TROYES in Champagne

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TROYES USEFUL INFORMATION

TROYES - KEY FIGURES

Troyes - number of inhabitants: 62 612
Greater Troyes: 124 966 inhabitants

Twinned Cities:
Chesterfield (GB), Darmstadt (D), Alkmaar (NL), Tournai (B), Zielona-Gora (POL)

Principal Community of the district: C.A.T = Communauté de l’Agglomération Troyenne (Greater Troyes Community), founded in 1994, (evolved from the SIVOMAT): unites 11 communes of the greater Troyes region, including Troyes

Department of the Aube - Prefecture capital.
Total number of inhabitants in the Aube: 292 564
Total number of inhabitants in the Champagne-Ardenne region.: 1 337 000 (estimation 01/01/2007)

TROYES AND REGION TOURIST INFORMATION BOARD****

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9am to 12.30pm and 2 to 6pm
+ 1st November – 31st March: open 10-13 on Sunday and holidays

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1st July – 15th September: open every day 10am to 7pm
1st April – 30th June and 16th September – 31st October
open Monday through Saturday : 9am to 12.30pm and 2 to 6pm
open 10-12 and 14-17 on Sunday and holidays
Closed from 1st November – 31st March

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TROYES, the historical capital of the Champagne region

One hour and a half to the east of Paris, at the very heart of the Champagne region, Troyes, on the banks of the river Seine, has, with some considerable success, managed to retain the fine heritage of its historical past: there are 53 hectares with some magnificent listed buildings, including a number of unique 16th century wood panelled dwellings, nine listed churches, an important collection of stained-glass windows from the 13th through the 19th centuries and original statuary from the Troyes school of the 16th century.

Moreover, and this really is a strange coincidence, the Troyes town centre, which dates from Gallo-Roman times, has been constructed in the shape of a Champagne cork...a very strange phenomenon, and without doubt, unique in the world!

As you stroll through the streets of Troyes, you cannot fail to notice the numerous fine examples of 16th century Champagne architecture: the timbered houses, with their gothic gabled roofs, which frequently appear as you walk through the pedestrian area; the narrow cobbled alleyways, such as the famous Ruelle des Chats, and the small, flower bedecked squares, and old courtyards - all of which contribute to the mediaeval atmosphere of the town.

If it is the wood timbered houses that dominate in this, the old capital of the Counts of Champagne, the Renaissance has also left its mark in the shape of some fine mansions, covered in the original facing of dark brick and white chalk: the famous Champagne 'draughts' or 'chess board' pattern.
And neither have the other centuries been forgotten: with the expansion of the hosiery industry at the end of the 19th century, the Modern style and the thirties left their imprint on the town, as can be seen in the covered market in Baltard style, the stone Circus, the Gaston Viardot Villa, to name but a few.....

But this by no means everything! Troyes is home to 7 original museums with a number of particularly interesting collections:

- **The Museum of Modern Art** located in the magnificently restored old Bishop's Palace (16-17th centuries), is definitely not out of place next to the Cathedral. Built in 1982, thanks to a donation made by Pierre and Denise Levy, the museum houses some 2,000 works of art covering the period 1850-1950: paintings, drawings, sculptures, including signed works by Degas, Derain, Bonnard, Cézanne, Maillol, Rouault, Soutine, Modigliani, and Braque.....The visitor can also admire the famous 'art déco' glassware by Marinot, and a fine collection of Negro art.

- **The Maison de l'Outil et de la Pensée Ouvrière**: (Tools and Working Class Thought) located in the Hôtel de Mauroy (16th century) was restored by the Compagnons du Devoir, and houses a collection of 10,000 tools from the 17th and 18th centuries, and a library of working class literature with some 20,000 volumes.

- **The Saint Loup Museum** with sections focusing on Natural History, Archaeology and Fine Art is home, for example, to works by Mignard, Greuze, Ingres, Watteau..... and to a very rare collection of 5th century gold jewellery.

- Located in the Hôtel de Vauluisant (16th century), is the unique Hosiery Museum, which retraces the evolution of this industry, which started life in Troyes in 1745, and the Troyes and Champagne Historical Museum, which exhibits paintings and sculptures of 16th century Troyes.

- “The Di Marco Museum”. This is the first of its kind in France, adding to our collection and bringing a touch of the unusual with almost 4000 drawings of various facts in the daily press, courtesy of the talent and the pen of Angelo Di Marco, reporter and artist who dedicated his highly expressive style to the service of truth.

- and last but not least, the Old Apothecary of the Hôtel-Dieu-le-Comte (18th century).

- Finally there is the Old Library, which, with its 140,000 volumes, is one of the richest libraries in France with an exceptional collection of manuscripts and early printed books.
TROYES, where heritage goes hand in hand with expertise

Troyes, the cradle of international trade in the 12th and 13th centuries.
From the famous mediaeval Champagne fairs that attracted tradesmen from all over Europe and the Orient, to the development of the very first looms in the 18th century - the very roots of Troyes and the Aube tap the desire to continue to explore new horizons.

Troyes, a creative town even in the 16th century
The Troyes School of Sculpture was the last centre of gothic art. The master sculptors embellished the churches, the cathedral and the museums with hundreds of invaluable works of art.
As well as being ever present throughout the city, these works of art are also to be found throughout the entire world, and thus continue to bear witness to Troyes expertise. The New York Metropolitan Museum is home to a number of these remarkable sculptures.

Troyes, the City of Light
The art of stained-glass window making which was practised in Troyes and the Aube from the 12th through the 17th century, puts our department at the top of the national stained glass window league - the region has the richest heritage of old, listed stained-glass windows in France, with some 10,000 m² of original windows.
And the art is still very much alive in Troyes thanks to the survival of a number of workshops where master stained-glass window makers perform their art; these workshops also function as a true experimental laboratory ‘in situ’ for the protection and restoration of old windows, and the presence of a number of modern companies also mean that the image of the 'Soleil Verre' - the 'Glass Sun' - will continue on into the future.
The development of a Glass Centre is also under way; the centre is to specialize in training craftsmen for the glass trade, and will also include a research centre, serving as a showcase for the outside world, as well as being a distribution and cultural channel.
Troyes, true craftsmanship, and the Compagnons du Devoir

Arts and crafts have enjoyed a very rich history in Troyes. The media of glass, stone, wood and bronze serve as equally outstanding witnesses as do the craftsmen who left their imprint on the town.

The significant restoration projects that the town has engaged in for the past 20 years have revealed true craft skills, the roots of which can be found in the history of the town.

The prestigious Hôtel de Mauroy (16th century) houses the House of Tools and Working Class Thought, a museum that exhibits some important written works on the history of crafts (some 20,000 volumes), and the finest tool collection in Europe, with over 10,000 tools from the 17th and 18th centuries. The restoration of this collection was entrusted to the Compagnons du Devoir du Tour de France.

Hoping to develop this area of economic activity, and to train young people in these skills, Troyes has, since 1966, had a ‘Maison des Compagnons’ or Guild House, a remarkable institute, thanks to which the memory of French craft skills is sustained so richly today.

Troyes and the first European Craft University

Moreover, with the support of local, regional and national public bodies and the collaboration of the Compagnons du Devoir, Troyes has, since 1989, been home to this institute which trains craftsmen for the year 2000 and beyond.

The Troyes University of Technology

On a 20,000 m² site, some 2,500 apprentice engineers are to be found, divided among 3 skill areas (mechanical engineering, industrial engineering, information technology). Since autumn 1996 these students have been able to benefit from the use of high-tech equipment, and will later, hopefully, go on to make a contribution towards the industrial development of the entire region.

The “Maison du Patrimoine” (Heritage Museum)

The Maison du Patrimoine is an ancient Templars’ cellar reconstructed in the Troyes commune of Saint Julian le Villas and is dedicated to maintaining the recognition of its regional and national heritage. (Did you know that the Story of the knight Templars began in Troyes ?)

The organisation of conferences, lectures and talks, workshops and the presentation of exhibitions created “in situ”, or prepared by other cultural services, provides backup and learning support for higher education courses and learning in and around Troyes.
Companies of international repute

The Textile Industry and Factory Shops

Machine knitting, introduced to our town in the middle of the 18th century, has been the economic mainstay of our department. Lacoste, Petit Bateau, Absorba, Adidas, DD, Olympia, Barbara, to name but a few, are the prestigious brands that are produced by our local factories. Faced with ever changing market trends, and faced with significant technological changes, all of which has left their mark on this branch of industry, the hosiery industry has been forced to adapt. Today, in Troyes and the region there are still some 200 companies that provide work for a good 10,000 people. This industry has managed to develop a number of specialities, including finishing (dyeing and printing for the knitwear industry), and knitting, which have made a significant impression at European and international levels. The industry has also opened up into other activities, such as footwear and women's ready-to-wear fashion, both of which are currently receiving recognition and are growing in importance.

A spin-off of the hosiery industry is the Factory Shop, which is a booming economic phenomenon. Millions of visitors from many different regions come to our town in droves to pick up a bargain. Well-known brand names and famous companies are all represented here, and, thanks to the new motorway infrastructure, Troyes has become the capital for Factory Shops, at least as far as textiles and clothing are concerned.

Metallurgical industry

Troyes and the Aube are home to over 200 companies that enjoy world renown in all the processes involved in the transformation of raw materials to the finished product. It is not surprising that this speciality is one of the main economic sectors in the Aube, with the international renown of names such as Petitjean, Vachette, Gravograph Industrie, Dubix, Sté Mécanique de Bernon....

Packaging

In the Aube, and Champagne, about 250 companies are involved in logistics and packaging. In March 1992 these companies joined together to form an association with the name of 'Packaging Valley', in the Troyes region. Every year sees the international packaging congress 'Packinnove' being held at Troyes; it was held for the 12th time in 2001.

Chemistry and Synthetics: a highly technical area.

This new industrial sector, which employs around 3,000 people in the Aube, includes a number of companies that have taken no time at all to join the national, and even international ranks. The Troyes region is home, for example, to Kleber, in the rubber industry; to Rexam Plastic Packaging in the farm-produce industry, number one in the hard plastics sector with customers such as Besnier, Danone, Unilever; Holdiam (which includes Néomédian, Stratos and Acryl Vallée), which is number one in acrylic baths; Clarooplast, the regional leader in PVC windows; Technoplast Industrie and Technoplast Sanitaires for the automobile industry, leisure and sanitary equipment; C.H.T., which manufactures and markets products for finishing textiles, Avery Dennison France for plastic office items, and Clariant (ex Sandoz group) which distributes numerous ranges of dye for the textile industry; and as far as Lafarge Plafrés is concerned, the company houses one of the 2 continuous moulding machines to be found in the world and also functions as a pilot factory.

Other high-tech sectors

Electronics: with the Tekelec, Valeo Electronique group, and the C.Q.E. company, of international renown.

Glass: with the Vermont company, a manufacturer of light bulbs for the car industry.

Farm-produce industry: with the Jacquot company, well known for the manufacture of chocolates, the Gilbert Lemelle company, of 'Andouillettes de Troyes' fame, whose products are known of as far afield as Japan, and the Bucheres Distillery that produces superfine alcohol for the food, perfumery, chemical and pharmaceutical industries.
TROYES at the leading edge

Together with the people of Troyes and in partnership with the Greater Troyes Community (C.A.T.) and the Department of the Aube, the town of Troyes can truly be said to be at the leading edge...Some examples....

... in Industrial and Craft industries
Numerous professional exhibitions, one example being the 'Packinnove', which every year brings together some 450 companies, promote the integration of contemporary creativity and the latest high-tech into the expertise of the craftsmen.

.... with the Textile workers
The fashion shows, and the European Research Centre ITF Maille (knitwear), make Troyes a centre of excellence in the knitwear and the international market.

... with the shopkeepers
Promotional activities and special events bring life to the commerce of the town centre.
A partnership agreement, signed on 9 April 1997 by the Minister of PME (small businesses) for Trade and Crafts, has meant the official launch of the 'Centre 2000' project, whose remit is to revitalise the centre of Troyes through its commercial offerings (special events, training for the shopkeepers, market research, the commercial environment and even parking problems)

... with Cultural and Tourist specialists
To confirm Troyes' status as one of France's great cultural centres (some examples):

- The 'Nuits de Champagne Festival' (Champagne Nights) sets the scene for the French-speaking voice (end of October)

- the Salon Régional du Livre pour la Jeunesse (Regional Children's Book Fair), in October, the 2nd most important fair of its kind in France with 30,000 volumes on show, and the Fairs of Champagne, at the beginning of June, one of the most important commercial fairs in the region.

- the events referred to as "Ville en lumières" and "Ville en Musiques" (Musical Town) light up the summer with concerts and evening performances in the churches and historical sites in the town centre (from the end of June to the end of August).

- the 48 Heures d'Automobiles Anciennes (48 Hours of Vintage Cars) where more than 200 magnificent vehicles of all ages and from many different countries are admired by amateurs and collectors alike (held every two years in September).

- and the Espace Argence, in the very heart of the town, is a truly multicultural, vocational centre for entertainment and education, and house a theatre and congress hall, a music, dance and drama academy and, since 2002 a multimedia reference library.
TROYES, City of Knitwear and Fashion

Troyes, the Capital of Hosiery, City of Knitwear, has become the Centre of Fashion and Textile.

Ever since the 12th century Troyes has been famed for its textile industry, but the history of Hosiery (the production of cotton bonnets) really starts at the Hôtel de Jean de Mauroy which he turned into the headquarters of the Hôpital de la Trinité, a shelter for poor children, where they were trained in a trade.

In 1745 a start was made in teaching the use of the recently invented machines for the mechanical production of stockings. The first factory making knitted stockings came into being, and was to become the town’s most important factory. In 1770 Troyes was home to 40 hosiers.

Since then, the manufacturers of the Aube and Troyes have never ceased innovating in this field.

In greater Troyes, there are currently some 150 companies involved in the production of textile. The area is the main centre for knitwear in France, uniting in one and the same locality every activity concerned with textile and clothing and covering the entire range of products, with the exception of gloves and millinery. The research centre that specialises in knitwear (ITF Maille), founded in 1957, is unique in France.

Troyes means Shopping!...

Troyes saw the birth of Factory Shops in the 60s, the idea behind which was to dispose of the production surplus of local industry. Originally reserved for factory employees, the shops were gradually opened up to the general public.

Today the fame of the factory shops and the expertise to be found in the industries in our department cannot be denied. Thousands of visitors from numerous regions find their way to our town to pick up a bargain. The number of visitors to these shops is estimated at nearly one and a half million a year.

Famous brand names are represented, and it is these names that have turned Troyes into an important Centre for Textile and Clothing, and into a veritable capital for the factory shops which clothe the visitor.

Today there are 2 main factory shop areas near Troyes, representing more than 85 000 m² of offers, more than 250 shops and a choice between 500 well known brands such as Kenzo, Armani, Burberry, Lancel, Petit Bateau, Swarovski, Hugo Boss, Gérard Darel, Yves Saint Laurent, Guess, Lulu Castagnette, Naf-Naf, Gentleman Farmer, and so on...

- St. Julien-les-Villas, towards Dijon, with centres such as the 'Club des Marques' (with Lacoste) and 'Marques Avenue' or 'Marques Avenue Decoration', about 120 shops in all, the very first ones being located in the old, restored factory of the Coopérateurs de Champagne
- and the Pont-Saint-Marie area, towards Châlons-Nancy, with centres such as 'Marques City', 'Adidas' and 'McArthur Glen', a group of 130 shops which opened their doors in the autumn of 1995.
TROYES, City of Knitwear and Fashion

Two Museums on the history of Hosiery:

L'Hôtel de Mauroy (the Mauroy Mansion) - 16th century

Jean de Mauroy, a tax inspector, built this private mansion in 1560. It was turned by testament into an orphanage, and run by the Brothers of Redemption of Paris, called Trinité des Enfants Bleus (Trinity of the Blue Children) because the children were dressed entirely in blue.

It was here that, in 1745, the Hosiery industry was born, with the arrival of the first loom for knitted stockings. The Compagnons du Devoir du Tour de France, to whom the Town of Troyes entrusted its restoration, did a magnificent job. The Hôtel de Mauroy then became the Maison de l’Outil et de la Pensée Ouvrière (The House of Tools and Working Class Thought).

In a very spectacular way, this museum exhibits a unique collection of 10,000 old tools, for wood, metal, leather, and stone working, all from the 17th and 18th centuries. A very comprehensive library with almost 20,000 volumes, focuses on working class literature, and completes the collection.

A very tangible atmosphere of human warmth and beauty radiates from this museum, which is open every day (except 24th December and 1st January) 10am to 6pm- 7, Rue de la Trinité - Tel. 00 33 (0)3.25.73.28.26
TROYES, City of Knitwear and Fashion

L’Hôtel de Vauluisant (the Vauluisant Mansion) - 16th century

This old private mansion was originally a hostel for the monks of Vauluisant Abbey (Yonne). It is a fine example of Renaissance architecture. The building houses 2 museums:

- the Musée Historique de Troyes et de la Champagne (the Historical Museum of Troyes and Champagne) which traces the development of the town over the centuries (plans, fortifications, settlement) and has a fine collection of sculptures and paintings from the Troyes Schools of the 16th century,

- the Musée de la Bonneterie (the Museum of Hosiery) only two of which exist in France (the museum in Roanne exhibits more recent work).

Here the visitor can see everything relating to the History of Knitwear since Antiquity, and the History of Troyes Hosiery since the 18th century (the first looms, artefacts from the clothing industry that are over 300 years old: stockings, cotton hats, slippers.....).

The museum is very interesting and unusual. It is open every day except Monday and public holidays, 10am to 13 noon and 2 to 7pm - Rue de Vauluisant - Tel.00 33. (0)3.25.42.33.33
TROYES, AUBE, Good Life and Celebrities

Did you know about it ?...

The famous 'Andouillettes'

In 878, Louis II or Louis the Stutterer as he was known, having been crowned King at Troyes, served 'andouillettes' (small pork tripe sausages) during the celebration dinner!

In 1560 the Royal Army breached the city walls to retake the town from the 'Leaguers', commanded by the Duke of Guise, Governor of Champagne. But the royal soldiers scattered in the Saint Denis neighbourhood, which is behind the Cathedral, and they lingered too long in the houses of the tripe processors, looking for the famous 'andouilles'. The Leaguers surprised the greedy soldiers, and drove them out of town.

Returning from a campaign in the Bourgogne, the Sun King, Louis XIV stopped off in the town to taste this Troyes delicacy, which had become famous throughout the kingdom.

The Troyes 'Andouillette' has, for many years, won acclaim, and the G. Lemelle company, which manufactures this speciality, is very much involved in promoting its fame, not only in France, but also throughout the world. This family business has built its reputation on the quality of the product, and on the respect for the profession and on the Troyes tradition of cold meat preparation.

Founded in Troyes in 1976 by the master butcher, Gilbert Lemelle, the company now employs 140 people, and has continued the butcher's tradition for 3 generations.

Some spectacular figures that make this small business THE 'andouillette' producer of France...: with a turnover of 120 million French Francs - 12 tons of finished product per day - 20 million 'andouillettes' manufactured per year ( = 3,000 tons), equivalent to the offal of 18,000 pigs per day.

Closely related to the 'andouillette' is the 'andouille', which accounts for 250 tons a year. For three years the G. Lemelle company has been involved in the development of new products, continuing to maintain tradition : pig's trotters and hams, the production of which amounts to 150,000 tons a year.

The mission of the Association Amicale des Amateurs d'Andouillettes Authentiques (the Friends of the Authentic Andouillette Association) or AAAAA, which includes manufacturers, restaurateurs and gastronomic experts, is to maintain the quality of the production processes and the presentation of this local delicacy.
TROYES, AUBE, Good Life and Celebrities
Did you know about it ?...

The Champagne
What is often ignored is the fact that the Aube is the second most important producer of champagne after the Marne!... and that the vineyards with the Champagne appellation cover nearly 6,500 hectares and account for a quarter of champagne production, with 6,300,000 bottles.

To get to know this area better, you should take the Route Touristique du Champagne (The Champagne Tourist Route), from Bar sur Aube to the Riceys Region, which also produces the famous 'Rosé des Riceys' and 'Coteaux champenois'; the route takes you through many charming market towns and villages, where you can stop off to taste the local produce at any one of the cellars marked 'point accueil' (reception point); the route also includes many other attractive places of interest such as Clairvaux Abbey, the Bayel Crystal Glassworks, the Maison de la Vigne (House of the Vine), and the workshop of the painter Renoir at Essoyes, as well as the Nigloland recreation park at Dolancourt.

The Prunelle de Troyes
The Prunelle of Troyes, is elaborated with its recipe of origin. Its manufacturing is always made in the distillery of the Holy Storeroom Pierre, in front of the cathedral of Troyes. The storeroom is a building dating the end of 12th century, he was called the storeroom in tithes; the auction is a living house of canon built in 17th century, the tunnel of the cellar allowed to join the cathedral. The prunelle of Troyes is distilled since 1840, it obtained the golden medal in the World Fair of 1900 in Paris. For the manufacturing the nuclei of prunelle are crushed and put in maceration in the alcohol, then we make a double distillation in the still. The obtained alcoolat is married with the other natural ingredients which give it its complexity and its trade secret. The prunelle of Troyes is a titling liqueur 40 degrees.

The chocolate is a king ! ( good appetite)
The JACQUOT limited company chocolate factory, the family group created in 1920, uses(employs) 700 persons, and realizes a 780-MF turnover, among which 30 % in the export (EEC, Eastern European countries, the USA, Canada, Taiwan, Japan). She(it) transforms more than 26 000 tons of chocolate a year. At the time of Christmas, the assembly line of pralinées balls produced 3 000 boxes of a kilo per hour, that is 70 000 boxes a day!

Born to Troyes, Pascal CAFFET acquires in 1986 the chocolate factory-candy of his relatives(parents), whom he baptizes " the Palace of the Chocolate ". After a perfect performance (of taste): silver medal to the Best Apprentice of France, 1st artistic price in Grand Prix of the Greed of Dijon (1981), golden medal of Japan in the Competition Charles Proust in Paris (1988), Better Worker pastry cook of France (MOF) in 1989, he is dedicated World champion of Cake shop in 1995. He now sells his delicious chocolates in the world, and has 3 corner-shops in Japan.
TROYES, AUBE, Good Life and Celebrities
Did you know about it ?...

The 'Pays d'Othe', also called 'petite Normandie', cider country
Heirs of a tradition that goes back to the 16th century, current producers have refined this drink to meet today's taste, and have also created a number of new products such as 'Cacibel', an aperitif based on cider, black currant and honey (3°), and 'Apéropom', aged for 18 months in oak barrels before being bottled and sold, it is an 18 degree proof mix of fresh apple juice and alcohol. Recently, the cider producer, M. Hotte, decided to dedicate a museum entirely to cider: located at Eaux-Puisseaux, a barn purpose built to house the collection of presses and stills allows the visitor to study three centuries of this important activity.

On the agenda: la Journée du Cidre (The Day of Cider), Aix-en-Othe, the 2nd Sunday in September.

The 'Chaourçois', cheese country
This region of south-west Troyes prides itself on the church that houses the very beautiful 'Mise au Tombeau' (Laying in the Tomb), a 16th century sculpture group by the 'Maître de Chaource': the Master of Chaource, or the 'Maître aux figures tristes' (the Master of the sad faces) whose works can be seen in the churches of Troyes. This region is also well known for its famous Chaource cheese, one of 33 appellations contrôlées (AOC) cheeses of the 350 different kinds of cheese made in France. Another original speciality is the Chaource mushroom fondue.

On the agenda: the Chaource 'Rendez-vous Gourmand' which is held on the last Sunday in September.

The 'Briennois', the other sauerkraut country
Cabbage has been grown for over a century near Brienne-le-Château, to the northeast of the Aube. With its 5 manufacturers that account for 30% of national production our department is the second most important producer in France after the Lower Rhine area. The profession expends considerable amounts of effort to ensuring that sauerkraut is known as a true gastronomic dish, and an increasing number of chefs are putting this speciality on the menu. Our producers are also attempting to seduce the customer by developing new products: champagne sauerkraut and cider sauerkraut, using the two drinks typical of the region.

On the agenda: the Foire à la Choucroute (Sauerkraut Fair), which is held at Brienne-le-Château every year on the 3rd weekend in September.

The 'Pays des Grands Lacs', the big lake country
Including the lakes of the Forêt d'Orient and the Der lake, 'Big Lake country' is a special area at the gateway to Troyes (25 km towards Chaumont), with 5,000 hectares of water which you can take full advantage of since each lake has been designated a very precise purpose.

- the Forêt d'Orient lake (2,500 ha) is for sailing, watersports and family fun with 3 fine sandy beaches
- the Amance Lake (500 ha) is where speed and motors come together; opened in 1990, the Port Dienville leisure area has become the place to be for enthusiasts of jet-skiing, water-skiing and other motorboats.
TROYES, AUBE, Good Life and Celebrities

Did you know about it ?...

• the Temple lake (2,000 ha), where nature comes into its own, is for light sailing and fishing (carp, pike, perch...) and since motorboats are not allowed, it is a paradise of silence and bird life.

Neither should we forget that the lakes are at the very heart of the Parc Naturel Régional de la Forêt d’Orient (the Regional Orient Forest Nature Reserve), a 70,000-hectare protected area, where water and forest reign supreme.

Temple, Orient,... words that remind us of the Templars, the soldier-monks who, during the 12th century, ensured the safety of the pilgrims travelling on to the Holy Land during the Crusades.

An inhabitant of the Aube, HUGUES DE PAYNS founded the Order of the Templars at Troyes in 1118, and in Payns, a village 12 km from Troyes, there is now a museum in his honour.

Some great names in our History (among others...)

Chrestien de Troyes (1135-1183), poet and initiator in France of the courtly literature with his “Roman du Graal, King Arthur and Lancelot of the Lake”

Salomon RASHI (1040 – 1105), famous exegete who translated the Holy Bible and the Talmud

Bernard de Clairvaux (1090-1153), who approved and drafted himself the rules of the Order of the Templars, at the Council that was held in the Cathedral of Troyes in 1128.

Saint URBAIN or URBAIN IV (1185-1264) the unique troyan pope, who became the 181st pope, from 1261 to 1264 and who instituted the Holy Sacrament feast. He built a Basilica in Troyes, masterpiece of the gothic architecture.

Héloïse (1101-1164) and Abélard (1079-1142), two very famous lovers of the middle-ages, whose destiny was tragic.

Pierre MIGNARD, known as “Mignard the Roman” (1612-1695), painter to King Louis XIV, director of the Gobelins in Paris

Marguerite BOURGOYS (1620-1700) who founded the Congregation of Notre-Dame in Montréal, in Canada. She was canonised by pope Jean-Paul II in 1982

François GIRARDON (1628-1715), protected by Colbert and Lebrun, who was the Master Decorator of the gardens of Versailles palace.

Georges Jacques Danton (1759-1794) political and revolutionary man, first president of the committee of public safety, he is considered as one of the main actors of the French Revolution. Many historians describe him " as the person in charge of the reversal of the monarchy and the founder of the First French Republic "

NAPOLEON 1st (1769-1821) made his military studies to the Royal Military Academy of Brienne le Chateau (Aube) during 5 years. He was 10 years old.