

Val-de-Marne

TOURISM & LEISURE PRESS KIT 2016



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VAL-DE-MARNE
TOURISME & LOISIRS

Val-de-Marne offers a multitude of ideas for outings and entertainment to get away for a few hours, a weekend, or more, just a few minutes away from Paris.

Stroll along the Marne or the Seine, drop into a Guinguette (it's a sort of tavern on the river with music. It's typically French), take time to visit company savoir-faire and meet artisans, enter the world of contemporary art and street art, or simply enjoy, with your family, what Val-de-Marne has to offer.

Val-de-Marne Tourism & Leisure promises unusual visits and unforgettable encounters.

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Find us all year round on
www.tourisme-valdemarne.com/pro-presse

PORTRAIT OF VAL-DE-MARNE

Located just outside Paris, Val-de-Marne is the largest department in the suburbs (245 km²) and has more than 1.3 million inhabitants. It celebrated its 50 years of existence in 2014 (Act of 10 July 1964).

The quality of its hydrography gives the department an image of "a water department". 37 towns out of the 47 municipalities are bordered by a watercourse with the presence of the Seine over 15 km, the Marne over 24 km and tributaries (the Morbras, the Réveillon, the Yerres, the Ru of Rungis and the Bièvre). The Marne has 25 islands, 3 of which are classified Departmental Natural Reserve.

The presence of this river system added to 2550 hectares of forest, offers an exceptional natural heritage to the department, in order to observe wildlife and flora but also for walks and outdoor recreation.

Val-de-Marne is also a territory of artistic creativity and has a rich cultural heritage. From historical museums to contemporary art centers, from the architecture of the 12th century to garden cities, to the development of street art; all forms of art and architecture mingle together in the territory.

Gastronomy also plays an important role. Ideally located close to Orly airport and right next to the Rungis International Market, the City of Gastronomy "Paris-Rungis", scheduled for 2024, will showcase the culinary creativity of the entire area with development and animation of the food markets. The product will be presented, from reception to transformation through the Rungis Market, the largest fresh produce market in the world.

So today, Val-de-Marne offers a genuine tourist and cultural mosaic, a reflexion of its own identity.



Key figures

Accommodation:

- 110 hotels
- 22 guest rooms or rentals
- 1 hostel
- 1 group accommodation
- 1 campsite

Tourist information points:

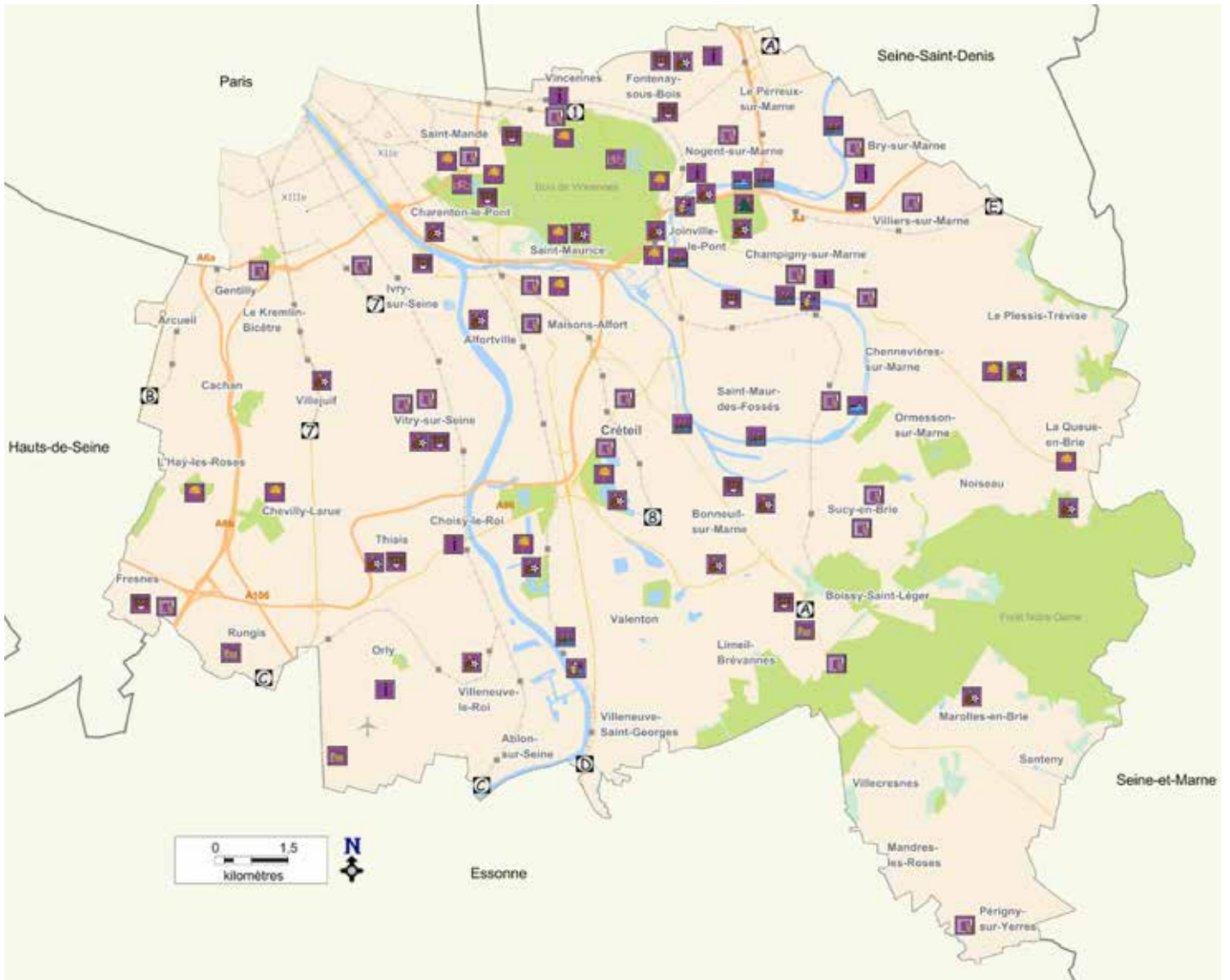
- 1 Comité Départemental de Tourisme
- 6 Offices de Tourisme
- 2 Espaces de Tourisme Régionaux à Orly

Transport network:

- 3 subway lines, 5 RER lines
- Trans-Val-de-Marne, tramway T7
- Orly airport
- Multimodal platform port of Bonneuil, 2nd largest river port in Ile-de-France

Val-de-Marne

Tourism & Leisure



Nature activities



Water-based activities



Camping



Cruise



Guinguette



Bike rental



Children's leisure activities



Sports activities



Museum or monument



Tourist Information point



Company visits



RER A, B, C, D, E



Underground lines 1, 7, 8

Mapping solutions : Pitney Bowes Business Insight

STROLL AROUND STREET ART AND ORIGINAL TOURS WITH UNIQUE ENCOUNTERS



A stroll around street art, meet the experts

Vitry-sur-Seine has been turned into a genuine open-air museum. The town streets have become a vast ground of expression for the hundreds of artists of international fame: C215, Cope2, Bébar, Finbarr... Graffiti, stencil painting, mosaic and more, colour this urban landscape. Simply wandering through the streets you will come across, at the corner of a building, along a wall or on a letter box, the many works of art in the town. You can also take part in a guided tour (www.tourisme-valdemarne.com) or follow one of our proposed tours on the web site.

Original tours: taking a fresh look at Val-de-Marne

Urban strolls, Company visits, cruises, meeting artists and artisans, delving into the world of contemporary art, activities for children, **Val-de-Marne Tourism & Leisure proposes a selection of new excursions, original tours and unique encounters with passionate enthusiasts all year round.**



Walking with a "greeter"

To discover the region in an original way, let yourself be guided by a volunteer from the area who will take you to the less well-known parts of his town. He will share with you the history and stories of his district. It will just like being with friends.

To organise your visit:
www.tourisme-valdemarne.com

SCENE AROUND ART AND CULTURE

CONTEMPORARY ART

Val-de-Marne is home to contemporary artistic creation. It played a pioneering role in the promotion of contemporary art by welcoming the very first museum on this theme in the suburbs, the MAC/VAL. It has abundant artists' workshops, art galleries, contemporary creations and presents a rich and renowned program of festivals all year long. Discover the artistic vitality of the region on one of your sightseeing tours around Vitry-sur-Seine, the capital of street art.



MAC/VAL - © CDT94

MAC/VAL, a unique museum of contemporary art located in the outskirts of Paris (Vitry-sur-Seine)

Enter into the world of this Contemporary art museum in Val-de-Marne. It houses an art collection of more than 2,000 artworks, reflecting the art scene in France from the 50's up to now. Across the seasons, themed tours and temporary exhibitions invite you to discover the latest trends in contemporary art: optical and lumino-kinetic art, geometric abstraction, action painting, etc. Visit the museum with an expert guide and enjoy an interactive encounter with the abundant artworks.

Not far from here, take the time to discover CREDAC in Ivry-sur-Seine. Located in the former grommet factory, this contemporary art centre is an exhibition space and place to experiment favouring exchanges between artists and the general public.



Closerie Falbala - © Fondation Dubuffet/A.D.A.G.P. Paris

An extraordinary site: the "Closerie Falbala" By Dubuffet (Péréigny-sur-Yerres)

Enter into this unique world of the "closerie Falbala" created between 1971 and 1973 by Jean Dubuffet (classified as a historical monument). This monumental work of art shelters the "Cabinet logologique". Just beside it a museum exhibits part of Dubuffets' artworks: elements from the animated painting show "Coucou Bazar", paintings and architectural models.

SCENE AROUND ART AND CULTURE "CHATEAUX" AND MUSEUMS

Val-de-Marne is rewarded with a rich and varied cultural heritage. Delve into the history and cross through the ages to explore majestic buildings such as the "Château de Vincennes" and the "Château de Grosbois" and museums on the 19th century or even on National resistance.



Château de Vincennes - © CDT94/D. Thierry

Royal, Château de Vincennes (Vincennes)

A spectacular monument in Val-de-Marne, the Château de Vincennes is not to be missed. It was a royal residence from the 12th to the 18th century. It has preserved its ramparts, its medieval towers, its gothic chapel "Sainte-Chapelle" and its stained-glass windows and more importantly, its medieval dungeon, the highest in Europe (50 metres). A free or guided tour of this fortress managed by the "Centre des monuments nationaux" (National Monuments Centre) will take you back through history, to Charles V apartments and the prison life of some famous prisoners such as Henri de Navarre, the Marquis de Sade or Mirabeau.

Take the time to wander through the town of Vincennes that has been awarded the label "Town of Art and History".



Château de Grosbois - © CDT94/D. Thierry

The refined world of the Château de Grosbois and horse trotters (Boissy-Saint-Léger)

Constructed in the 17th century, the Château de Grosbois stands proudly in the centre of a vast wooded park. The interior is entirely furnished, a testimonial to its prestigious owners represented on the frescos by Abraham Bosse at the time of Charles de Valois, or in the gallery with its immense paintings representing napoleonic battles at the time of Marshal Berthier.

The castle also houses the musée du Trot (horse trotting museum) which recounts the 3,000 years of history between man and horse.

You can also see horse trotters at the international training centre. Established on 412 hectares of woodland, ponds and meadows, this centre of worldwide reputation includes more than 1,500 stalls, several tracks, a horse-riding arena, horse-shoeing, saddlery, veterinary clinic...

SCENE AROUND ART AND CULTURE "CHATEAUX" AND MUSEUMS



Musée Fragonard, face to face with "flayed figures" (Maisons-Alfort)

Located in the historic park of the prestigious Ecole nationale vétérinaire de Maisons-Alfort (National Veterinarian School of Maisons-Alfort), this curiosity cabinet exhibits a unique collection devoted to house pets, skeletons, mouldings, and natural abnormalities (cyclopes, sirens, two-headed calves...). You are about to enter into both a surprising and fascinating world. The famous "Flayed Figures" by Honoré Fragonard are reason enough to visit this museum, in particular the "Horse and rider", the horse in full gallop mounted by a stiff-backed rider...



Musée de la Résistance (Champigny-sur-Marne)

Housed in a mansion from the 19th century overlooking the Marne, this museum traces the history of the Resistance during the 2nd World War. It's a place of remembrance and reflection for present and future generations. The Museum shelters major collections of clandestine editions and archives from Resistance organizations.



Le Diorama de Daguerre (Bry-sur-Marne)

Painted by Louis Daguerre, this Diorama (classified as a historical monument) is the last existing one. This painting, 5m35 by 6m15, dating from 1842, has just found its place in the heart of the church of Bry after several years of restoration.

SCENE AROUND WORK

Companies in Val-de-Marne open their doors and invite you in to discover their savoir-faire. Follow the enthusiastic technician or member of staff in their daily routine to better understand the job at hand, the techniques used and the inner workings of the firm. Dare to go behind the scenes of the world's largest wholesale market for fresh produce.



MIN de Rungis - © CDT94

A night in the buzz and excitement of Rungis market (Rungis)

You will have to get up dead early but this not-to-be-missed visit is well worth cutting your night short.

Slip on the butcher's coat and cap for hygiene purposes and immerse yourself into this genuine little town where fish, meat, cheese, fruit, vegetables and flowers are delivered daily. 1,200 companies are spread out over the 234 hectares where, close to 1.5 million tons of foodstuffs and about 50 million flowers and potted plants pass through each year. This all happens amidst a myriad of streets frequented daily by 24,000 people.

After all these smells and colours it's time to enjoy the hearty brunch served up after your visit!



Maison de l'environnement - © CDT94/D. Adam

Visit Paris-Orly airport, ready for take-off! (Orly)

Check out life behind the scenes near the runways, learn the history and observe how the second biggest airport in the Paris region works. You will see planes up close, enjoy the coordinated gestures of ramp agents and become familiar with the landing and take-off services of the plane (ground movement, passenger boarding - enplaning and deplaning, refueling, catering) during your guided visit.

The Maison de l'Environnement et du Développement durable de l'aéroport Paris-Orly (Sustainable development and local environment culture and information centre) invites you to enhance your knowledge on aviation through the many learning tools made available.

SCENE AROUND WATER

Known familiarly as the "water department", Val-de-Marne offers several places in which to relax by the water's edge. A constant inspiration for countless writers, painters, singers and filmmakers, the riverbanks of the Marne and the Seine are the perfect setting for leisure activities. Go cycling with the family along the banks, observe the local flora and fauna, enjoy a glass of white wine in one of the "guinguettes" (a sort of riverside tavern with music and dance), admire the Art Deco villas, try out some water sports... these are just some of the activities awaiting you.

The riverbanks as seen from the river

Hop on board a boat and let yourself glide along to admire the landscape around the Marne. There are several cruise companies to choose from. Nayptune Marne cruises takes you on a guided tour to discover the many islands, three of which are classified as "Réserve naturelle départementale des Iles de la Marne" - a natural reserve. Perhaps you prefer to sail in a catalante to admire the fauna and flora with the association 'Au fil de l'eau'. In summer, take yourself back to the days of the ferryman and cross over the Marne at Champigny-sur-Marne and Nogent-sur-Marne or the Seine at Choisy-le-Roi. It is free of charge.



Cruise companies

- Nayptune Marne croisières (departure from Nogent-sur-Marne)
- Au Fil de l'eau (departure from Saint-Maur-des-Fossés)
- Canauxrama and Pariscanal (departure from Paris)



Water-based activities

The more sportive among you can opt for a discovery tour of the Marne in a canoe or kayak.

- Base nautique municipale (Champigny-sur-Marne)
- Canoë-kayak Club de France (Bry-sur-Marne)
- US Créteil Canoë-kayak (Créteil)

Helpful: a mobile app "discovering the Marne riverbanks"

Follow the Marne passing through Joinville-le-Pont, Nogent-sur-Marne, Champigny-sur-Marne and Saint-Maur-des-Fossés and let yourself be guided along with the help of this free app. Two itineraries are proposed:

One to experience the Sunday atmosphere of the Belle Epoque, the other to learn all there is to know about the art and nature of the loops and curves of the Marne.

SCENE AROUND WATER

In the land of guinguettes, a convivial setting

A true symbol of both a traditional "popular" and festive culture on the banks of the Marne, guinguettes continue even today to invite you to dance to the sound of the accordeon.

Join in the chorus of songs such as "Ah le petit vin blanc", enjoy some fried food and let yourself be carried back to the relaxing atmosphere of a Sunday afternoon at the end of the 19th century.

Three guinguettes open their doors to you.



Guinguette de l'Île du Martin-Pêcheur - © CDT94

La Guinguette de l'Île du Martin-Pêcheur (Champigny-sur-Marne)

La Guinguette de l'Île du Martin-Pêcheur happens to be situated on an island on the Marne river. It is a haven of greenery and an invitation to relax and enjoy among friends.



Chez Gégène - © CDT94/D. Thierry

La Guinguette Chez Gégène (Joinville-le-Pont)

Chez Gégène is an establishment which has honoured the greatest names in cinema and welcomes you to a 50's-60's style decor on the banks of the Marne.



Guinguette Auvergnate -
© CDT94/www.photoinfographe.com

La Guinguette Auvergnate (Villeneuve-Saint-Georges)

La Guinguette Auvergnate is situated on the banks of the river Seine. You can take advantage of the panoramic terrace and its spectacular view overlooking the river.

The "Musée de Nogent", a history of the Marne riverbanks

This museum invites you to discover the Marne riverbanks, the landscape, art structures, architecture, which are all testimonials to the history of the place, gradually shaped by man. Places, that were, in the 19th century, taken over by merry crowds of boaters bringing with them an air of gaiety and joy, accompanied to the tastes and sounds of the guinguettes and where Parisians used to come and spend their Sundays...

SCENE AROUND NATURE

Without doubt, Val-de-Marne has a pronounced taste for nature and is determined to preserve it. The Bois de Vincennes and Notre-Dame or Grosbois forests, the riverbanks of the Marne and Seine, departmental parks and natural areas, all offer a variety of ways to relax and practise leisure activities. It is a novel way to discover Val-de-Marne at your own pace and from another viewpoint.



Val-de-Marne rose garden - © Cg94

Val-de-Marne rose garden, a scented and colourful journey (L'Haÿ-les-Roses)

This rose garden, a first of its kind in the world, was created by Jules Gravereaux along with the help of the landscape architect Edouard André. Explore, through the thirteen garden collections featuring 3,000 varieties, the history of the rose and follow it on its journey through the continents. You will learn all there is to know about the greatest living collection of roses, from Asia and the Far East, but also from North America, to finally the "French" rose garden.



Vacherot Lecoufle Orchids - © CDT94

Orchids, a scent of summer (Boissy-Saint-Léger)

The orchid, from the orchidaceae family, has many tens of thousands of plant species some as rare as they are resplendent. Amidst the tropical atmosphere of the greenhouse, this visit will teach you the history of the orchid and the unique savoir-faire of the Vacherot-Lecoufle orchids, creator and producer of international renown. It is also the occasion to pick up useful tips on how to care for such a magnificent plant.

From the Amazon forest, passing through the Réunion to Asia, take the time to relish this scented journey.

Walking an rambling in Val-de-Marne

Rambling in Val-de-Marne, in a built-up area? It is possible! Check out www.tourisme-valdemarne.com for a selection of tours to do. Some leave from Paris and can be done on foot or by bike and are adapted to all levels of ability.

Discover other excursion ideas in the departmental parks. These vast green spaces are perfect for relaxing and walking. Some are equipped with play areas, sports zones, picnic areas, and also themed gardens and nature trails.



SCENE AROUND NATURE



Notre-Dame forest - © CDT94/M. Aumercier

A haven of greenery: Bois de Vincennes

The Bois de Vincennes is an unmissable place to explore on foot or by bike or simply to enjoy a boat ride on one of its lakes.

In summer, sway to the rhythm of music filtering through the woods at one of the open-air concerts in the Floral park.

Why not complete your day with a lunch or dinner at the mythical Paris-Vincennes racecourse? Its restaurant offers a panoramic view of the track and the best place to enjoy the trotting race meetings. In total, 1,200 races take place here each year, including the prestigious Prix d'Amérique, you can even visit behind the scenes with a guided tour of the stables when some of the races are on.

From one forest to the other, Notre-Dame

This forest with its 2,056 hectares is rich in exceptional fauna (deer, boar...) and flora (aquatic plants, heather, oak trees, lime trees...) that are particularly visible all along the two marked out paths. Whether you are on foot, by bike or on horseback, this green woodland is an invitation to ramble through its treks and trails.

Golfs courses

Two golf courses are ready to welcome you no matter what your level. Improve your swing in an exceptional natural setting: the undulating and wooded golf course Marolles-en-Brie (an 18-hole golf course) and catch a glimpse of the Réveillon riverbed. You can also discover this sport at the Tremblay departmental park with its 9-hole golf course in Champigny-sur-Marne.



Golf course, Marolles - © Golf de Marolles

SCENE AROUND FAMILY

Val-de-Marne never forgets the family and offers countless things to do. Museums where you can learn through play, creative workshops to reveal hidden talents, educational farms to discover nature, pony rides and many other leisure activities to delight big and small.

Here are a few suggestions of activity ideas to share with the family.



Exploradôme - © Exploradome/Q. Chaudat

Exploradôme: the please touch museum! (Vitry-sur-Seine)

This museum is an invitation to discover science, digital innovation and lasting development through 60 interactive displays, from the classical optical illusions to very original experiments. The museum also contains an annual temporary exhibition, visits and workshops around science for the 5-14 age group and multimedia for all ages.



Playmobil FunPark- © S. Cambon

Playmobil Funpark® - a giant playground

2, 000 m² and 12 play areas completely dedicated to the world of Playmobil®, a genuine giant playroom!

In this vast setting, the play areas are grouped into themes, knights and princesses, pirates, fairies, dinosaurs, farm animals...

During the school holidays your kids can take part in different activities on specific themes.

You can even celebrate your child's birthday whether it be at Playmobil FunPark® or Gulli Parc®, Acrochats®, the Fun Academy®, Little Parc®, etc. with the family or between friends!

Take also part in family workshops to explore through the ages, from the château de Vincennes taking in the "Musée de Nogent" and the Museum of contemporary art in Val-de-Marne, the MAC/VAL.

SCENE AROUND FAMILY



Paris-Vincennes zoo

Right in the middle of the woods, you might spot a giraffe and then a wolf. No, you are not dreaming! These animals belong to the Paris-Vincennes zoo. The zoo is organised into five major natural environments (called biozones) taking you on a round trip from the Sudanese Sahel to the European evergreen forests, passing through the Amazon forest recreated inside an immense tropical greenhouse. Roam around and discover a variety of 180 species!



Meet a donkey-dairy breeder (Chennevières-sur-Marne)

Head off and observe a herd of 20 animals that are not as stubborn as you might think... "Francilianes", the only donkey dairy farm in Ile-de-France, is where donkeys are born and bred. During this visit, you will learn all there is to know about donkeys and the biological function of such a farm. Observe the daily milking process and taste organic milk produced by one of the ten donkeys that make up the livestock. Children will be very happy to pet this rather pleasant and docile animal!



Ponies

The "Ecuries de Condé" (equestrian centre) offers children first time and beginner pony riding classes. You can also opt for pony rides in the Bois de Vincennes organised by Trottin or Animaponey.

In Ponyland at Thiais, young riders can ride Shetland ponies, one of the smallest equine animals in the world. Originally from the Shetland islands in the North of Scotland, they measure less than 107 cm from the shoulder and are ideal for starter rides for children.

MAJOR EVENTS OF THE YEAR

For each season, an unmissable event. All year long, Val-de-Marne proposes a multitude of festivals, artistic encounters, sports events, concerts, etc. for all tastes and interests.

Winter (December/January/February)

Christmas markets

In december 2016

Sons d'Hiver Festival (jazz)

From 29 january to 21 february 2016

Ciné Junior 94 Festival (junior cinema)

From 3 to 16 february 2016

Spring (March/April/May)

Springtime of poets / Poetry festival

From 5 to 20 march 2016

International women's film festival

From 18 to 27 march 2016, Créteil

International Rhythmic gymnastics tournament

From 26 to 27 mars 2016, Thiais

International Exit Festival (multidisciplinary)

In april 2016

International Humarathon race

In april 2016, Ivry-sur-Seine and Vitry-sur-Seine

Festival de l'Oh ! (a water-based festival)

From 28 to 29 may 2016

Vive l'Art Rue festival (street theatre)

In may and june 2016

Summer (June/July/August)

A scent of music at the Val-de-Marne rose garden

The first two weekends in june 2016, l'Haÿ-les-Roses

Franco-American music festival

From 25 to 26 june 2016

Summer (June/July/August)

Jeux du Val-de-Marne (sports festival)

In june 2016

Saint-Maur book fair (paperback)

In june 2016

Theatre Festival "We will not go to Avignon" (multidisciplinary)

In july 2016, Vitry-sur-Seine

Autumn (September/October/November)

Ile-de-France music festival

From 4 september to 9 october 2016

America Festival (literature)

In september 2016

Les Plateaux (contemporary dance festival)

In september 2016, la Briqueterie, Vitry-sur-Seine

Mur/Murs Festival (urban culture)

In september and october 2016, Vitry-sur-Seine

Festi'Val-de-Marne (music festival)

In october 2016

Short film festival "My uncle"

In october 2016, Saint-Maur-des-Fossés

Salon des Métiers d'art du Plateau Briard (craft fair in South-East Paris)

In october 2016, Marolles-en-Brie

Documentaries (cinema festival)

In november 2016, Arcueil and Gentilly

Val-de-Marne Cinema festival: "A look at..."

In november and décembre 2016

Many other sites in the department take part in national events such as "Museum Night", Heritage Open Days, garden parks, Music festivals, Food festivals, etc.

TOOLS FOR JOURNALISTS

Val-de-Marne tourist & leisure board (Comité Départemental du Tourisme) is an association created on the initiative of the County Council in 1999.

It is in charge of strategy, development and promotion of tourism in the territory, in collaboration with professionals and local structures.

Val-de-Marne tourist & leisure board is at your service :

- to prepare your article topics
- to organize your stay in the area and accompany you
- to help you find new ideas and keep you informed of what is on

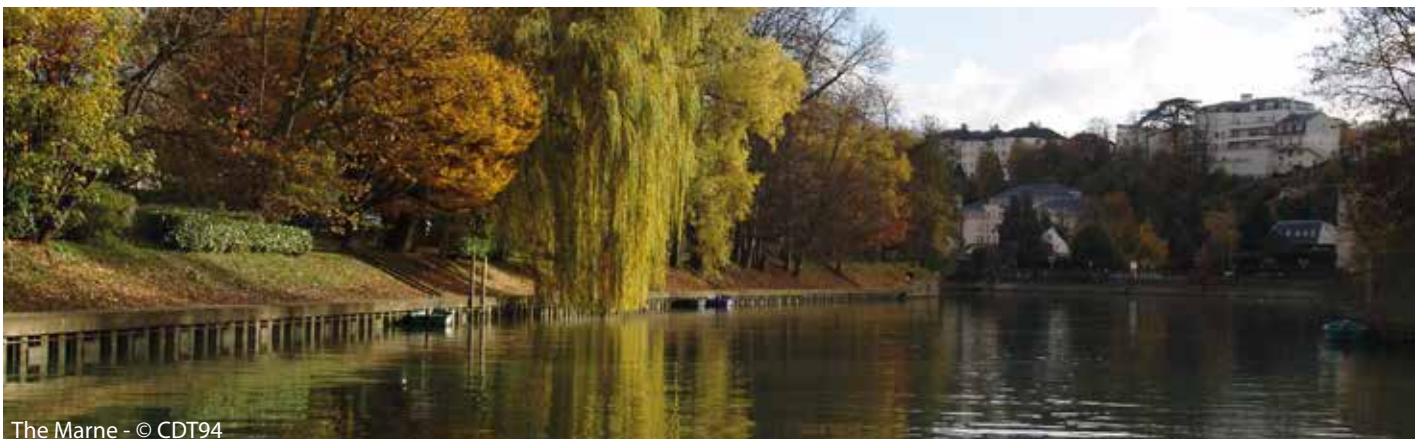
Val-de-Marne tourist & leisure board offers many tools to keep abreast of news :

- www.tourisme-valdemarne.com (in French and in English)
- Social networks (in French):
 - www.facebook.com/tourisme.valdemarne
 - twitter.com/CDTValdemarne
 - www.instagram.com/valdemarnetourisme
 - www.scoop.it/u/tourisme-valdemarne
- two newsletters : for tourists or for professionals (in French)

Press space on www.tourisme-valdemarne.com

A space is dedicated to journalists on our website. You can find:

- press releases
- image library
- portrait of Val-de-Marne
- examples of previous press



The Marne - © CDT94

Cover photo: Parc des Cormailles - Festival Au Fil de... © Christian Petit.
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