

PROVINS TOURISME TOURIST OFFICE

This guide is offered to you by "Provins Tourisme, entre Bassée, Montois et Morin", your chosen intermediary during your stay in Provins and the whole territory. Our tourist agents welcome and inform you 7 days a week. You can choose a Pass card, book a medieval show or an activity... Many services are at your disposal: welcome area with landscaped esplanade, sheltered picnic area, park and adventure playground for children, camper area, toilets, tourist train stop, cashpoint, souvenir shop, bread deposit and electric bike rental during the high season, post office.

- **OPENING HOURS :**
- from 26 March to 6 November 2022: daily from 9 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.
 - from 2 January to 25 March 2022 and from 7 November 2022 to 31 December 2022: weekend and public holidays from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. - week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - annual closure of Provins Tourisme and all the monuments on 1 January and 25 December



pass cards

■ Provins Pass and Family Pass

To see more and spend less! These packages include the entrance to the five monuments :

- Caesar Tower • Tithe Barn • Underground Galleries • Museum
- Priory of Saint-Ayout

Passes not available for 25 & 26 June, 28 August, and 17 & 18 September 2022. Passes don't include the extra entrance to the events like the Medieval Festival of Provins or the Harvest Festival.

	This package includes	Price for adults	Price for children*	Cut-prices for visits, medieval shows, Tourist Train and Provins Rose Garden	Period of validity
Provins Pass	1 entrance for each monument	15 €	10 €	only on the purchase day	1 year from the purchase day according to the opening hours
Family Pass		2 adults and their children*: 45 €			

*Children: 4-12 years old. Limited to 5 children for Family Pass

■ "Âme de Jardins" Pass

Discover the most beautiful gardens of the territory! Designers' gardens or historical gardens, come and live a visual, olfactory and human experience... This theme takes you to the most beautiful gardens, three of which are listed as "Remarkable Garden". This ticket is valid for 1 year and gives access to every participant gardens.

■ **PRICE : 15 €**

visits

■ **The Priory of Saint-Ayout**

The Priory of Saint-Ayout, cradle of the medieval town of Provins, opens its doors in 2019 after 15 years of restoration! Visit this thousand year old architectural ensemble! Audio-guided visits available in English and in exchange for identity papers. No pets admitted.

■ **From 26 March to 28 August 2022 :** daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ **From 29 August to 6 November 2022 :** weekend and public holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - week from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

■ **From 2 January to 25 March and from 7 November to 31 December 2022:** weekend, public holidays and daily during the French school holidays (all zones) from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

■ **Length:** 45 min - Last admission 15 min before closure of the monument.

■ **PRICES:** adults 4,30 € - children 2,80 € (4-12 years old)

New : Included in the Pass Cards

■ **Provins, a Medieval Fair Town**

This guided visit (in French only) will lead you to original and available places, witnesses of the military, civil and religious heritage's importance.

■ **From 26 March to 6 November 2022:** weekend and public holidays at 2.30 p.m.

■ **Length:** 1h30 starting from the Tourist Office.

■ **PRICE :** adult 8 € - children 5 € (4 to 12 years old)

Package guided visit + Provins Pass: adult 21,50 € - child 14 €

Package guided visit + Family Pass: 69,50 € (2 adults and their children from 4 to 12 years old)

■ **The Tourist Train of Provins**

An original way to discover the medieval town of Provins, inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. In group or individually. Recorded comments about the history and the main monuments of Provins available in French and in English. The ticket is available all day round.

(Information open to modifications).

■ **From 26 March to 1st May 2022:** weekend and public holidays from 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. (except from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.)

■ **From 29 August to 6 November 2022:** weekend and public holidays from 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. (except from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.)

■ **no Tourist Train** on 24, 25 and 26 June 2022, and 27 and 28 August 2022

■ **in activity** until 5 p.m. on 2 July and 6 August 2022, and on 2 October 2022

■ **re-opening** on 25 March 2023

■ **PRICES:** adults 7 € - children 5 € (5-12 years old)

Enjoy reduced prices when you buy Pass Cards in Provins Tourisme or in the monuments: adults 6,30 € - children 4,50 € (5-12 years old)

■ Length of the complete tour: 30 min.

ELECTRIC BIKES

Book your electric bike and discover our landscapes at your own rhythm!

■ **TARIFS :** from 8 € for 2 hours.

NEW : commented biking hikes with a conference guide.

- from 26 March to 6 November 2022 : Saturdays at 11.00 a.m.*
- length of the tour : 1h30 starting from the Tourist Office.
- **PRICE :** 10 €

* A minimum of 8 participants is required to assure the bike's departure. Information and rental at Provins Tourist Office.

MEDIEVAL SHOWS

■ **The Legend of the Knights**

A medieval immersion, when Provins was home of foolhardy knights and princesses. At the feet of majestic ramparts, where juggling, trick riding, acrobatics and cavalcades make you dream, you will celebrate the return from crusades of the Earl Thibaud IV of Champagne, close to the beautiful

Blanche de Castille. While the luxurious city is desired by dark forces, our knights should fight and just. Then, in the sound of the swords which collide, you will shiver because of stunts and medieval siege engines. An epic adventure to share with family and friends! Educational signs and shop. Ticket sales. No pets admitted. Show produced by « Equestrio ».

■ **from 26 March to 4 July 2022:** weekend and public holidays at 3.45 p.m. - week at 2.30 p.m.

■ **25 & 26 June 2022:** Medieval Festival of Provins: on Saturday, shows at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday, shows at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

■ **from 5 July to 31 August 2022:** weekend and public holidays at 3.45 p.m. - week at 3 p.m.

■ **from 1st to 11 September 2022:** weekend at 3.45 p.m.

■ **from 12 September to 23 October 2022:** weekend at 3.45 p.m. - Tuesday and Thursday at 2.30 p.m. (if enough groups)

■ **from 24 October to 6 November 2022:** weekend and public holidays at 3.45 p.m. (Possibility of additional shows during the French school holidays)

■ **re-opening** on 25 March 2023

■ Length: 45 min. - online sale: www.equestrio.fr

■ **The Eagles of the Ramparts**

Great historical timeline about the art of falconry on horseback! In the Theatre of the Ramparts, immerse yourself in the Middle Ages, at the time when falconry became a real art of living... Discover the universe of falconry, as it was practiced in the steppes of Central Asia, in the Middle East and by Feudal Lords. You will be fascinated by the flight of eagles, hawks, falcons, kites, vultures, owls and secretary bird... This magnificent aerial ballet in perfect harmony with horses, donkey and dronedrums will leave unforgettable memories to young and old alike. After the show, visit the aviary, with about 100 birds from 25 different species. Educational signs and shop. Ticket sales. No pets admitted. Show produced by « Vol Libre » Production. (Tourist train stop).

■ **from 26 March to 5 July 2022:** weekend and public holidays at 2.30 p.m. and 5 p.m. - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 2.30 p.m.; Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

■ **25 & 26 June 2022:** Medieval Festival of Provins: at 2.30 p.m., 4 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

■ **from 6 July to 31 August 2022:** weekend and public holidays at 2.30 p.m. and 5 p.m. - week at 2.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.

■ **from 1st to 30 September 2022:** weekend at 2.30 p.m. and 5 p.m. - Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.

■ **from 1st October to 31 October 2022:** weekend and public holidays at 2.30 p.m. and 3.45 p.m. ; Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.

■ **from 22 October to 1st November 2022 :** weekend and public holidays at 2.30 p.m. and 3.45 p.m. ; week at 2.30 p.m.

■ **re-opening** on 25 March 2023

■ Length: 45 min. - online sale: www.volivre.fr

■ **COMMON PRICES FOR BOTH SHOWS:**

For 1 show, "The Legend of the Knights" or "The Eagles of the Ramparts":

- adults 12,50 € - children 8,50 € (4-12 years old)
- reduced price: adults 11 € - children 7 € (4-12 years old)

Reduced price for people with Pass Cards, students, senior, large family (only for children), people with reduced mobility and on Wednesday for children (except during school holidays). For more information, ask organizer.

For 1 show bought, receive a reduced price for the second show:

- Reduced price: adults 11,50 € - children 7,50 € (4-12 years old)

On presentation of the first ticket (bought the same day at the desk of the second show. This offer is not valid for the Medieval Festival of Provins and the Harvest Festival.

■ **Swords and Donjon**

Knights and real medieval war machines in action. Thibaud IV, the Lord of Provins, with his knights and his devoted and joker Raoul, invite you in his domaine in order to deliver all their secrets. Discover their lives through period weapons, heraldry and war machines like the Couillard, the Trebuchet and the Mangonel, which were used to attack or defend the castles and the cities. Between anecdotes and tomfooleries, our knights will show their skills and dexterity during equestrian games. This educational show full of demonstrations is a beautiful illustration of the Middle Ages to learn while having fun. Educational signs about medieval siege engines. Ticket sales. No pets admitted. Shop. Show produced by « Equestrio ».

■ **from 18 April to 1st July 2022 :** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 11.15 a.m.

■ **re-opening** on 17 April 2023

■ **Length:** 30-35 min. - online sale: www.equestrio.fr

■ **PRICES:** adults 8 € - children 5,50 € (4-12 years old)

Enjoy reduced prices when you buy Pass Cards in Provins Tourisme or in the monuments: adults 6,50 € - children 5 € (4-12 years old)

For combination ticket "Swords and Donjon" + "The Legend of the Knights", enjoy the "Knight Pass": adults 17,50 € - children 12 € (4-12 years old)

■ **Fire Horses**

Evening equestrian show during "Provins by Candlelight" : fire horses will astonish you with equestrian acrobatic feats and stunts. Show produced by "Equestrio".

■ **from 2 July to 6 August 2022:** at 9.30 p.m. and 11 p.m.

■ **PRICES:** adults 10 € - children 6 € (4-12 years old)

Tickets sold at the entrance of the show from 12 p.m. the D-day or on www.equestrio.fr

■ Length: 30 min.

■ **The Provins Rose Garden**

Discover a quiet and charming rose garden covering 3,5 hectares, with a breath-taking view of the monuments. In a bucolic atmosphere, you will learn about the story of this emblematic flower, its colours, shapes, scents, and its virtues. You will know everything there is about ancient roses - Rosa Gallica (rose of Provins), Alba, Damascena, and modern roses which flower until autumn. Presentation in preview of last creations of roses. Garden of medieval plants. During the period of hot weather, you can have a walk in this cool garden, bordered by streams; enjoy the cosy atmosphere around the fireplace from the arrival of the cold weather. Tearoom with terrace, sale of rose bushes, exhibition room and music concerts.

■ **from 26 March to 14 November 2022:** daily from 10 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.

■ **from 4 February to 25 March 2022 and from 15 November to 31 December 2022:** Friday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. - weekend and Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - daily during French school holidays (all zones) from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

■ **annual closure** in January

■ **PRICES:** adults 7 € - children 5 € (5-12 years old)

Annual ticket 25 € - free for visitors 12 years of age and under

Enjoy reduced prices when you buy Pass Cards at the Provins Tourist Office or in the monuments during spring and summer: 6,50 €

KEY INFO

- High season from 26 March to 6 November 2022
- Low season from 2 January to 25 March 2022 and from 7 November to 31 December 2022

■ **The Count Thibaud Tour**

■ **The Rose Road**

■ **The Rampart Tour**

Meeting point between walks: the Count of Champagne's coat of arms

Electric bike rental

Tourist train stop

Picnic area

Camper area

"Tourism & Handicap" stamp

Prices for information only and open to modifications.

■ **The House of local products and handicrafts**

In the heart of the upper town, discover and share the know-how behind traditional products and handicrafts: shops, periodic demonstration and making. Tourist information office and Pass Card sales. Special access for the disabled persons. Tourist train stop.



Opening hours of the Tourist information office:

- from 26 March to 6 November 2022: daily from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Monday.
- from 8 November to 24 December 2022: weekend from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- annual closure: from 1st to 31 January 2022, 11 November 2022, and from 25 December 2022 to 31 January 2023.

■ FREE ENTRANCE

SUGGESTED SIGHTSEEING WALKS

To help you discover the history and sites of medieval Provins, why not try one of these three sightseeing walks. The only costs involved in these walks are entrance fees to the various monuments. You can follow them only thanks to this guide, no sign or panel in the medieval city.

• Where a walk itinerary includes this sign (X), it indicates the site of an information board by the monument. The explanations given on these boards provide further information about the monument's history.

Orange Itinerary:
The Count Thibaud Tour

■ **Length:** 1h30 hour

■ **Difficult part of the walk:** The steeply sloping Rue Saint-Thibault

Thibaud IV is the most famous of the Counts of Champagne. Known as "The Songster", he was a poet and skilled horseman who took part in several crusades for the French crown. He instituted the safe conduct system to protect merchants and their wares from highway robbery by means of an armed escort, thereby enabling the town of Provins to become the capital of the medieval Champagne Fairs.

Blue Itinerary:
The Rose Road

■ **Length:** 2.30 to 3 hours

■ **Difficult part of the walk:** The steeply sloping Rue Saint Thibault and Rue des Jacobins

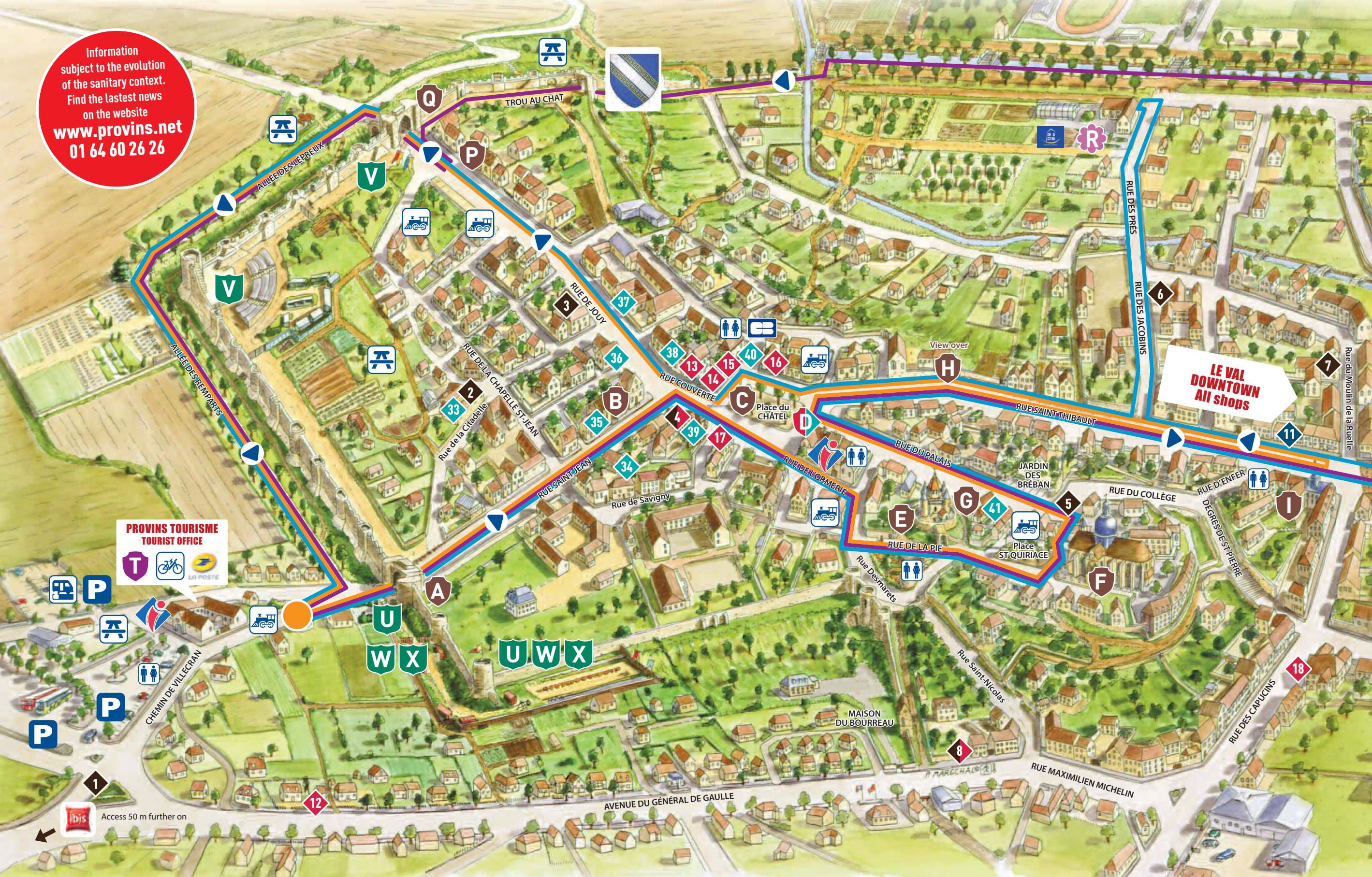
One of the town's strongest symbols, the Damascus rose is an ancient variety brought back from the crusades by Count Thibaud. This ancestor of all our present-day rose varieties was formerly renowned for its medicinal properties. The Damascus rose flowers at the end of May and in June and is often likened to a dog rose. You can admire the Provins Rose Garden and even try some rose petal jam, sweets, syrup, ice-cream, etc. in our local shops.

Purple Itinerary:
The Rampart Tour

■ **Length:** 2.30 to 3.30 hours

■ **Difficult parts of the walk:** The steeply sloping Rue Saint-Thibault, plus the steep gradient of the Trou-au-Chat at the end of Boulevard d'Aligre

The impressive town ramparts have dissuaded many enemies from attacking Provins. They developed as the town grew, eventually measuring as much as 5 kilometres in length. The ramparts are fortified by a unique variety of tower shapes - square, rectangular, polygonal, round or almond-shaped.



Cross the shop of the Tourist Office and head towards the old town to admire:

■ **The Saint-Jean's gate and the ramparts**

These splendid fortified walls were built in the 13th century. The gate's purpose was with its two almond-shaped towers, was to ensure the protection of the old road to Paris. On the right, you can find the medieval show area for "The Age of the Ramparts" and "The Legend of the Knights".

Go under the archway and along Rue Saint-Jean. Stop in front of the 13th century merchant's house on your left:

■ **The Tithe Barn**

This typical Provins house with its superb vaulted cellar used to be rented to the merchants of Toulouse when they came to town for the Champagne Fairs. The audio-guided visit takes you back to this lively era thanks to the scenography, which brings to life the main crafts and merchants of this time. Loan of the audio-guide against identity paper. Ticket and Pass Card sales. No pets admitted.

■ **from 26 March to 28 August 2022:** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ **from 29 August to 6 November 2022:** weekend and public holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - week from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

■ **from 2 January to 25 March 2022 and from 7 November to 31 December 2022:** weekend, public holidays and daily during French school holidays (all zones) from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

■ **10 & 11 December 2022:** Christmas in Provins: from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ **PRICES:** adults 4,30 € - children 2,80 € (4-12 years old)

■ Length: about 35 min. - Last admission 15 min. before closure of the monument.

Turn right at the end of the road, and enter:

■ **La Place du Châtel**

This is the very heart of the upper town. In its centre stand an ancient well and the "Exchange Cross" dated from the 13th century, where there were financial transactions. Also called the "Cross of the Edicts", it was used as a public notice board for the edicts of the Counts and later for those of the King. All around you can see the Cockle-Shell House, the remains of the Saint-Thibault church... (tourist train stop).

At the far side of the square walk down Rue de l'Ormerie and Rue Desmarts. Can you see the typical façades of the stone built houses? The smallest door in each house leads to the cellar, 150 of which lie scattered throughout the town. These cellars are usually vaulted, with carved pillar capitals. They were occasionally used as store-rooms during the Champagne Fairs, and some even did duty as shops. After Rue Desmarts, the Rue de la Pie will lead you to the impressive:

■ **Caesar Tower**

This keep was built in the 12th century as a symbol of the Counts of Champagne's power. It was used as a watch tower, prison, bell-tower... The last floor offers a panoramic view over the town. At the end of your visit, a scenography will take you back in time to give you a glimpse of the reign of Henri the Liberal. Illumination at nightfall. Ticket and Pass Card sales. No pets admitted.

■ **from 26 March to 6 November 2022:** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ **from 2 January to 25 March 2022 and from 7 November to 31 December 2022:** weekend and public holidays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - week from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

■ **10 & 11 December 2022:** Christmas in Provins: from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ **PRICES:** adults 4,30 € - children 2,80 € (4-12 years old)

■ Length: about 35 min. - Last admission 15 min. before closure of the monument.

Turn left on leaving the tower to discover charming Saint-Quirice square. You must have noticed the dome as you arrived, and you are now in front of:

■ **The Saint-Quirice Collegiate church**

Erected in the 12th century by the will of Count Henri le Liberal, it has never been completed due to the French kingdom's financial difficulties under the reign of Philippe le Bel. The nave and the portal should have raised up to the end of the square. The dome was built in the 17th century following a fire. Illumination at nightfall (tourist train stop).

Thibaud de Champagne High School (Lycée), former Palace of the Counts of Champagne, is on your right at the end of Rue Pierre Vénier.

Take the stairway of "Jardin des Brébans" and find the information board. There you will see the palace in the schoolyard and read interested discoveries over the churches of Provins. Then, walk up Rue du Palais. The strange, uneven building at n° 7 is:

■ **The Provins and the Provins area Museum**

Situated in the Romanesque House (12th century), one of the oldest of the town, it houses collections related to the town and its areas' history from Antiquity to the 19th century. Ticket sales. No pets admitted.

■ **from 8 January to 4 February 2022 and from 14 November to 18 December 2022:** weekends and holidays from noon to 5.30 p.m.

■ **from 5 February to 10 June 2022:** daily from noon to 5.30 p.m.

■ **14 May 2022:** European Night Museums: from 5.30 p.m. to midnight

■ **from 11 June to 18 September 2022:** daily from 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.

■ **from 19 September to 13 November 2022:** daily from noon to 5.30 p.m.

■ **annual closure:** 28 August 2022, and from 19 December 2022 to 6 January 2023 included

■ **PRICES:** adults 4 € - reduced price 2 €

■ Length: about 45 min. - Last admission 30 min. before closure of the monument.

All roads lead to Castle Square. Leave the square on your right by Rue Saint-Thibault, but be careful of the slope! Half-way down this road the astonishing building that you see far off to your left is:

■ **The Franciscan Abbey**

Located out of the ramparts, this religious monument was built in the 13th century by the Earl Thibaud IV, on the hill face to his palace, after a vision of Sainte Catherine. It became a hospital in 1749, by order of Louis XV. The archives of the National Department of Patrimony and Historic Monument, and a college of tourism are kept in this building, which only opens to the public on rare occasions.

On your right at the end of the road you will find:

■ **The Underground Galleries and the General Hospital**

The guided tour will lead you through this wonderful network. Regular departures with 25 persons maximum. Ticket and Pass Card sales. No pets admitted. Above, the ancient palace of the countesses became the general hospital for the most disadvantaged in the 12th century.

ENGLISH GUIDED TOUR DEPARTURES:

- from 26 March to 8 July 2022: weekend, public holidays and extraday at 2.30 p.m.
- from 9 July to 28 August 2022: weekend, public holidays and extraday at 2.30 p.m. - week at 2 p.m.
- from 29 August to 6 November 2022: weekend, public holidays and extraday at 2.30 p.m.

Please notice that guided tours in french language are available all year long. Information and booking at the Provins Tourist Office. "

■ **PRICES:** adults 4,50 € - children 3 € (4-12 years old)

■ Length: about 45 min. To be booked when purchasing ticket at the Tourist Office or in the monuments (ask for tour in English).

FROM THIS POINT YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS:

If you want to take **The Count Thibaud Tour**, go back up Rue St-Thibault and follow the itinerary starting from monument "P" (see below).

If you prefer to continue **The Rose Road** or **The Rampart Tour**, follow the instructions on the other side of this sheet, before returning to the Count of Champagne's coat of arms for more discoveries...

In the middle of the Rue St-Thibault, take the Rue des Jacobins and the Rue des Prés if you want to visit The Provins Rose Garden. If not, continue to walk up. Cross Castle Square and go along Rue de Jouy to n° 34, which is:

At the top of the slope, go through the Faneron Postern. The interior passageway formed by this semicircular stone arch enabled the town's inhabitants to come and go in safety. Bear left as you come out of the archway into Rue de Jouy and go to n° 34, which is:

■ **The Holy Ghost Cellar**

This sumptuous vaulted cellar is the remnant of a general hospital for mendicants and pilgrims. Built in the 12th century, it has been destroyed by fire in the 17th century. Nowadays, it is used as a function room (tourist train stop).

Go towards the fortified gate. The stairway here leads to the rampart walk, which you can follow freely as far as "The Eagles of the Ramparts" show area:

■ **The Jouy Gate**

Erected in the 12th century, this door owned a pinnacle, a small bell-skeep which permitted to watch out and warn against enemies.

If you take Leper Alley (Allée des Lépreux) and Ramparts Alley, you can walk round the ramparts as far as the Tourist Office, admiring the fine views and getting an idea of the strength of the town walls. Here on the corner stands the greatest of the rampart towers, the Engine Tower (so named because it said that the metal parts used to make siege engines were stored nearby). The defensive ditch here has never been filled with water.