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# L'Abbaye -aux- Hommes

IN CAEN



2025  
Visitor's guide

MILLENNIUM  
**Caen**  
2025

**CAENA**  
NORMANDIE

# L'Abbaye -aux- Hommes

A MUST-SEE MONUMENT IN CAEN...

**The Abbaye-aux-Hommes (Men's Abbey) is an architectural masterpiece of medieval art, but also of the 18th century. The monastery was built in the 11th century, then rebuilt in the 18th century, and now houses Caen City Hall. Take the time to enjoy a stroll through the majestic cloister and to discover exhibitions retracing the history of the site.**



This year, Caen is celebrating 1,000 years of history with over 250 events showcasing its rich heritage, its artistic and scientific culture, and projecting it into the future.

**Exceptional exhibitions, lectures and guided tours are being held at the Abbaye-aux-Hommes.**

(Program on pages 6 & 7)

MILLENAIRECAEN2025.FR



**... AND ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY HALLS IN FRANCE.**

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Reception desk in the City Hall entrance lobby
- Ticket office and shop close 30 minutes before site closing time
- Payment by cheque, cash and bank card
- Tips not accepted
- Assistance dogs accepted (including in the church)

The Church of Saint-Étienne, the former abbey church of the Abbaye-aux-Hommes, is still used for worship but is now separate from the former monastery. It is open to visitors free of charge Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm, Saturday from 10am to 6pm and Sunday from 2pm to 6pm, except during religious services and ceremonies.

*Please note: these times are subject to change by the Parish.*

## SHOP - SOUVENIRS

The abbey shop offers a wide range of books and souvenirs: tote-bags, Monnaie de Paris souvenir coins, mugs, toys... all bearing the effigy of the Abbaye-aux-Hommes and its illustrious characters!


**To celebrate Caen's 1,000th anniversary, the Abbaye-aux-Hommes shop is offering a range of unique items: Monnaie de Paris souvenir coins, souvenir banknotes, pins... Collectors beware: limited editions!**

## CONTACT AND RESERVATIONS

Reception – Abbaye-aux-Hommes

Hôtel de ville de Caen

Esplanade Jean-Marie-Louvel 14027 Caen cedex 9

+33 (0)2 31 30 42 81  - [abbayeauxhommes@caen.fr](mailto:abbayeauxhommes@caen.fr)

Information: [caen.fr/abbaye-aux-hommes](http://caen.fr/abbaye-aux-hommes)



# Self-guided tours

## DISCOVERY TOUR (without guide)

All year round, explore **the cloister, the calefactory, the scriptorium, the Great Staircase and the gatehouse** at your own pace.

The gatehouse and the calefactory have **permanent exhibition** spaces: «Caen, un été 44, la vie continue» (Caen, in the summer of 44, life goes on), with its section on the Liberation of Caen, and «Les mondes normands, 1066-1204» (The worlds of Normandy, 1066-1204). The scriptorium regularly hosts **temporary exhibitions**, which you can also enjoy during your visit.

### TOUR TIMES

#### FROM 1 APRIL TO 25 JUNE (closed on 1 May)

Monday to Thursday from 8am to 6pm. Fridays from 8am to 5pm.  
Weekends and public holidays, from 9:30am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm.

#### FROM 26 JUNE TO 28 SEPTEMBER

Monday to Friday from 8am to 7pm.  
Weekends and public holidays from 9:30am to 7pm.

#### FROM 29 SEPTEMBER TO 31 MARCH (closed on 25 December,

1 January and all weekends in January excluding school holidays)  
Monday to Thursday from 8am to 6pm. Fridays from 8am to 5pm.  
Every Saturday, Sunday during school holidays and public holidays from 9:30am to 1pm and from 2pm to 6pm.

*Ticket office closes 30 minutes before site closing time*

### PRICES

#### FULL RATE €6 • REDUCED RATE: €5\* • 18-26 YEARS OLD: €3\*

Outside the temporary exhibition period: €4

Reduced rate: €3\* • 18-26 years old: €2\*

Free\*: - 18 years old, jobseekers, journalists, residents of twinned towns, tour guides, veterans and people with disabilities.



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Complete your visit with the **Heritage collection** (on sale at reception for €5)

# Guided tours

## «AN EXCEPTIONAL HERITAGE» (1 hour)

Explore the rooms of the 18th century monastery and cloister with a guide. This tour is suitable for all visitors.

**Please book in advance with at the Reception - guided tours desk**

Tour subject to timetable, venue availability and minimum number of participants.

Due to organisational constraints or site usage, the Reception - Guided Tours desk may be obliged to cancel certain tours. Visitors will then automatically be offered the self-guided tour.

### TOUR TIMES

#### FROM 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE AND FROM 1 TO 30 SEPTEMBER

(closed on 1 May)  
Every day at 10.30am, 2.30pm and 4pm.

#### FROM 1 JULY TO 31 AUGUST

Monday to Friday at 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm and 4pm.  
No visits on Saturdays.  
Sundays at 10.30am, 2.30pm and 4pm.

**In English: Monday to Friday at 11am.**

#### FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 31 MARCH

(closed on 25 December, 1 January and all weekends in January except those in school holidays)  
Monday to Friday, during school holidays only, at 10.30am and 2.30pm.  
Sundays during school holidays and public holidays (except January) at 10.30am, 2.30pm and 4pm.

### PRICES

#### €3 SURCHARGE OF SELF-GUIDED TOURS

*(Prices for self-guided tours, see opposite page)*

Free\*: Under 12s, jobseekers, disabled people, journalists, guide-lecturers, residents of twin towns and veterans.

*\* Upon presentation of proof of entitlement (see conditions at the Guided Tours Reception Desk)*

# MILLENNIUM CAEN 2025

As part of Caen's 1,000th anniversary celebrations, themed exhibitions and guided tours are being organised at the Abbaye-aux-Hommes.

## Themed guided visit

### « A THOUSAND YEARS OF CAEN, THE ABBEY'S ILLUSTRIOUS MEN »

From Lanfranc de Pavie to Jean-Marie Girault, via Augustin Fresnel, come and discover the exceptional destinies of those who have left their mark on the history of the Abbaye-aux-Hommes.

Guided tour offered by the guides at the Reception - guided tours desk

*Suitable for all visitors. In French. Duration: 1h30. Full price: €10 / €8 (outside temporary exhibition periods) Information and booking on +33 (0)2 31 30 42 81*

Find themed guided visit dates on [caen.fr](http://caen.fr)



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## Millennium Collection

The Abbaye-aux-Hommes shop is offering a range of unique items to celebrate Caen's 1,000th anniversary (see page 3 for details)



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## Exhibitions

Caen's millennium prompts curiosity and interest in our history as much as it inspires artists. Several exhibitions mark the event and are guaranteed to get you thinking, learning, feeling and marvelling.



Privileges granted to the University of Caen by Henry VI of England, 15th century, University of Caen Normandy DR

### « A THOUSAND YEARS OF CAEN »

**From 31 March to 11 May • Scriptorium room**

Priceless treasures open the doors to the past, starting with the charter of 1025 where the name of Caen is mentioned for the first time. Manuscripts, papal bulls, illuminations, paintings, Caen stone sculptures, early photographs and archive images create a captivating journey back in time through the city's 1,000 years.

*Free for Under 18s*

*€4 (free tour of the Abbaye-aux-Hommes included, information on page 4)*

Exhibition-event

### « IN THE EYE OF THE COLLECTOR » FONDATION GANDUR POUR L'ART



**From 26 June to 28 September • Scriptorium room**

A selection of the greatest masterpieces from the Geneva-based Gandur Foundation for Art collection, offering a glimpse of the incredibly rich holdings of the future museum that collector Jean Claude Gandur has decided to open in Caen, by 2030.

*Free for Under 18s*

*€6 (including free tour of the Abbaye-aux-Hommes, information on page 4)*

*Reduced rate on presentation of a ticket for the «Par tous les dieux» exhibition at the Musée de Normandie*

### « YVONNE GUÉGAN: A WOMAN OF THE CENTURY »

**From 11 October to 5 November • Scriptorium room**

Yvonne Guégan, painter, ceramist and one of Caen's leading personalities, left a profound mark on the last century. To celebrate the centenary of her birth, Caen's Millennium event is paying tribute to her with an exceptional retrospective. An opportunity to discover or rediscover a visionary woman whose artistic and human legacy is still alive in many minds.

*Free for Under 18s*

*€4 (free tour of the Abbaye-aux-Hommes included, information on page 4)*

Full Millennium Program > [millenairecaen2025.fr](http://millenairecaen2025.fr)

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