL...» THE DAY BEFORE HIS DEATH, SUCH WAS RICHARD THE LIONHEART'S DEMONSTRATION OF HIS GREAT AFFECTION FOR NORMANDY.

This excellent military chief and courageous warrior inherited the throne of England and the duchy after the death of his father, Henry II, in 1189. Engaged in the Third Crusade with Philip Augustus, King of France, legend was to endow him with the «heart of a lion». Upon his return to France, he made peace with his brother John Lackland and challenged the conquering strategy of his former ally, Philip Augustus. After

several victories, Richard had an immense fortified complex built at Château-Gaillard, the aim of which was to stop the French troops in their tracks on the road to Rouen. Killed after a skirmish with a rebellious vassal, his heart was, according to his wishes, buried in Rouen Cathedral.

You may also refer to «JOHN LACKLAND», «CHÂTEAU-GAILLARD»

## DAME (ABBAYE AUX DAMES)

### THE LADIES' ABBEY Caen

BY MARRYING MATILDA, WILLIAM RISKED EXCOMMUNICATION. HOWEVER, BISHOP LANFRANC, THE DUKE'S LOYAL ADVISER, NEGOTIATED THE POPE'S PARDON IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ABBEYS IN CAEN. A GENUINE MASTERPIECE OF ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE, THE LADIES' ABBEY AND ITS ABBEY-CHURCH DEVOTED TO THE HOLY TRINITY, WAS TO BE THE FIRST.

On the 18th of June 1066, the day the abbey was consecrated, Matilda and William were, once more, to prove their great piety by offering their five year-old daughter to the altar. Cecilia was brought up in the convent and later became an abbess. Once past the square towers that flank the abbey-church portal, the sheer height of the nave piers remains to this day an invitation to meditation. Built between 1060 and 1080, the building is of unfaltering harmony. According to Norman tradition, its long nave rises up over three levels. The Ladies' Abbey crypt, which

dates from its very foundation, offers impressively strict and pure lines. Plunged into darkness, one can imagine Matilda wandering through its sixteen columns adorned with sculpted capitals... Her tomb is in the choir beyond which the apse is dominated by a half-domed vault, only subtly lit by the blue and pink hues of the stained glass windows in a modestly simple decor. Under a straight black marble stone engraved with typical 11th century inscriptions, the queen finally rests in peace...

You may also refer to « CAEN », « MATILDA »

## «DOMESDAY BOOK»

### THE DOMESDAY BOOK The last judgement

IN 1085, WILLIAM, NOW KING OF ENGLAND, SET TO ESTABLISHING A CENSUS OF HIS KINGDOM AND HAD THE DOMESDAY BOOK DRAFTED. THIS UNIQUE DOCUMENT ACTED AS A CADASTRE, DETAILING EACH AND EVERY PARCEL OF LAND.

The conquest over England had enabled the Norman nobility to grow richer, to the disadvantage of the Saxons. William himself enjoyed a comfortable revenue drawn from the royal estate. In order to maintain better financial control of the country, he undertook a complete census of his kingdom: land, men, livestock, constructions... Nothing was overlooked! The Domesday Book, concluded in

1086 is among the resources that offer a wealth of information on 11th century Anglo-Norman society. To this very day, the English continue to celebrate the book's creation for it often offers the very first reference to a number of English villages. A facsimile of the work is displayed at the Bayeux Tapestry Museum.

You may also refer to « THE NORMAN CONQUEST OF ENGLAND »

F

## FALAISE

### FALAISE

William the Conqueror's  
birthplace

PERCHED ON A ROCKY OUTCROP, STANDS AN IMPOSING SILHOUETTE - FALAISE CASTLE. AND IT WAS AMIDST THE FOG THAT ENFOLDS THIS NORMAN FORTRESS, TOWERING ABOVE THE MEANDERS OF THE RIVER ANTE, THAT THE STORY OF WILLIAM BEGAN.

Around the year 1026, Robert the Magnificent, Duke of Normandy, met Arlette, a young tanner's daughter from Falaise; he immediately fell in love with her. The clergy categorically condemned Robert and Arlette's union: Born from their union in 1027, William was referred to as the «bastard». Upon his father's demise during his pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1035, William became the rightful heir to the duchy. Yet his legitimacy to such succession was rapidly contested for he was only eight years old... After William's reign, Falaise castle was subjected to a series of transformations: William the Conqueror's

son, Henry Beauclerc had the castle fortified, adding the great square keep in 1125 (inspired by the Tower of London itself), whilst in 1204, Philip Augustus had a round tower erected. The building was then progressively used for a variety of purposes until it was partially destroyed during the 1944 bombings. Today, following a vast renovation campaign, the tour of the castle's different rooms and halls offer history enthusiasts an original and vibrant insight into feudal society.

You may also refer to « *WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR* »

## FÉCAMP

FÉCAMP,  
A key town

THE NORMAN DUKES LEFT A LASTING MARK ON FÉCAMP, A TOWN SURROUNDED BY HIGH CLIFFS. ON HIS RETURN FROM ENGLAND, WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR STAYED IN FÉCAMP AND ORGANISED AN EXTRAORDINARY FEAST.

In 1067, William, who had recently acceded to the English throne, organised a sumptuous banquet in Fécamp that was to fill the local inhabitants, unfamiliar with such a display of riches, with intense wonder. Accommodated in the ducal palace, it was King William's wish to transform the Easter feasts that immediately followed his victory at Hastings into a truly memorable event. Nestling in the wide indentations of the Côte d'Albâtre's coastal cliffs, the town was already renowned for its harbour and

its abbey, developed in the year 1001 by William of Volpiano. Richard II had brought the monk to the town to reform the Holy Trinity according to the Benedictine order, already established in Cluny. The Church is the only remaining medieval vestige, its construction - of striking homogeneity - dating over two centuries. The vestiges of the ducal palace, in the immediate vicinity of the abbey-church, bear witness to the dominant presence of the Norman dukes.

## FORTERESSE

### FORTIFIED CASTLES

Fortresses adapted in line with military strategy

IN THE MIDDLE AGES, NORMANDY WAS A LAND OF CASTLES. ITS FORTRESSES WERE ESSENTIAL TOOLS FOR CONTROLLING THE DUKE'S POWER. OVER THE YEARS, THEIR MIGHTY KEEPS WERE DRASTICALLY TRANSFORMED...

The earliest fortified castles in the 11th century were in the form of castral enclosures and feudal mounds. These earthen, wooden and cob constructions offered both temporary refuge and an efficient vantage point over the estate. By the late 11th and - in particular - during the 13th century, a new type of fortification emerged to counter increasingly effective siege engines. The square Romanesque keep, with its impressive dimensions, became the keystone of fortified constructions (the Arques-la-Bataille keep is a fine example). Domfront Keep is believed to be Normandy's oldest remaining, whilst Chambois Keep, of later construction, continues to impose its ample silhouette. During the same period, vast polygonal (Gisors) and cylindrical (Bonneville-sur-

Touques, Château-sur-Epte, Verneuil, Vernon) keeps also emerged. Caen castle was also to embellish its existing constructions with a seigneurial residence, Henry I proving to be the inspired initiator of a new style of palace architecture. Henceforth, Caen castle was to boast the duke-king's grand aula (the Exchequer), the ground floor of which was reserved for domestic functions and the noble upper floor for receptions and royal councils. By the late 12th century, increasingly perfected military techniques obliged castles to be reorganised by multiplying successive enclosures, whilst tightening the last defensive boundary around the keep. Pirou, Gisors and Château-Gaillard were to herald the third generation of fortified castles...

### FRONTIER CASTLES

Fortresses abounded...

ON EITHER BANK OF THE RIVER EPTÉ, THE DUKES OF NORMANDY AND THE KINGS OF FRANCE BUILT THEIR OWN FORTRESSES.

To guard the frontiers from dangerous assailants, lords became accustomed to building fortifications. Since the year 911, the River Epte had set the boundary that was to separate the Norman territories from those belonging to the King of France. The Norman dukes took to unremittingly building in this

buffer zone. In Gasny, Baudémont, Château-sur-Epte, Dangu, Neaufles-Saint-Martin and Gisors, fortresses abounded. The Kings of France rivalled on the river's left bank with fortifications such as La Roche-Guyon, Saint-Clair-sur-Epte, Boury, Courcelles and Trie.

## GUILLAUME LE CONQUÉRANT

### WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

A Norman hero

FROM DUKE OF NORMANDY TO KING OF ENGLAND IN THE 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR LEFT BEHIND HIM A CONSIDERABLE LEGACY. THE STORY OF HIS LIFE IS WORTHY OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE OF ADVENTURE FILMS. YET, THIS IS AUTHENTIC HISTORY. HISTORY THAT HAS SURVIVED THE CENTURIES THROUGH THE PRESENCE OF MANY IMPRESSIVE VESTIGES.

Following in William the Conqueror's footsteps is a difficult enterprise, for his journey was of such infinite scale... From Normandy to England, via Brittany or Flanders, William left a long-lasting mark wherever he travelled. Many a church, abbey or castle is intimately linked to the story of this great figure. Son to Robert the Magnificent, Duke of Normandy, and to Arlette, the daughter of one of the town's tradesmen, William was born in Falaise in 1027. In 1047, William finally took up arms to literally seized power at the Battle of Val-ès-Dunes. Despite the Pope's opposition, he married his cousin Matilda and immediately had two abbeys built. With the construction of its castle, Caen was to become one of Normandy's most powerful cities... When the English King Edward the Confessor died, William called to arms once more to defend his

right to the English throne. Edward's brother-in-law, Harold, was killed during the Battle of Hastings. And William was crowned King of England. The all powerful duke-king succeeded in maintaining peace in what was a prosperous English kingdom. In July 1087, when at war with the King of France over the former Vexin province, he was victim to a tragic fall from his horse. William agonised as he was transported to his palace in Rouen. He died on the morning of the 9th of September. According to his wishes, his remains were transported to Caen. The kingdom was then divided between two of his sons, Robert Curthose and William Rufus, before being handed down to his fourth son, Henry Beauclerc. The Norman «bastard» had become King of England, later to go down in legend...

## HASTINGS (BATAILLE D')

### THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

When England became Norman

TO CONQUER THE KINGDOM OF ENGLAND, TREACHEROUSLY USURPED BY HAROLD, WILLIAM LAUNCHED AN ATTACK AT HASTINGS. VICTORIOUS, HE WAS CROWNED KING OF ENGLAND. THEREAFTER, HE WAS KNOWN AS «WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR».

On the 29th of September 1066, William and his troops landed in Pevensey, on the south-eastern English coast, quite determined to take King Harold by surprise. The latter was busy shaking off a Norwegian invasion in York. The battle took place on a hilltop, 7 miles from Hastings, on the 14th of October. Struck in the eye by an arrow, Harold collapsed and died. The Saxon infantrymen, armed only with axes and shields, were rapidly overwhelmed by William's three

thousand horsemen! The English came to support William's cause. The Bayeux Tapestry offers a forceful narration of the details of this decisive event in the Norman Conquest of England. After the battle, William had an imposing castle built in Hastings. Part of it has survived the centuries and is still open to visits.

You may also refer to « *WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR* », « *THE NORMAND CONQUEST OF ENGLAND* »

## HENRI I<sup>ER</sup> BEAUCLERC

**HENRY I BEAUCLERC**  
Crowned King of England on  
5th August 1100

WILLIAM'S YOUNGEST SON, A CALCULATING AND AMBITIOUS YOUNG MAN, SUCCEEDED ONCE MORE IN REUNITING NORMANDY AND ENGLAND.

Upon the death of the duke-king, the Anglo-Norman kingdom was divided. William the Conqueror's eldest son, Robert, inherited Normandy, whereas William «Rufus» was crowned King of England. Taking advantage of his brother William's accidental death (1100) and of Robert's imprisonment by the king's soldiers in Tinchebray (1106), Henry I Beauclerc finally took over the entire Anglo-Norman kingdom. A talented Chief of State, he was to successfully pursue

his father's administrative enterprise. He enriched monasteries (Bec-Hellouin, photo), erected new castles comprising seigneurial residences (Gisors, Nonencourt), new towns (Verneuil), whilst constantly repelling his enemies. His son's death during the wreck of the Blanche-Nef was to shake the fragile balance of his succession.

You may also refer to "*BATTLE OF TINCHEBRAY*", "*SHIPWRECK OF THE BLANCHE-NEF*"

## HENRI II PLANTAGENÊT

**HENRY II PLANTAGENET**  
The first of the Plantagenet  
kings

Count of Anjou, Duke of Normandy and King of England, Henry II Plantagenet was to reach unequalled power to become the first sovereign of the Western world.

After Henry I Beauclerc's death in 1135, there were clashes between the pretenders to the throne. Geoffrey Plantagenet finally took control of Normandy and was crowned Duke in Rouen in 1144. His son, Henry II was to succeed him, incorporating within the duchy an immense territories stretching from Scotland to the Pyrenees. Henry II, Eleanor of Aquitaine's husband was regularly at loggerheads with the King of France. Such opposition was to lead to the construction by both monarchs - on either bank of the Epte and the Seine - of two lines of fortified castles boasting new architectural features (flanking towers and loopholes).

Keen to reinforce the royal authority by reducing his feudal opponents into obedience, Henry II also restricted the rights attributed to the Church. Upon the murder of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, an ardent defender of the church whose assassination had been encouraged by Henry himself, the scandal took on a new dimension! In Avranches, after lengthy negotiation with the Pope's legates, Henry finally accepted to seek penance... Yet the crisis over his succession was already emerging, the Kings of France taking advantage of Henry II's incessant quarrels with his sons...

## HOMMES (ABBAYE AUX)

### THE MEN'S ABBEY Caen

«When St-Etienne comes tumbling down, the kingdom of England will perish,» Robert Wace was to announce in the 12th century. Despite the wars and the 1944 bombings, the poet's prediction was never to materialise. To this very day, the abbey founded by William continues to impose its great nobility.

The Men's Abbey, dedicated to Saint-Etienne (St Stephen) was built as from 1063 under Lanfranc's personal supervision. Both William and Matilda attended its consecration in 1077, after which it was occupied by Benedictine monks for many years. Pilgrims on their way to the Mont Saint-Michel also visit the abbey. The abbey-church facade is the oldest part of the abbey which also comprises a cloister and monastic buildings. A genuine masterpiece of Romanesque architecture, the abbey is divided into three levels on both its vertical and horizontal planes. The tower spires, added in the 13th century, culminate

at a height of over eighty metres. Inside the abbey, its Romanesque nave dominated by sexpartite vaults is of striking dimension and profound simplicity. According to his wishes, William was buried in the Men's Abbey. Above his tomb, its mighty stones continue to defy the laws of gravity. An immense sense of strictness and grandeur prevails, reminiscent of that bygone age when the duke galloped through the Normandy countryside.

You may also refer to « CAEN »

## ITALIE



### ITALY

Another Norman conquest

Far from being permanently garrisoned, the Normans progressively launched their conquest of Italy and southern Sicily.

In the early 11th century, groups of Norman mercenaries had already taken to serving the Byzantine and Lombard princes who occupied southern Italy. The Hauteville brothers, sons of a humble baron from Manche incapable of providing sufficient land for his abundant descendants, were among those to successfully undertake such adventure. William

Iron Arm, Drogo of Hauteville, Onfroy of Hauteville, Robert Guiscard and Roger Bosso gradually conquered southern Italy, then Sicily. In 1130, Roger's son was even crowned King of Sicily under the name of Roger II of Sicily. Henceforth, the Norman States of southern Italy and Sicily compelled worldwide esteem!

## JEAN SANS TERRE



### JOHN LACKLAND

King of England from 1199 to  
1216

Cowardly and cruel... An unbecoming description for this duke-king incapable of preventing Normandy from slipping into the hands of the King of France.

John Lackland was particularly unpopular among the Normans whom he had burdened with excessive taxation. He owes his nickname to the loss of a number of French territories (Normandy, Anjou, Maine, Touraine and Poitou). Initially at odds with his elder brother, Richard the Lionheart, John was finally to seize his inheritance. Crowned Duke of Normandy in Rouen, he became King of England in 1199, despite his nephew Arthur's pretention to the throne, supported by the King of France. In the year 1200, John Lackland committed an irreparable mistake when he abducted Isabella of Angoulême and forced her to marry him. It was a pretext that was to enable

Philip Augustus to weaken him by confiscating his continental territories. After assassinating Arthur, John Lackland, driven back by the royal troops, decided to flee to England, hence abandoning Normandy to its fate. Following an attack on the Mont Saint-Michel and the siege of Château-Gaillard, Rouen was defenceless and finally surrendered... After three centuries of independence, Normandy was annexed! Defeated once more in Bouvines, John Lackland was nevertheless to hold onto England, the Channel Islands and Aquitaine until his death in 1216.

You may also refer to « *RICHARD THE LIONHEART* », « *CHÂTEAU-GAILLARD* »

## JUMIÈGES

### JUMIÈGES

An abbey to the four winds

Exposed to both nature and the skies, Jumièges defies the test of time. A thousand times tormented, «*the most beautiful ruin in France*» according to Victor Hugo still boasts its impressive towers.

Founded in 654 by Philibert, a nobleman from King Dagoberts' court, Jumièges Abbey is one of the oldest in the valley of the Seine. Reduced to ruins by the Norman invasions in 841, its revival was to cover two periods: firstly, with the arrival of the Benedictine monks in 940 then, thanks to the reformer William of Volpiano. The presence of William the Conqueror himself during the consecration of the abbey-church

in 1067 bears witness to its newfound influence. Its monastery was one of the most powerful in the kingdom under Richard II. The abbey became a private property after the French Revolution and, although abandoned, it preserved its imposing volume. It remains a striking testimony to the historic peak of abbey construction..

You may also refer to « *ROMANESQUE ART* »

## MATHILDE

### MATILDA William's wife

Matilda remains an emblematic Norman figure. Granddaughter to the King of France - Robert the Pious, her life with William would appear to have been a cloudless love story.

The daughter of Baldwin V of Flanders and Adela of France married William around the year 1050 in the town of Eu. Pope Leo IX, already hostile to the Normans, was opposed to this promising union, invoking the pretext of consanguinity - for William and Matilda were fifth cousins. However, William, quite determined to marry Matilda and convinced she would give him ten children, flouted the Pope's interdiction. Appointed Regent of Normandy during the Norman Conquest of England, Matilda was crowned Queen of the Anglo-Norman kingdom in 1068. She had great influence over her husband, yet was both discreet and wise, a generous benefactor to the Church and was highly appreciated by her contemporaries. In 1083, tormented by the conflict

between William and her son Robert, and worn out by her numerous childbirths, Matilda succumbed to the plague. She is laid to rest in Caen, in the Ladies' Abbey. Severely affected by the death of «the woman he loved more than himself», William fell into a deep depression. First profaned in 1562 during the Wars of Religion, restored then destroyed in 1793 during the French Revolution, repaired in 1815, Queen Matilda's tomb was unearthed once more in 1959 during development work. Then in 1964, in the presence of archaeological authorities, Jean-Marie Louvel, Mayor of Caen, had the tomb endowed with a stainless steel casket designed to stand the test of time...

You may also refer to « *WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR* »

## LA CONQUÊTE NORMANDE DE L'ANGLETERRE

### THE NORMAN CONQUEST OF ENGLAND By William, Duke of Normandy

12,000 soldiers, 3,000 horses, 500 boats... the expedition to England was, from its very onset, an ambitious enterprise. But such were the stakes. For William, it was a matter of recovering the throne of England, treacherously usurped by Harold.

Barely was King Edward in his grave when, despite his oath over holy relics, Harold acceded to the throne to become King of England, in place of William. Furious for having been betrayed so, the Norman duke relentlessly prepared his conquest, dividing his free time between Troarn abbey and his residence in Bonneville. The fleet gathered in Dives-sur-Mer and set off on the 10th of September 1066, only to be driven to the shores of Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme due to violent winds. On the 28th of September, the Mora, the ship Queen Matilda had built for her husband, set off once more for the high seas. The men landed in Pevensey before heading for Hastings. Thanks to his victory over Harold, and just like Charlemagne two

centuries earlier, William chose Christmas day for his coronation as King of England in Westminster Abbey. In the years that followed the conquest, several rebellions met with severe repression. William's response was to have solid fortified castles built, of which the Tower of London is a fine example. A new Norman aristocracy replaced the former nobility. William also took command of the Church by appointing his own Norman ecclesiastical hierarchy (hence Lanfranc became Archbishop of Canterbury) which was to herald an extensive policy of large Romanesque church construction.

You may also refer to « *BATTLE OF HASTINGS* »,  
« *CAEN STONE* »

## PHILIPPE AUGUSTE

### PHILIPPE AUGUSTE

Son to Louis VII and Adèle of  
Champagne

The glory of having annexed Normandy to the French kingdom is to be attributed to Philip Augustus, the illustrious and opportunist Capetian monarch.

Son and successor to Louis VII, Philip Augustus, King of France was the sworn enemy of the Plantagenets, whom he incessantly endeavoured to relieve of their fiefs. The death of Richard the Lionheart and the deceitful John Lackland's accession to the throne were to offer him the ideal conditions to accomplish his scheme to annex Franco-English possessions. When John Lackland, King of England and Duke of Normandy, was sentenced by the court for the loss of

French estates by felony, Philip Augustus moved into attack and seized Château-Gaillard. When the fortress surrendered on the 6th of March 1204, the King of France headed for Lower Normandy to besiege Rouen – the town capitulated on the 24th of June 1204. The conquest of the province was to have taken less than four months! Henceforth, Philip Augustus enjoyed unprecedented prestige...

You may also refer to « *CHÂTEAU-GAILLARD* »

## PIERRE DE CAEN

### CAEN STONE

The builders' limestone

Exploited since the Gallo-Roman period, Caen stone is abounding with qualities: available in large quantities, easy to extract and to cut, finely grained, ochre-tinted white. Consequently, William the Conqueror and his successors made great use of this fine natural resource...

Largely used to build the town's abbeys and castle – the surrounding ditches being used as a quarry – Caen stone was also exported for the construction of a vast array of edifices across the Channel. After William's coronation, thousands of tonnes of stone left Normandy's ports to supply the construction sites of the tower of London, Canterbury Cathedral and the

abbeys in Durham, Norwich and Westminster. The stone was later used for prestigious creations such as Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York, Cologne Cathedral or the Royal Palace of Brussels. Today, Caen stone is used, in particular, to restore existing monuments, such as the Men's Abbey cloister.

## RATTACHEMENT DE LA NORMANDIE

### NORMANDY'S ANNEXATION March 1204

1203: Philip Augustus appeared before Château-Gaillard, determined to do battle. When the fortification was forced into surrender, the road was clear for the King of France to invade John Lackland's fiefs. A year later, Normandy was annexed to the royal estate.

Normandy's annexation was a somewhat hasty process. It began with the siege and the subsequent surrender of Château-Gaillard, then the occupation of the province's key towns and fortresses. Philip Augustus, a great territorial unifier, effortlessly crushed John Lackland's forces. The conquest was followed by a rearrangement of administrative structures. Philip Augustus controlled his newly conquered territory through the construction of fortresses based on a simple geometric plan with

sturdy towers. In Rouen, Caen, Gisors and Vernon, his territorial domination was progressively asserted via his own personal mark. Whilst maintaining control of local institutions, the King of France nevertheless entrusted their management to loyal followers, recruited among the minor nobility. Bailiffs, the king's representatives in charge of enforcing the «Grande Coutume de Normandie», gradually emerged whilst diverse taxes increased.

You may also refer to « **CHÂTEAU-GAILLARD** »

## ROLLON

### ROLLO Ex Viking chief

By donning the costume of a Carolingian leader, Rollo, ex Viking chief and a wise politician, was to set the foundations of what was to become one of the kingdom's most powerful provinces.

A Viking chief of Norwegian origin, «Rolf», landed in France around the year 876 after a stay in England, accompanied by a troop of Danish and Anglo-Saxon followers. He was to lead many expeditions (besieging Paris, capturing Bayeux) before being defeated by the Franks in the countryside around Chartres. During his encounter with the Carolingian King Charles the Simple, he received the Duchy of Normandy, under

two conditions: that he cease his violent incursions throughout France and that he convert to Christianity. Rollo was consequently baptised in 912, to take the name of Robert. The first Normand duke was born! His descendants - William Longsword (932-942), Richard I (942-996), Richard II (996-1026) were also to durably assert their authority.

You may also refer to « **VIKINGS** »

## ROUEN

### ROUEN

The dukes' capital

From the summit of Sainte-Catherine hill, the silhouette of the Upper Normandy capital's church spires and slate roofs stands out from the mist. Rouen is a genuine open book on history, that leaves no one impervious.

The Vikings set to challenging the town of Rouen from as early as the 7th century. When Normandy was conceded to Rollo by Charles the Simple, Rouen was already an influential city and the seat of an archbishopric. Rollo's grandson Richard I had a palace built there. Today, his recumbent statue can still be admired in the cathedral. An early Romanesque cathedral was built and consecrated in 1063, in the presence of William, who founded the Notre-Dame-du-Pré priory the same year. As legend would have it, Matilda is said to have learned the good tidings of her husband's victory at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, hence the quarter's name «Bonne Nouvelle». In 1087, William launched an ultimate campaign against the King of France. On his way to Mantes, William, encumbered by his own portliness, was injured by his

saddle. William agonised as he was transported to his palace in Rouen. He died at the Saint-Gervais priory on the morning of the 9th of September 1087. The Empress Matilda, Henry I Beauclerc's daughter, also died in Rouen in 1167. In the Cathedral's ambulatory, Richard the Lionheart's recumbent gravestone can also be admired. Rouen was not only a prosperous trading centre, but also a preferred place of residence among the Norman dukes. This vast metropolis, enriched thanks to wine, salt and textile trade, was early to adopt a quite original municipal constitution, the «Établissements de Rouen» (1170), which was to be exported and copied in several of the Plantagenet towns.

You may also refer to « *WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR* », « *RICHARD THE LIONHEART* »

## TAPPISSERIE DE BAYEUX

### THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY

A linen canvas celebrating the Norman Conquest

A Middle Ages masterpiece listed on UNESCO's «Memory of the World» register, the Bayeux Tapestry is also the very first comic trip in history. Embroidered in the 11th century, the tapestry's 58 scenes tell the story of William's epic conquest over England.

Erroneously attributed to Queen Matilda herself, this linen canvas embroidery, measuring over 70 metres, was commissioned by Odo (Bishop of Bayeux and William's half-brother) and produced in workshops in Canterbury to adorn the nave of Bayeux Cathedral. It is an exhaustive source of information on daily life in the Middle Ages (fortified castle construction, costume, work in the fields, hunting techniques, weapons and expedition preparation), narrating the successive stages of William's conquest, from Harold's oath to

the Norman victory. The tapestry is punctuated by its upper and lower borders, which portray creatures from fantasy and mythical animals. Displayed over several centuries to celebrate the anniversary of the Cathedral's consecration, the Tapestry is now a permanent exhibit at the Centre Guillaume le Conquérant in Bayeux and welcomes thousands of visitors every year.

You may also refer to « *BAYEUX* »

## TINCHEBRAY

### TINCHEBRAY (BATTLE)

The Anglo-Norman kingdom restored!

Localities with evocative names such as “Le Champ Henriet” (Henriet’s field), “La prise” (the capture), “Le ruisseau du Traître” (the traitor’s stream), bear a somewhat confused witness to this battle - a major event that was to end a long period of conflict between William the Conqueror’s heirs.

Neither the date nor the precise site of the battle are known. However, we do know that it took place in the year 1106, in the vicinity of the Château de Tinchebray. Located in south-western Normandy, on the border with the county of Mortain, Tinchebray was held by William of Mortaigne, one of Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy’s faithful companions. In 1106, Henry I Beauclerc, King of England, returned to his elder brother Robert’s territory in Normandy. After capturing an abbey in Saint-Pierre-sur-Dives, he besieged the castle in Tinchebray. However, the ducal army was rapidly informed and hastened to rescue the besieged. Negotiations failed, and the battle between the two brothers was inevitable... Infantrymen and horsemen streamed across the hillside. Whereas

Robert knew he could count on support from William of Mortaigne and Robert de Bellême, Henry boasted a solid army under the command of Ranulf de Bayeux, Robert de Beaumont and William de Warenne. According to the chronicler, Orderic Vital, the battle was sealed in just one hour. The decisive blow was struck by Elias I, also known as «De la Flèche», whose reserve troops attacked the duke’s forces from behind. After the battle, Robert was captured then imprisoned until his death in February 1134. Henry stripped William of his title as Count of Mortain, and was acknowledged Duke of Normandy on the 15th of October 1106, hence restoring the Anglo-Normand kingdom his father had created!

You may also refer to « *WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR* »

## TRAITÉ DE SAINT-CLAIR-SUR-EPTE

### TREATY OF SAINT-CLAIR-SUR-ÉPTE

Concluded in the autumn of the year 911

In 911, the Frankish King Charles the Simple conceded «*all of the land from the Epte to the sea*» to the Viking chief Rollo.

Tormented by incessant pillaging by men who had come from Northern Europe aboard their longboats, the kingdom’s inhabitants suffered a life of terror and fear. However, Charles the Simple decided to put an end to this riotous situation by concluding the Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte with the Viking chief Rolf (Rollo). Although he appeared to have literally given away certain zones – over which he held but theoretical suzerainty – he also succeeded in officially

integrating the Scandinavians within the nascent feudal order. The conceded territory, which comprised the departments of Seine-Maritime and Eure, was thereafter to be referred to as Northmannia (the land of the Norsemen). Thus, Normandy was born in the year 911. Its successive leaders set to reorganising this vast estate, hitherto devastated by their ancestors.

You may also refer to « *VIKINGS* », « *ROLLO* »

## VAL-ÈS-DUNES (BATAILLE DE)

### VAL-ÈS-DUNES

(Battle)  
1047

Between Cicheboville and Bellengreville, to the south of Caen, an incredible battle opposed the powerful Normand barons and the young duke, supported by the King of France. The «Bastard's» famous battle was to irrefutably establish him as Duke of Normandy.

On the 10th of August 1047, in the stifling summer heat, the horsemen charged, brandishing their lances. The rebellious barons had rallied round Guy de Brionne, perfectly determined to overthrow William. The young duke sought support from his suzerain, Henry I, King of France. The king arrived at Argences, with a troop of a thousand soldiers. William and Henry battled under the Lord's banner to the cry of «Dex aïe!» (God be with us), whilst the Norman barons invoked the Viking god Thor: for the battle was also religious...

Despite the King of France's fall, thrown from his horse by Hamon le Dentu, the barons suffered a bitter defeat. After the battle, William launched a severely repressive policy: the rebels' feudal mounds were destroyed and the lords imprisoned or sentenced to exile. Grimoult du Plessis, imprisoned in Rouen, was flayed alive! William's power was no longer to be contested... at last!

You may also refer to « *WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR* »

### THE VIKINGS FORMIDABLE WARRIORS

From the 9th to the 10th century, the Vikings, those formidable Scandinavian warriors, terrorised the inhabitants of the Frankish kingdom's towns and villages through their incessant incursions.

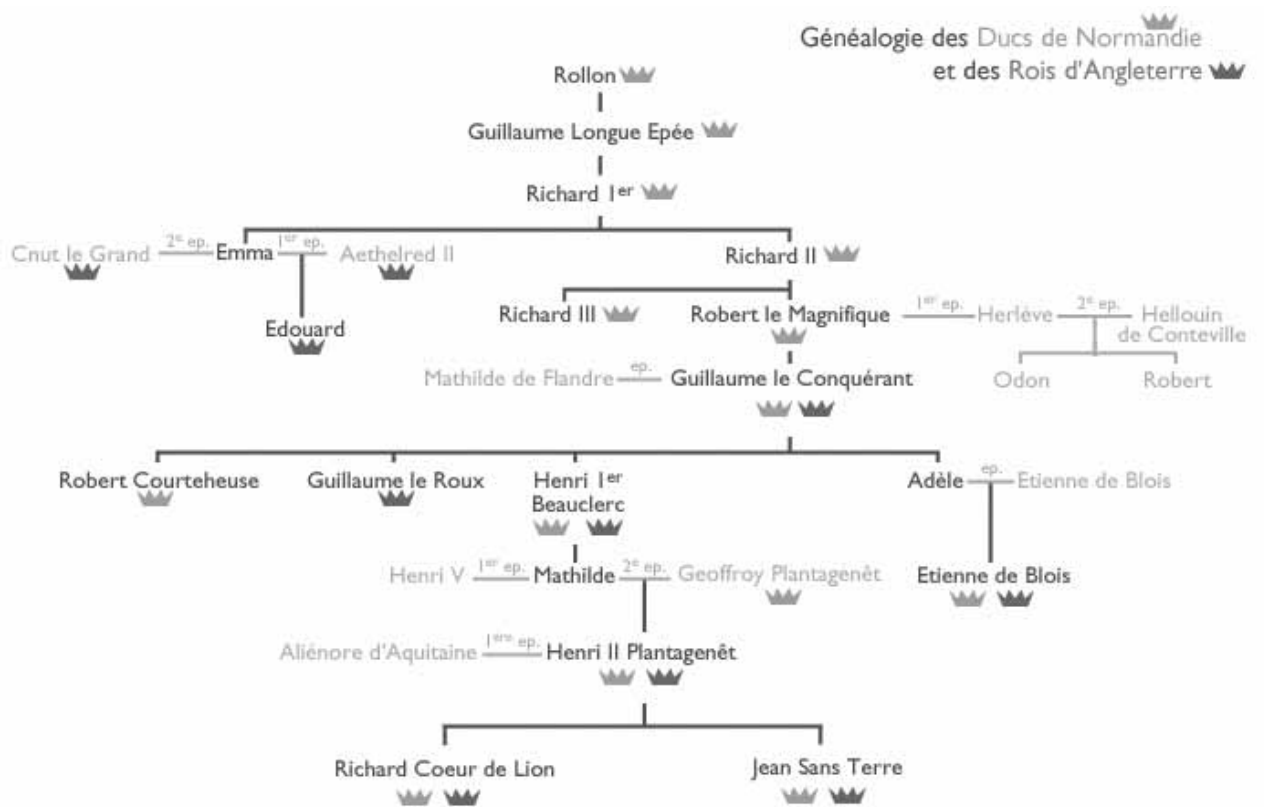
«Protect yourselves from the fury of the Norsemen!» the terrorised Franks exclaimed. Each and every year, the Vikings left Scandinavia in search of riches. And to lay their hands on silver and gold, they readily pillaged monasteries and churches. In 841, they sailed up the River Seine, wreaking havoc in Rouen and burning down the monastery in Jumièges. The Mont Saint-Michel abbey and the Saint-Wandrille abbey were, in turn, attacked. Little by little, the Vikings penetrated deeper inland. Paris was besieged many times. The Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte, concluded between

Rollo and the Frankish King Charles the Simple, was to finally restore peace. The king offered the Vikings a considerable territory comprising present-day Upper Normandy and stretching through Calvados, Orne and Manche. In exchange, Rollo agreed to protect the kingdom from further attack. Converted to Christianity, the Vikings gradually melted into the local population.

You may also refer to « *ROLLO* »

# 911-2011, Normandy's 11th centenary (continued)

## GENEALOGY



Source : [www.mondes-normands.fr](http://www.mondes-normands.fr)

## 911-1204: CHRONOLOGICAL REFERENCES

**911** Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte.

**912** The Viking chief Rollo, also known as Rolf, accepted to be baptised and was named Robert.

**924** Rollo took over the Bessin and Hiémois regions, hence extending his territory.

**928** Between 928 and 933. Death of Rollo. His son, William Longsword succeeded him.

**933** William Longsword further enhanced the Norman territory with the Cotentin and Avranchin regions and the Channel Islands.

**942** Death of William Longsword. His son, Richard I, known as Richard the Fearless, succeeded him.

**987** Hugh Capet acceded to the throne of France, marking the end of the Carolingian rule.

**996** Death of Duke Richard I. His son, Richard II, known as «The Good», succeeded him.

**1026** Death of Richard II. His son, Richard III, succeeded him.

**1027** Robert the Magnificent became Duke of Normandy. He succeeded his brother Richard III after the latter's mysterious death. William, Robert and Arlette's illegitimate son, was born in Falaise.

**1031** Accession to the throne of Henry I, King of France.

**1035** Duke Robert the Magnificent died on his return from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

**1040** William FitzOsbern, William's tutor, was assassinated.

**1046** Assassination attempt against William the «Bastard» in Valognes. He sought refuge in Falaise.

**1047** Battle of Val-ès-Dunes. Duke William, victorious, had the «Trève de Dieu» (God's truce) signed in Caen.

**1050** Marriage between Duke William and his cousin, Matilda of Flanders.

**1051** William besieged Domfront, occupied by the Count of Anjou, and captured Alençon.

**1052** Domfront capitulated. The Passais region was annexed to Normandy.

**1054** Henry I, King of France, invaded Normandy. He was put to rout by William at the Battle of Mortemer-en-Bray. Birth of William and Matilda's first son, Robert.

**1057** Battle of Varaville. William forced the King of France and the Count of Anjou to withdraw.

**1060** Death of Henry I, King of France. Construction of two abbeys and a castle in Caen.

**1063** William conquered Maine.

## 911-2011, Normandy's 11th centenary (continued)

**1064** Harold, the King of England – Edward the Confessor's brother-in-law, was sent to Normandy to inform William of his imminent accession to the English throne.

**1066** 6th January: Funeral of Edward, King of England. Harold seized the crown the same day. 14th October: Battle of Hastings, William conquered England. Thereafter, he was known as «William the Conqueror». Death of Harold. 25th December: William was crowned King of England.

**1075** Production of the Bayeux Tapestry, commissioned by Odo.

**1083** 1st November: Death of Queen Matilda.

**1087** 9th September: death of William the Conqueror. His sons succeeded him: William Rufus was King of England and Robert Curthose Duke of Normandy.

**1096** Robert Curthose embarked on a crusade to the Holy Land.

**1100** Death of William Rufus. His brother, Henry I Beauclerc succeeded him.

**1105** Normandy was invaded by Henry I Beauclerc, King of England.

**1106** Robert Curthose was imprisoned by his brother, the King of England, after the Battle of Tinchebray. Henry I Beauclerc took control of the entire Anglo-Norman kingdom and became Duke of Normandy.

**1120** 26th November, shipwreck of the Blanche-Nef.

**1125** Henry I Beauclerc named his eldest daughter and William's granddaughter - Empress Matilda - heir to all of his possessions.

**1134** Death of Robert Curthose.

**1135** Death of Henry I Beauclerc. Stephen of Blois, son of William the Conqueror's daughter Adèle, became King of England.

**1144** Geoffrey Plantagenet, Empress Matilda's husband, became Duke of Normandy.

**1050** Henry II Plantagenet, Count of Anjou and Maine, became Duke of Normandy.

**1054** Death of Stephen of Blois. Henry II Plantagenet succeeded him to the English throne.

**1070** The King Henry II Plantagenet is believed to have been behind Thomas Becket's murder.

**1173** Henry II Plantagenet's sons, Henry the Young King, Richard and Geoffrey revolt against their father.

**1180** Accession of Philip Augustus to the French throne.

**1188** Richard the Lionheart and Philip Augustus defeat Henry II Plantagenet.

## 911-2011, Normandy's 11th centenary (continued)

1189

16th July: Death of Henry II Plantagenet. His son, Richard the Lionheart, succeeded him. He became King of England, Duke of Normandy and Count of Anjou, Poitou and Aquitaine.

1190

Richard the Lionheart set out on his crusade.

1194

Onset of the conflict with the King of France.

1197

Château-Gaillard was built by Richard the Lionheart.

1198

A peace agreement was signed in November.

1199

6th April: Death of Richard the Lionheart. His brother, John Lackland, acceded to the throne of England and also became Duke of Normandy.

1200

22nd May: Peace treaty between Philip Augustus and John Lackland.

1202

The conflict with the King of France resumed.

1204

6th March: Château-Gaillard was captured by Philip Augustus. Normandy became French.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ***Guillaume le Conquérant***,  
Annie Fettu, OREP, 2007
- ***La reine Mathilde***,  
Annie Fettu, OREP, 2007
- ***Chronologie de la Normandie***,  
Annie Fettu, OREP, 2007
- ***Guillaume le Conquérant***,  
Michel de Bouïard, Paris, Fayard, 1984
- ***La Normandie des ducs aux rois Xe-XIIe siècle***,  
François Neveux, Rennes, Ouest-France Université, 1998
- ***Histoire de la Normandie***,  
Roger Jouet, Claude Quénel, Orep, 2009
- ***Histoire de la Normandie***,  
Thérèse et Jean-Pierre Leguay, Éditions Ouest-France, 1997
- ***Châteaux forts de Normandie***,  
Stéphane William Gondoin, Orep, 2006

## ILLUSTRATIONS

VISUELS © STÉPHANE MAURICE / SOCORPRESSE



Bec-Hellouin Abbey



Bec-Hellouin Abbey 2



Caen - Men's Abbey -  
William's tomb



Caen - Men's Abbey



Caen - Ladies' Abbey -  
Matilda's tomb



Jumièges Abbey

# 911-2011, Normandy's 11th centenary (continued)

VISUELS © STÉPHANE MAURICE / SOCORPRESSE



Barfleur



Bayeux Cathedral - 1



Bayeux Cathedral - 2



Bayeux Cathedral - 3



Bayeux Cathedral - 4



Bayeux Cathedral - 5

# 911-2011, Normandy's 11th centenary (continued)

VISUELS © STÉPHANE MAURICE / SOCORPRESSE



Caen Castle - 1



Caen Castle - 2



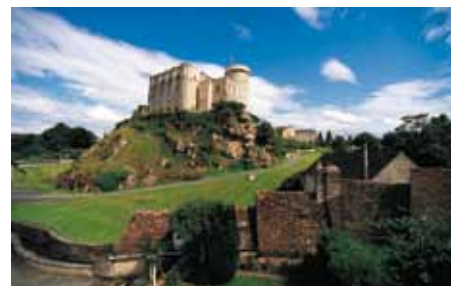
Caen Castle - 3  
Keep



Caen Castle - 4  
Exchequer Hall



Falaise Castle - 1



Falaise Castle - 2

**911-2011, Normandy's 11th centenary (continued)**

VISUELS © STÉPHANE MAURICE / SOCORPRESSE



Falaise Castle - 3



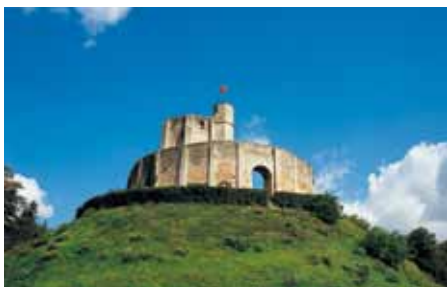
Falaise Castle - 4



Falaise Castle - 5



Falaise Castle - 6



Château de Gisors



Château-Gaillard

# 911-2011, Normandy's 11th centenary (continued)

VISUELS © STÉPHANE MAURICE / SOCORPRESSE



Chambois Keep



Domfront Keep



Domesday Book  
- Bayeux Tapestry Museum -  
Bayeux



Falaise - William the Conqueror



William  
- Bayeux Tapestry Museum -  
Bayeux



Caen stone  
Normandy Museum