



# Impressions of Seine-Maritime

Five enthralling Impressionist trails

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 **Seine-Maritime**  
Outstanding Normandy

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# In the heart of Impressionism in Seine-Maritime

*Seine-Maritime:  
An open-air museum, a light gallery...*

With their easel over the shoulder and equipped with these new and clever tubes of oil paint, the plein-air painters such as Pissarro, Boudin, Sisley and Monet took the exciting railway to come and capture the tones of the sea and skies, observe the ever-changing light through the effects of clouds, and study the reflections on water. They chose the landscapes of Seine-Maritime, in particular the Côte d'Albâtre (Alabaster Coast) and the Seine Valley, as the material for their pictorial research. Monet was obsessed with "two limestone monuments": the Rouen Cathedral and the cliff of Etretat, which he painted endlessly.

The first seaside resorts also emerged at the same time as a consequence of the enthusiasm of Parisian and British aristocracy and upper-classes for the fashion of "sea bathing".

These patrons were followed by these "new painters" and sometimes became their subject matter. These artists were as well very interested in the industrial landscapes of the 19th century and the busy ports. But what would be this art movement without the wonderful light and the changing skies of Seine-Maritime and Normandy!

Now, it is your turn to explore those enchanting places full of stories and anecdotes...

Five trails allow you to step into the main themes found in Impressionist painting.





### Did you know?

*Impressionism* was born in the second half of the 19th century and was a revolutionary art movement. Impressionism broke away from the formal academic style and split from traditions as the painters came out of their studio to paint outdoors. They started to use new colours to represent transparency, and shades were no longer black but purple. Impressionism was also influenced by British artists such as R. Bonington, J. Constable and W. Turner who had



*L'avant-port de Dieppe (The Inner Harbour, Dieppe)* Camille Pissarro, 1902 Collection du Château-Musée de Dieppe

established landscape painting as a fully-fledged genre. W. Turner's famous painting *Rain, Steam and Speed* (1844) summarizes the questions the new Impressionist painters asked themselves.

They were also contemporaries of the birth of photography and of Chevreul's scientific theories of light and colour. A turning point in the history of painting: artists became liberated from the commissioning of paintings, and private collectors and art galleries started to appear.

Seine-Maritime, cradle of Impressionism, was a haven for Impressionist painters who were dazzled by its unique light.



*Étretat, la porte d'Aval, bateaux sortants du port (Etretat, the Aval door, fishing boats leaving the harbour)* Claude Monet, 1885 Collection du Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon



**More information about Impressionism on your mobile**

[seine-maritime-tourism.mobi](http://seine-maritime-tourism.mobi)





## Follow the Impressionist trails

Five trails, each on a different Impressionist theme, will allow you to discover 14 key Impressionist sites with no less than 29 information panels located where the painters have set up their easels.

Each information panel comprises a **reproduction of the painting**, a detailed description and a **flash code** (to scan with your Smartphone) to learn more about the painter and his work.

It is also amusing to compare the landscape as it is now with the painting presented on the information panel.

Many of the paintings featured on the information panels are exhibited in the **museums in Seine-Maritime**. So, go and have a look at these original works of art...



### Seaside resorts

In Dieppe and Pourville-sur-Mer



### The sea

In Fecamp, Yport, Etretat, Les Petites and Grandes Dalles



### The light of the estuary

In Le Havre



### The fleeting moment

In Rouen and Bonsecours



### The river

From La Bouille to Villequier



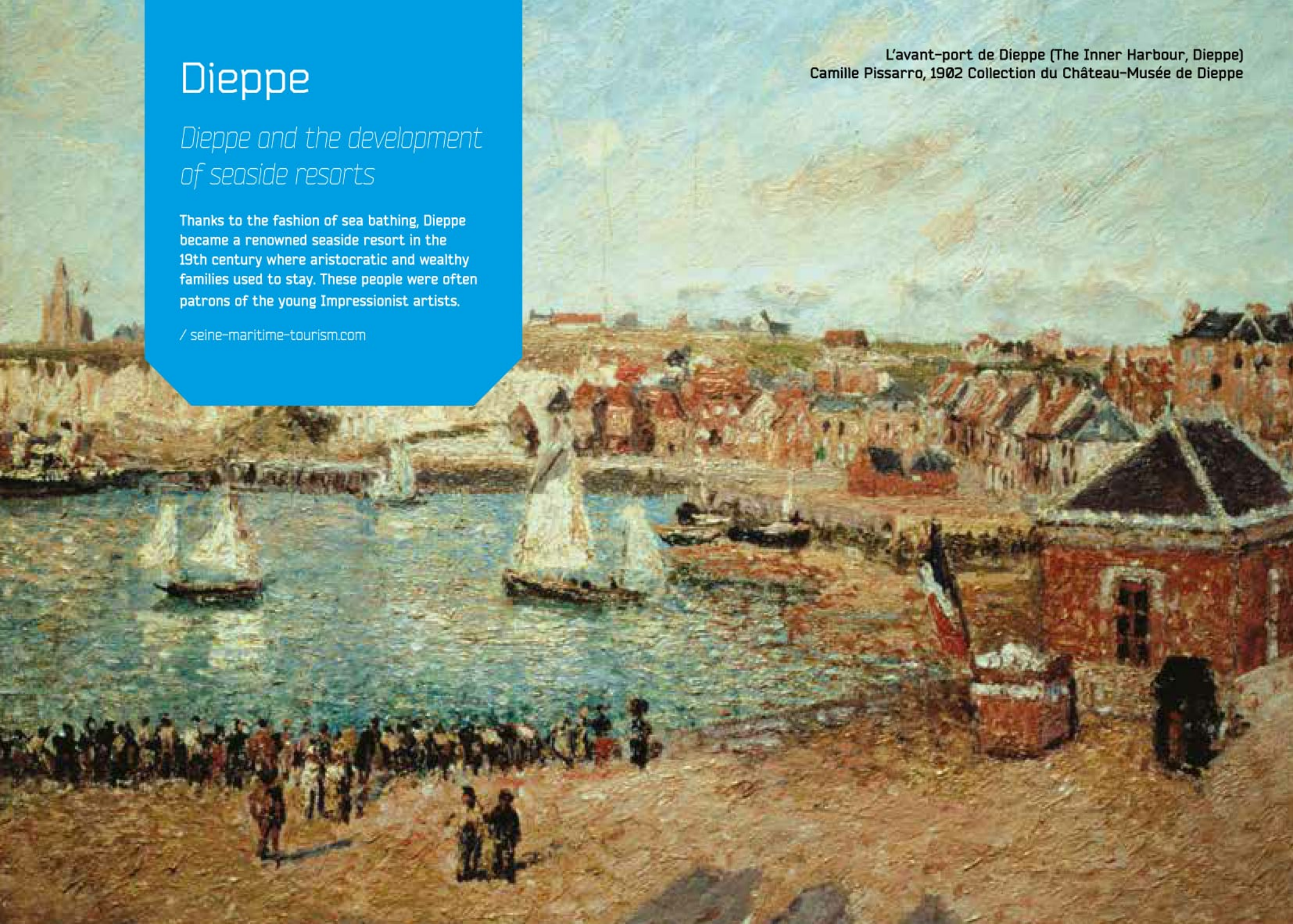
# Dieppe

## *Dieppe and the development of seaside resorts*

Thanks to the fashion of sea bathing, Dieppe became a renowned seaside resort in the 19th century where aristocratic and wealthy families used to stay. These people were often patrons of the young Impressionist artists.

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L'avant-port de Dieppe (The Inner Harbour, Dieppe)  
Camille Pissarro, 1902 Collection du Château-Musée de Dieppe







## Trail

# Impressionism and seaside resorts



## Itinerary in Dieppe >

A two-hour long walk in the heart of Dieppe: a city rebuilt in the 17th century with a row of classical façades with arcades on Quai Duquesne, a theatre setting surrounding the marina. The information panels No 1 and 3 offer beautiful views of the resort, which you will see more closely with the information panels No 7 and 8. Walk to the city centre to have a look at the Saint-Jacques Church, and its remarkable frieze called "the salvage" or "Brazilian Indians" (information panel No 6). Then take your car towards Pourville-sur-Mer, take the D75 road in front of the castle; in the bend there is the information panel No 5 with an amazing panoramic view. Then, drive towards Varengeville-sur-Mer (14 km – 8.7 mi) and have a walk around the village following the signs of the Jacques-Emile Blanche Trail. Finally, go and visit Offranville (8 km – 5 mi), the village where he lived.



# Impressionist Dieppe

8 information panels

1

**L'avant-port depuis le Pollet (Inner Harbour, Le Pollet), Albert Lebourg, 1882**

The framing is wide: panoramic view over the town and the harbour. On the other hand, the range of colours is limited to cool tones. The landscape remains the same today.

2

**L'avant-port de Dieppe (The Inner Harbour, Dieppe), Camille Pissarro, 1902**

He particularly enjoyed busy places with crowds of people and port activities. It is painted in shades of red except for the French flag. It is now the cove of the marina.

3

**La plage de Dieppe vue de la falaise Ouest (Beach at Dieppe, View from the West Cliff), Eva Gonzalès, circa 1870**

A female artist and not so much an Impressionist view, the painting comprises strong contrasting tones but also a hint of softness. The green lawns still exist and a spa centre has now been opened.

4

**Les falaises du Pollet à Dieppe (Dieppe, Le Pollet Cliffs), Eugène Boudin, 1896**

He was a master at painting skies using minor keys: a grey sky and a white cliff tinted with ochre. Some parts of the canvas are even left blank with no paint as if it was not finished but conveying an impression of immediacy. Le Pollet is still the traditional fishermen's district.

5

**La plage à Pourville, soleil couchant (Beach at Pourville, Sunset), Claude Monet, 1882**

Monet preferred Pourville, a peaceful place far from Dieppe's society life, which had become a fashionable resort. He used a range of blue and orange tones to capture the last rays of light. Today, the view is still as beautiful and breathtaking as it used to be (see the photo above).



La plage à Pourville, soleil couchant (Beach at Pourville, sunset) Monet, 1882 (oil-on-canvas)



The beach at Pourville-sur-Mer today

6

**L'église Saint-Jacques à Dieppe, portail sud (Saint Jacques Church, South Portal), Walter Sickert, 1907**

A vibrant and colourful painting. Influenced by Degas, Sickert grasped the principles of Impressionism. The light on the portal thus balances with the purple shade in the foreground, and the bright blue tones of the sky with the green and bronze foliage.

7

**Vue de l'Hôtel Royal (Hotel Royal, Dieppe), Walter Sickert, 1899**

Sickert painted this view of the hotel on the seafront while walking around the town. It is a well-structured painting playing with contrasts: the seafront in the shadow and the cross street filled with sunlight but with dominant grey and ochre tones. The seafront has kept this 19th century architecture with the former hotel, Le Castel Royal, and the English-style lawns.

8

**La semaine du poisson (The fish Week), Jacques-Emile Blanche, 1929**

Friend with many artists, Blanche enjoyed society life. Here, he created a colourful painting in which a crowd of people wearing their Sunday best mingles with quaintrelles. Blue, white and red flags flapping in the wind are a common motif among painters in those days. The seafront lawns are still the place where festivals and other events take place.



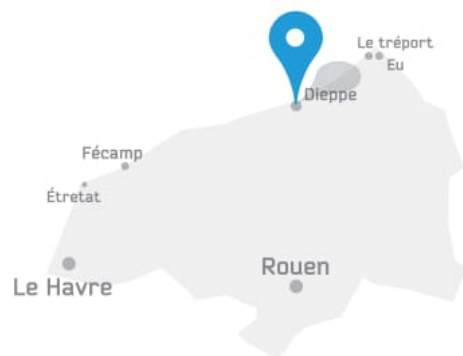
# Tips for staying in Dieppe

Dieppe was first a famous corsair town, then in the 18th century its port was a major trading centre for ivory, and in the 19th century it became a summer seaside resort thanks to the Duchess of Berry who started the fashion for sea bathing.

French and British aristocrats, upper-classes, and also the cream of painting – Pissarro, Renoir, Monet, Boldini, Sickert and Whistler – used to meet there.

Continue your visit in Varengeville-sur-Mer where other artists settled such as the composer Albert Roussel and Georges Braque, who chose to be buried there. Their beautiful tombs are located in the quaint marine churchyard surrounding the Roman Saint-Valery Church, which is bathed in a blue light coming through Georges Braque and Raoul Ubac's stained-glass windows. An exceptional view over the sea and an astoundingly beautiful setting.

From there you can follow the "Jacques-Emile Blanche and his contemporaries" Trail that will lead you, through a green setting, to Offranville where there is a museum dedicated to his life and work. Leaflets available at the Tourist Information Centres.



## Do not miss:

- **The Dieppe Castle-Museum**  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 35 06 61 99  
It holds a rich collection of ivories and Impressionist paintings, including Dufy and Van Dongen.
- **The Jacques-Emile Blanche Museum in Offranville**  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 35 85 40 42  
Portraits, pastels and books from his own collection.
- **The Manoir d'Ango in Varengeville-sur-Mer**  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 35 83 61 56  
Jehan Ango's, famous shipowner from Dieppe, Renaissance manor house.

## > We also love...

- Going to the International Kite Festival (every two years).
- Coming for the atmosphere during the Herring and Scallop Festival (in November).
- Having a walk around the market in the city centre in Dieppe on Saturday mornings.

## Further information:

Dieppe Maritime Tourist Information Centre  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 32 14 40 60

[seine-maritime-tourism.com](http://seine-maritime-tourism.com)



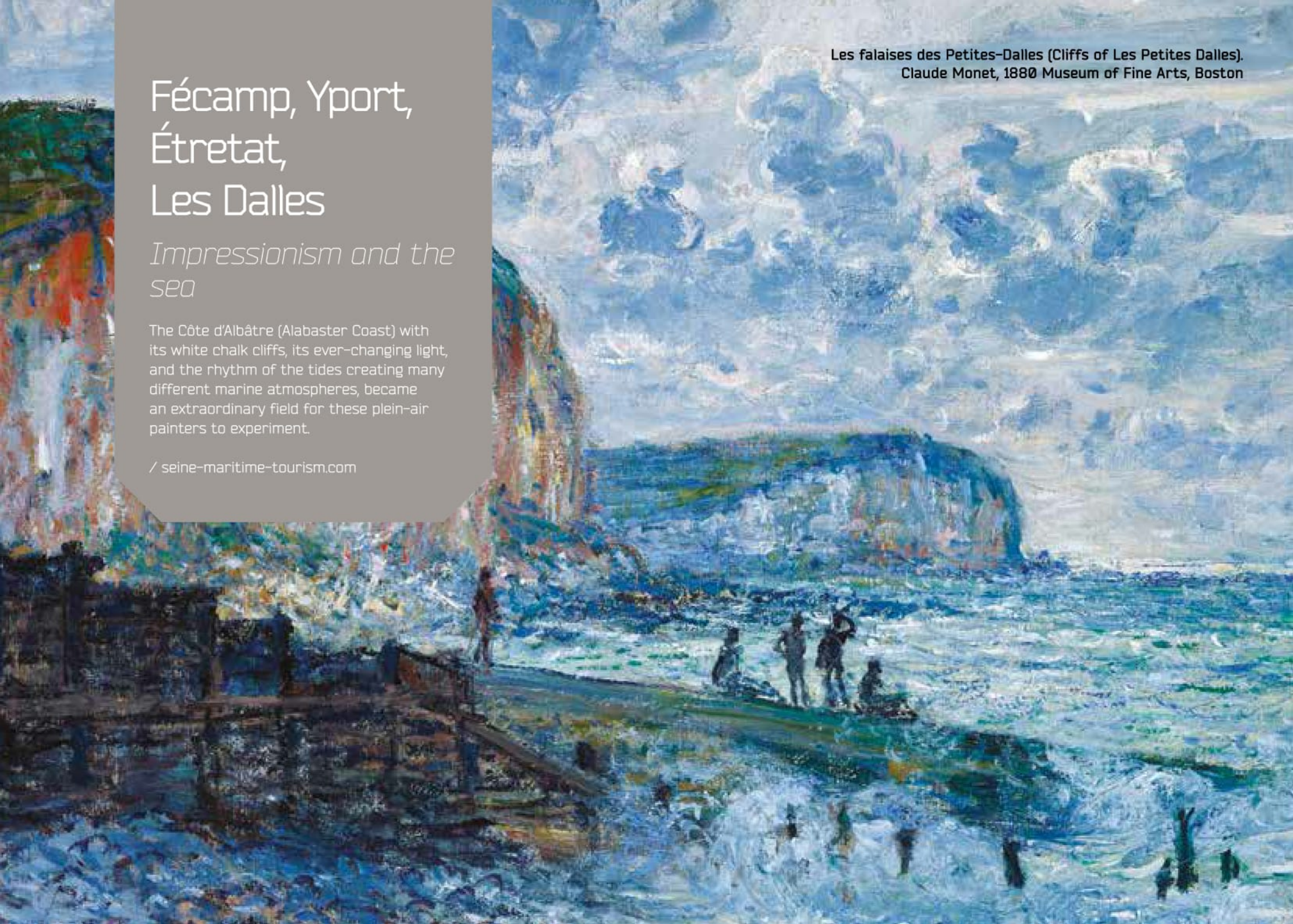
# Fécamp, Yport, Étretat, Les Dalles

## *Impressionism and the sea*

The Côte d'Albâtre (Alabaster Coast) with its white chalk cliffs, its ever-changing light, and the rhythm of the tides creating many different marine atmospheres, became an extraordinary field for these plein-air painters to experiment.

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Les falaises des Petites-Dalles (Cliffs of Les Petites Dalles).  
Claude Monet, 1880 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

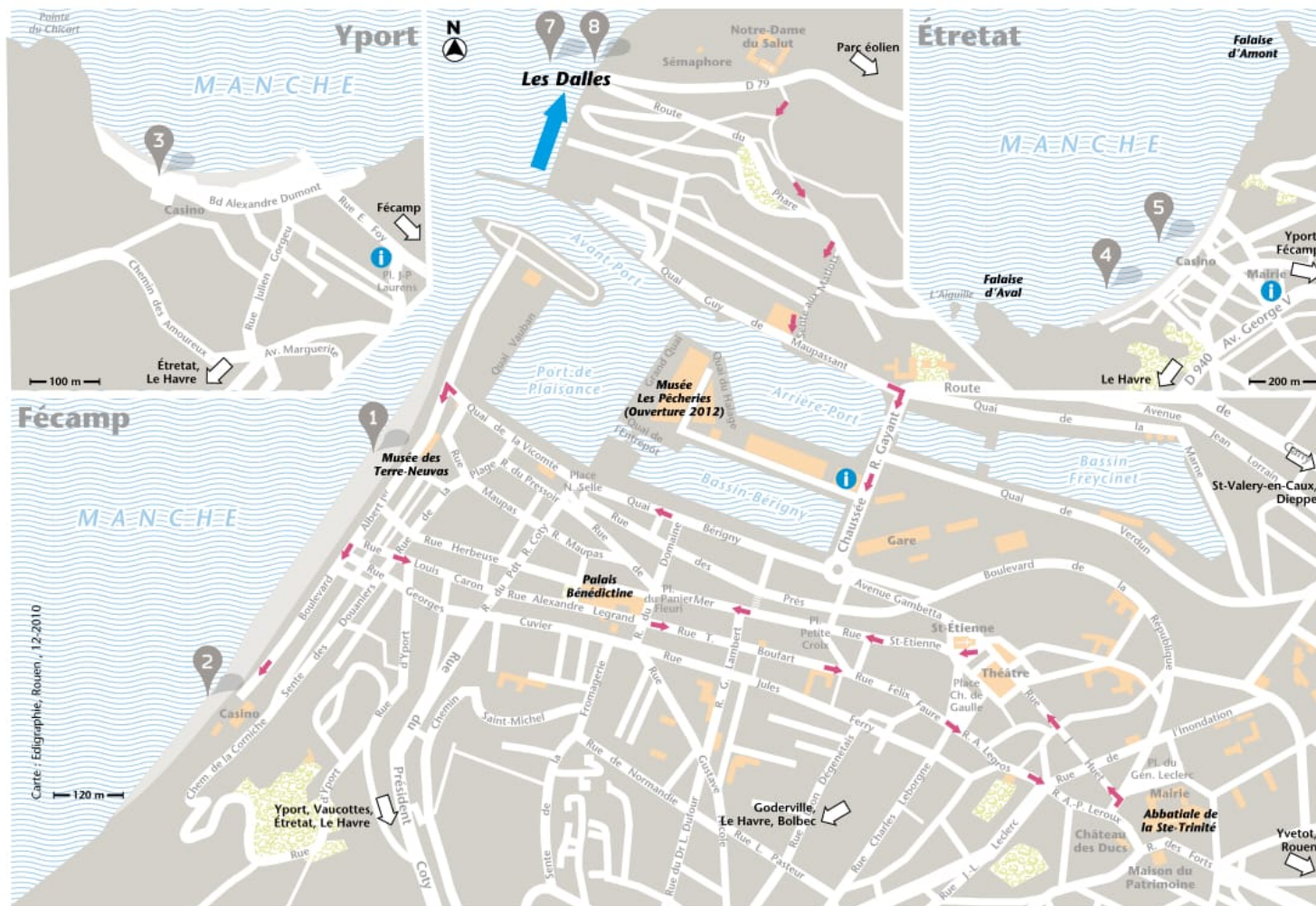






## Trail

# Impressions of the sea



*Itinerary in Fécamp  
Yport, Etretat,  
Les Petites-Dalles,  
and Les Grandes-Dalles*

- It is a day trip by car to see the 8 information panels along this trail. They are all located facing the sea. Take time to taste our cuisine and visit some of our museums. To admire exceptional views from the cliffs (especially in Vaucottes between Yport and Etretat), take the D211 road. Fécamp: wonderful "Art and History" town. Yport: charming seaside resort. Etretat: where you should walk along the cliffs (about 2 hours) and visit the Clos Lupin. (Fécamp-Yport-Etretat = 18 km - 11 mi). Les Petites and Grandes-Dalles, are two "valleuses" (dry hanging valleys) on the east of Fécamp (16 km - 10 mi) where you will find the information panels No 7 and 8.



# Impressionist seafront

8 information panels

1

## **Crinolines sur la plage (Crinolines on the beach, Fecamp), Jules Noël, 1871 (Fécamp)**

Noël was a seascape painter, he also worked on the effect of light but he was still an indoor painter. However, painting a crowd on the beach was actually very modern. People from Fécamp have settled along the cliff up to the Ferme de la Chapelle since then to enjoy an amazing view. To get there, take the "sente à matelot" (Seaman path) along the GR 21 hiking trail.

2

## **Fécamp, bord de mer (The Sea at Fecamp), Claude Monet, 1881 (Fécamp)**

Seascapes are a major theme. Monet brought back 22 canvases from Fécamp: the asymmetrical composition and the close view remind us of photography. The landscape is still exactly the same.

3

## **Rochers à Yport (Rocks in Yport), Claude-Émile Schuffenecker, 1895 (Yport)**

Even though he was a highly skilled painter and friend with many artists, he preferred to organise exhibitions. The influence of photography is also present in this painting with the zoom effect on the rock and the close view. The little boy blends into the landscape. Yport is a small seaside resort where it is worth stopping for a visit.

4

## **Porte d'aval, Claude Monet, 1895 (Étretat)**

Here the painter combined the four elements: water, earth, air with the sun and fire. In this painting he omitted every detail that didn't serve his purpose. Only the direction of the brushstrokes brings life to the landscape. Today, you can take time to enjoy a walk or play golf on top of the cliffs.

5

## **Bateaux de pêche (Fishing Boats), Claude Monet, 1885 (Étretat)**

The painting is composed of four parts that are balanced in pairs (cliff/sky and boats/beach). Even though he painted in popular places, Monet never depicted people. In Étretat, he was only interested in the natural beauty of the site. The landscape is still exactly the same.



Bateaux de pêche, Étretat (Fishing Boats),  
Monet, 1885 Musée Eugène Boudin, Honfleur



Étretat today (La Porte d'Amont)

6

## **Bateaux en construction (Boats under construction), Berthe Morisot, 1874 (Fécamp)**

In the summer 1874, Berthe Morisot, the only renowned female Impressionist painter, stayed in Fécamp with the Monet brothers. The busy port activity became a subject for her painting: a milky brightness breaking through a cloudy sky throws light on the hulls with the pale and transparent strokes. The Musée des Pêcheries (Fisheries Museum) will tell you all about Fécamp.

7

## **Sur la Falaise (On the Cliff), Berthe Morisot, (Les Grandes-Dalles)**

Berthe Morisot, who had learnt about plein-air painting, liked to paint her family and friends. Concerned with family happiness, here she painted her sister Edma and her niece Jeanne. The figures are outlined, her touch is light, the air is transparent, and the different shades of white capture light... The exact spot where it was painted is now along the path of the GR 21 hiking trail.

8

## **Les falaises des Petites-Dalles (The Cliffs of Les Petites-Dalles), Claude Monet, 1880 (Les Petites-Dalles)**

Monet was fascinated by the cliffs and the way in which they caught light. The landscape seems to vibrate: a harmony of blue shades punctuated with the red glow of the sun, only a few figures outlined between earth and sky. Today, the landscape is still as beautiful as what it used to be.



# Tips for staying in Fécamp and Étretat

**Impressionist artists by the sea...** Either painters or writers, they all walked along the little paths leading to the "valleuses" (dry hanging valleys), the pebble beaches and the fishing ports. During your stay, follow in their footsteps and explore the coastline...

Guy de Maupassant will guide you from Fécamp to Etretat. He was, just like Monet, fascinated by this sea, sometimes rough, sometimes calm. They both enjoyed the colours of the sea and the sky and the bracing air. You will be able to feel the same during a guided boat tour on board an old sailing ship in Fécamp.

In Etretat, Arsène Lupin might tell you the secret of the "Hollow Needle" during your visit of Maurice Leblanc's villa, the creator of Arsène Lupin. The Clos Lupin in Etretat is a fine example of Anglo-Norman architecture in seaside resorts and comprises a beautiful pergola.



## Do not miss:

- **The Palais Bénédicte in Fécamp**  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 35 10 26 10  
Prestigious 19th century house of the industrialist and marketer, Alexandre Le Grand. Home to the famous liqueur and exhibition hall for renowned and emerging contemporary artists.
- **The Musée des Pêcheries, cité des Terre-Neuvas (Fisheries and Newfoundland Museum)**  
(Opening in November 2013)
- **The Clos Lupin in Étretat**  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 35 10 59 53  
You will discover the world of the gentleman-thief through 8 dramatized and orchestrated stages in the house of his creator.

## > We also love...

- Taking part in the "Fête de la Peinture" (Painting festival) in Yport (on 15 August).
- Going to the Offenbach Festival in Etretat (at the beginning of August).
- Wandering around Etretat to look at the numerous examples of 19th century seaside architecture.

## Further information:

Fécamp-Yport Tourist Information Centre  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 35 28 51 01

Etretat Tourist Information Centre  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 35 27 05 21

[seine-maritime-tourism.com](http://seine-maritime-tourism.com)



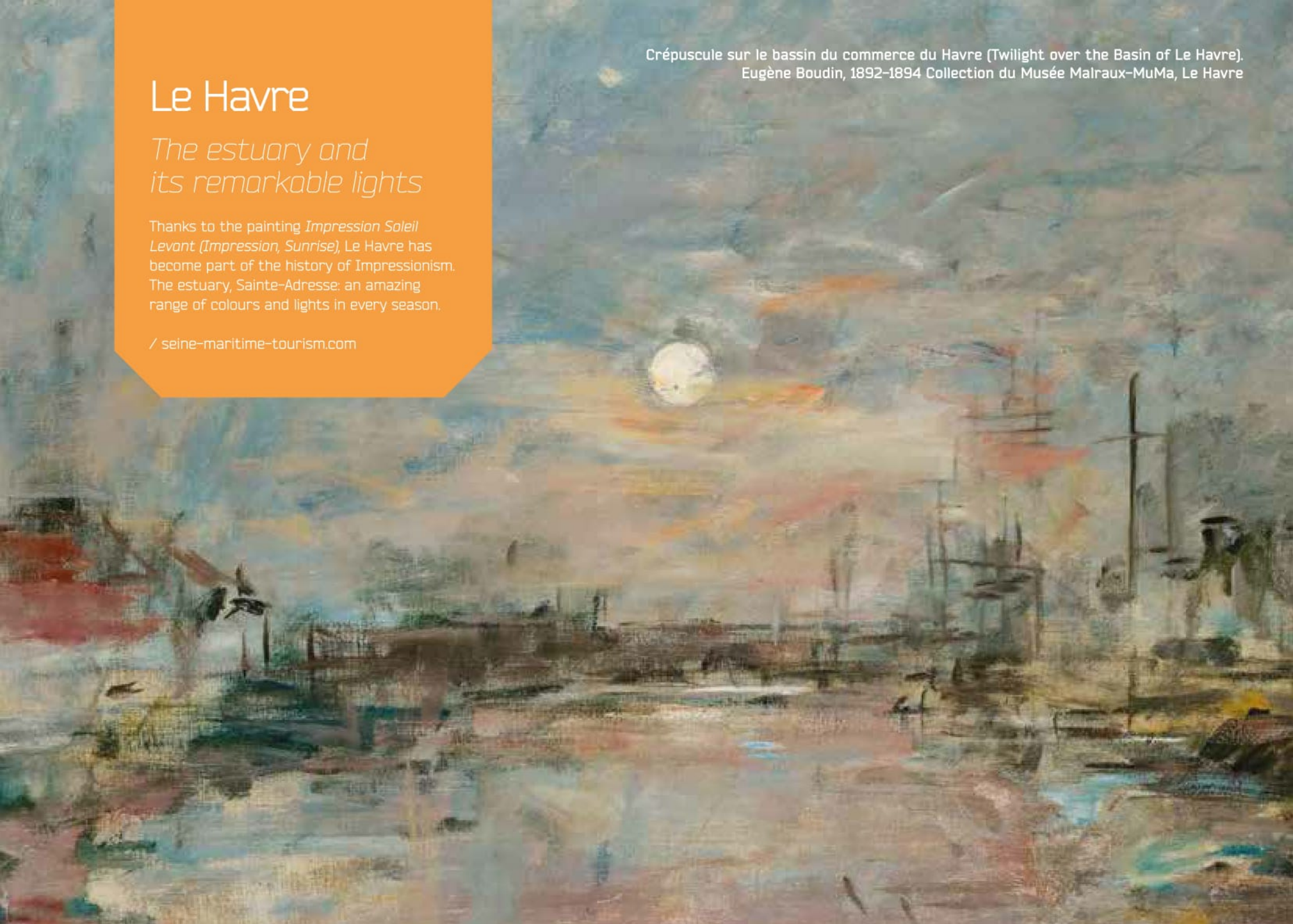
# Le Havre

## *The estuary and its remarkable lights*

Thanks to the painting *Impression Soleil Levant* (*Impression, Sunrise*), Le Havre has become part of the history of Impressionism. The estuary, Sainte-Adresse: an amazing range of colours and lights in every season.

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Crépuscule sur le bassin du commerce du Havre (Twilight over the Basin of Le Havre).  
Eugène Boudin, 1892-1894 Collection du Musée Malraux-MuMa, Le Havre







## Trail

# The light of the estuary



## Itinerary in Le Havre

- > Spend a day walking in Le Havre to discover the 5 information panels. Leave from the beach in Sainte-Adresse for a bracing walk along the seafront in Le Havre. On your left you will see the Perret neighbourhood, 1950s modern architecture, and the MuMa – Le Havre: the André Malraux Museum of Modern Art, a symbol of the estuary light and a place to admire Impressionist paintings. Make the most of your visit and explore other neighbourhoods such as Saint-François or Saint-Vincent.



# Impressionist Le Havre

5 information panels

1

## **La plage à Ste Adresse (Beach at Sainte-Adresse), Claude Monet, 1867 (Sainte-Adresse)**

As a man of his time, Monet examined the difference between the two lifestyles that started to coexist on the beaches in Normandy. The importance of the sky shows the influence Eugène Boudin had.

Today, the beach in Sainte-Adresse, nicknamed "Nice Havrais" (Le Havre's Riviera), allows to walk by the sea to Le Havre.

2

## **Entrée des jetées du Havre par gros temps (Le Havre, bad weather), Eugène Boudin, 1895 (Le Havre)**

Boudin enjoyed painting the Baie de Seine. The juxtaposition of colour strokes, sometimes rough, sometimes blended, depicts the force of the natural elements. Le Havre, listed a UNESCO World Heritage Site is a city, a port, and a beach all at once.

3

## **Impression soleil levant (Impression, Sunrise), Claude Monet, 1872 (Le Havre)**

Besides the anecdote, this painting is the first step towards abstract art: blurred shapes, fragmented brushstrokes and importance of colour.

4

## **Avant-port du Havre (The Inner Harbour, Le Havre), Camille Pissarro, 1903 (Le Havre)**

Pissarro used to paint country life, but at the end of his life he found pleasure in painting the hustle and bustle of port cities in Normandy. These days, container port activities border water sports and leisure activities.

5

## **Crépuscule sur le bassin du commerce (Twilight over the Basin of Le Havre), Eugène Boudin, 1892-1894 (Le Havre)**

With this painting Boudin became considered as an equal to Impressionist artists thanks to the blurred shapes, the separation of colours with a limited palette of greys; but he remained true to form, dedicating two third of the canvas to the sky.



© Ville du Havre, Musée Maitaux Florian Kleinferr

Crépuscule sur le bassin du commerce au Havre (Twilight over the Basin of Le Havre), Boudin, 1892-1894, oil-on-canvas



A picture of Le Havre today with its new facilities

## Did you know?

### Monet's revelation... in Le Havre

Monet discovered his vocation as painter in 1858 when he met Boudin in Le Havre who introduced him to plein-air painting along the Channel coast: "I admit that I wasn't really filled with enthusiasm at the thought of painting like Boudin. However, upon his request, I agreed to go and work with him outdoor.

Boudin set up his easel and started to work. I watched him with a certain apprehension, I watched him more carefully and suddenly it came to light, I understood, painting finally made sense. The only instance of this artist in love with his art and freedom had shown me the path to my future." A few years later, in 1872, he would paint *Impression, Sunrise* and the word would become part of history.



# Tips for staying in Le Havre

A city by the sea with a 20th century architecture thanks to Auguste Perret's remarkable work. A city listed a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Explore the large streets lined with buildings whose bas-reliefs and "modern" flats try to outdo each other in elegance and art of living and immerse you in the 1950s. Other buildings such as the Saint-Joseph Church, a monument filled with light, Le Volcan designed by Oscar Niemeyer, and the Malraux Museum with its walls of glass, as well as the light of the estuary and the ships in the background show the modern spirit of the city. Take a breath of fresh air at the Porte Océane: a walk in a dune-garden with rushes and other wild grasses right next to the beach and its famous beach huts. In the Jardins Suspendus (Hanging Gardens), you will be able to admire a breathtaking view over the city. The former 17-ha Fort of Sainte Adresse has been converted into these gardens with 3,700 plant species, which pay tribute to Norman botanists who have travelled the world.

Don't forget to download the App "Impressionism and Fauve Art in Le Havre" on your mobile to discover 19 works of art painted in Le Havre.



## Do not miss:

- **The MuMa – Malraux Museum**  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 35 19 62 62  
One of the largest collection of Impressionist paintings after the Musée d'Orsay thanks to the Senn-Foulds donation, a patron and merchant from Le Havre, to the Marande donation, and to the Dufy donation, a painter born in Le Havre and a great colourist who also worked in Decorative Arts.
- **The Eugène Boudin Museum in Honfleur**  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 31 89 54 00  
Located on the other side of the Normandy Bridge, its holds a collection of 92 Impressionist paintings by Eugène Boudin.

## > We also love...

- Going to the Place Saint-Vincent, a "little Montmartre", every last Sunday of the month from April to October.
- Visiting the Japanese Garden: an enclosed garden symbolising the twinning of the ports of Le Havre and Osaka.

## Further information:

Le Havre Tourist Information Centre  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 32 74 04 04

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# Rouen

## *The fleeting moment and the Cathedral Series*

The cathedral painted by Monet represents the climax of Impressionism in Rouen. Come and see this wonderful Gothic monument for yourself, at any time of day or night and in any season.

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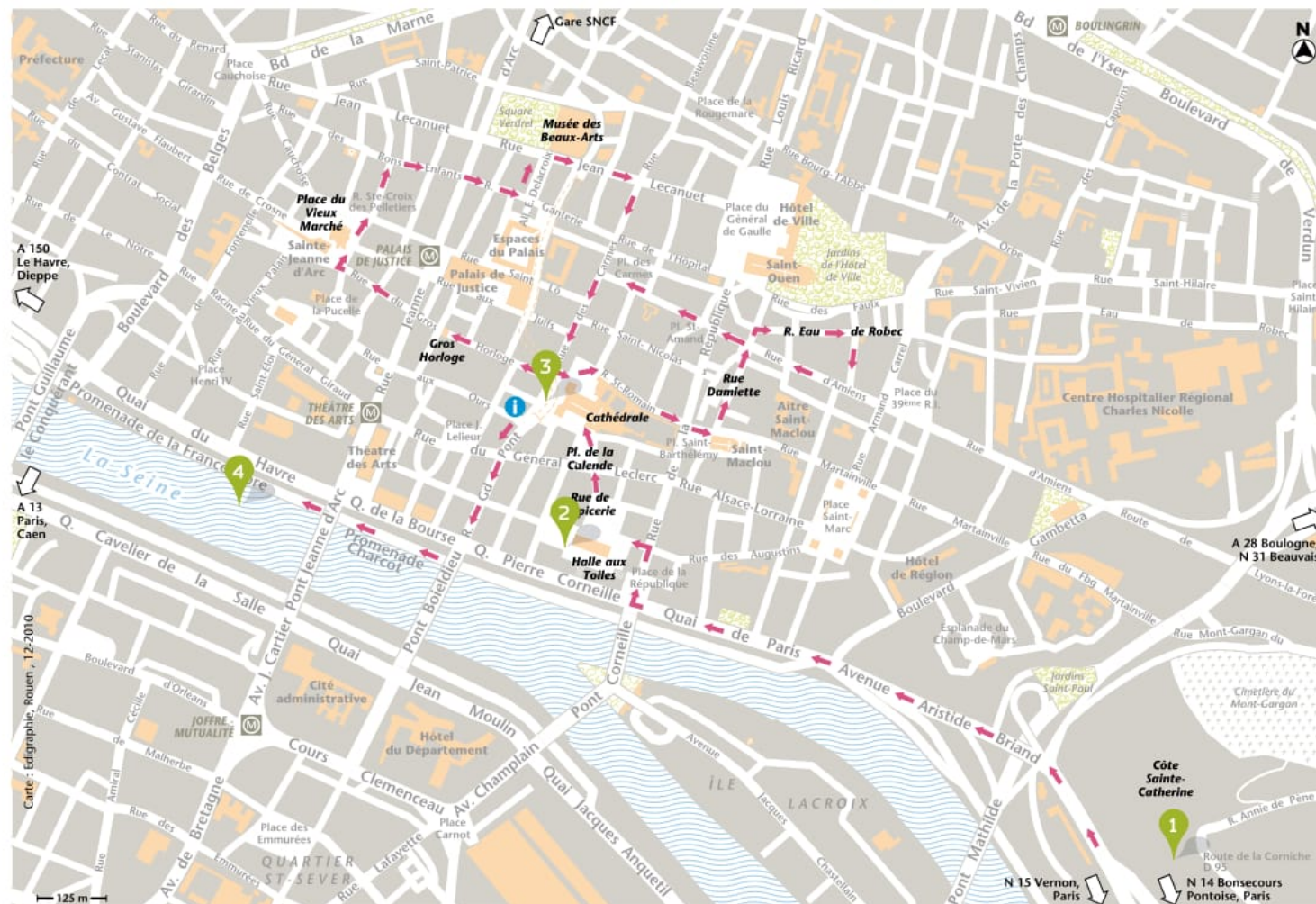
La cathédrale de Rouen, le portail, soleil matinal (Rouen Cathedral, the Portal, Morning Sun).  
Claude Monet, 1894 Collection du Musée d'Orsay, Paris







## Trail The Impressionist moment



### Itinerary in Rouen

- This is a half-day walk around Rouen, but plan to spend a day there to take time to enjoy all the architectural beauties of the city. Start from the Cathedral and stroll in the labyrinth of narrow streets and squares lined with half-timbered houses dating back to the Middle-Ages. Take time to admire the splendid 18th century private mansions, which remind us of the importance of the port de Rouen. Take the Rue du Gros-Horloge, the street with the Astronomical Clock, a renovated belfry that inspired Jules Lemaitre, a painter of the École de Rouen (Rouen School). Continue straight on to the Place du Vieux-Marché (Old Market Square). Visit the Cathedral but also the other churches, which have various wonderful stained-glass windows (Saint-Ouen, Saint-Maclou, Sainte Jeanne d'Arc).



# Impressionist Rouen

4 information panels

1

## **Vue générale de Rouen, Claude Monet (General View of Rouen from St Catherine Bank), 1892**

From Rouen, drive up the D95 road to get to Sainte Catherine hill: an amazing panoramic view over the city, the river and the bridges in Rouen. Monet painted a colourful harmony just like Turner used to do: undefined shapes blend with the bright fog in which we can only clearly see the towers and spires of the Cathedral and the Saint-Maclou Church. You will be stunned by the similarity and precision between the painting, the picture and the view.

2

## **Rue de l'épicerie, Camille Pissarro, 1898**

Inspired by this quaint and colourful neighbourhood, Pissarro depicted the hustle and bustle of the city: the perspective of buildings and the Cathedral seem to "oppress" these new city-dwellers who came as a result of a massive rural exodus, and are represented with little dark brushstrokes. Today, you can see the Portail de la Calende and a little square with bars and terraces.

3

## **La cathédrale de Rouen (Rouen Cathedral), Claude Monet, 1894**

At that time Monet used to say "Everything changes even stone." Indeed, the same subject would change as the hours went by, as the days went by. Have a stroll along Rue Saint-Romain, which will lead you to the Antique District where multi-coloured half-timbered houses surround the Saint-Maclou Church, a gem of Flamboyant Gothic architecture. Place Saint-Amand, you will see Claude Monet's bust.

4

## **Port de Rouen, Saint-Sever (The Port of Rouen Saint-Sever), Camille Pissarro, 1896**

Pissarro painted 12 canvases in Rouen including the port. A pale and ever-changing sky, warehouses, factory chimneys: a 19th century landscape that no longer exists. The River Seine is now the setting for the renowned Armada, a new neighbourhood with the marina, a port of call for cruise ships and a 5-km long pleasant quayside for roller skating enthusiasts.



Vue générale de Rouen (General View of Rouen from St Catherine Bank), Claude Monet, 1892.  
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rouen



The view today

## Did you know?

### *The Rouen Cathedral Series*

Monet stayed in Rouen twice in 1892 and then in 1893. He set up his studio in front of the cathedral, first above the shop now called Etam, then on the 1st floor of the Hôtel des Finances (presently the Tourist Information Centre) and finally at 81, Rue Grand-Pont. When he painted this series, he was overwhelmed with different feelings: joy, dejection and exhaustion.

He wrote: "Work is getting more and more painful, this facade, so beautiful is also terribly arid. Alas, I can only repeat this: the more I paint, the more difficult it is to convey how I feel; and I think that artists who say they have finished a work are arrogant. Finish means complete, perfect and I keep working but in the end I don't think I am getting anywhere. I have researched, experimented, without succeeding but to the point of being tired." (Letter to G. Geoffroy, 28 March 1893). "I will never manage to achieve anything good, it is only a stubborn superimposition of colours, but it is not art. What's got into me, why am I persisting in doing research that is more than I can handle?" The Cathedral series comprises 30 canvases.



# Tips for staying in Rouen

**This city definitely likes series: many half-timbered houses with a wide range of colours, a Cathedral and churches with brightly coloured stained-glass windows, not to mention Monet's and Pissarro's works of art.**

Pissarro painted, from the window of his bedroom, the Boieldieu Bridge, one of the bridges that spans over the River Seine. The last bridge, built a few years ago in Rouen, is the Flaubert Bridge, a work of art and technology. Guided tours with specialist guides will allow you to know more about the city's history.

After visiting the city, take time to savour an Impressionist menu inspired by Claude Monet's Cooking Journals in one of the numerous gourmet restaurants of Rouen.

For another 19th century atmosphere, explore an unusual place: the Cimetière Monumental, a cemetery where 19th century local political leaders and artists are buried with magnificent monuments and headstones: a summary of this century's funerary art.



## Do not miss:

- **The Museum of Fine Arts**  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 35 71 28 40  
Collection comprising the generous donation made by François Depeaux, a local patron and close friend of Monet. When Monet and Pissarro came to Rouen, they inspired local painters such as Lebourg, Delattre and Fréchon. It resulted in the creation of the **Ecole de Rouen** (Rouen School).
- **Le musée de la Céramique et de la faïence rouennaise (The Museum of Ceramics)**  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 35 07 31 74  
Not only 19th and 20th century earthenware, but also the history of Rouen-style earthenware from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## > We also love...

- Attending the sound and light show projected on the Cathedral in summer.
- Painting Rouen Cathedral in the style of Monet.
- Tasting Norman specialities at the "Fête du Ventre et de la Gastronomie" (Food Festival) in October.
- Going to the market on Place Saint Marc on Sunday mornings.

## Further information:

Rouen Tourist Information Centre  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 32 08 32 40  
[seine-maritime-tourism.com](http://seine-maritime-tourism.com)



# The River Seine

## *From La Bouille to Villequier*

The majestic River Seine has inspired the Impressionists who painted it for the subtlety of its lights, the colours of its sky and water, and the reflections on water. Facets that are still visible today.

/ [seine-maritime-tourism.com](http://seine-maritime-tourism.com)

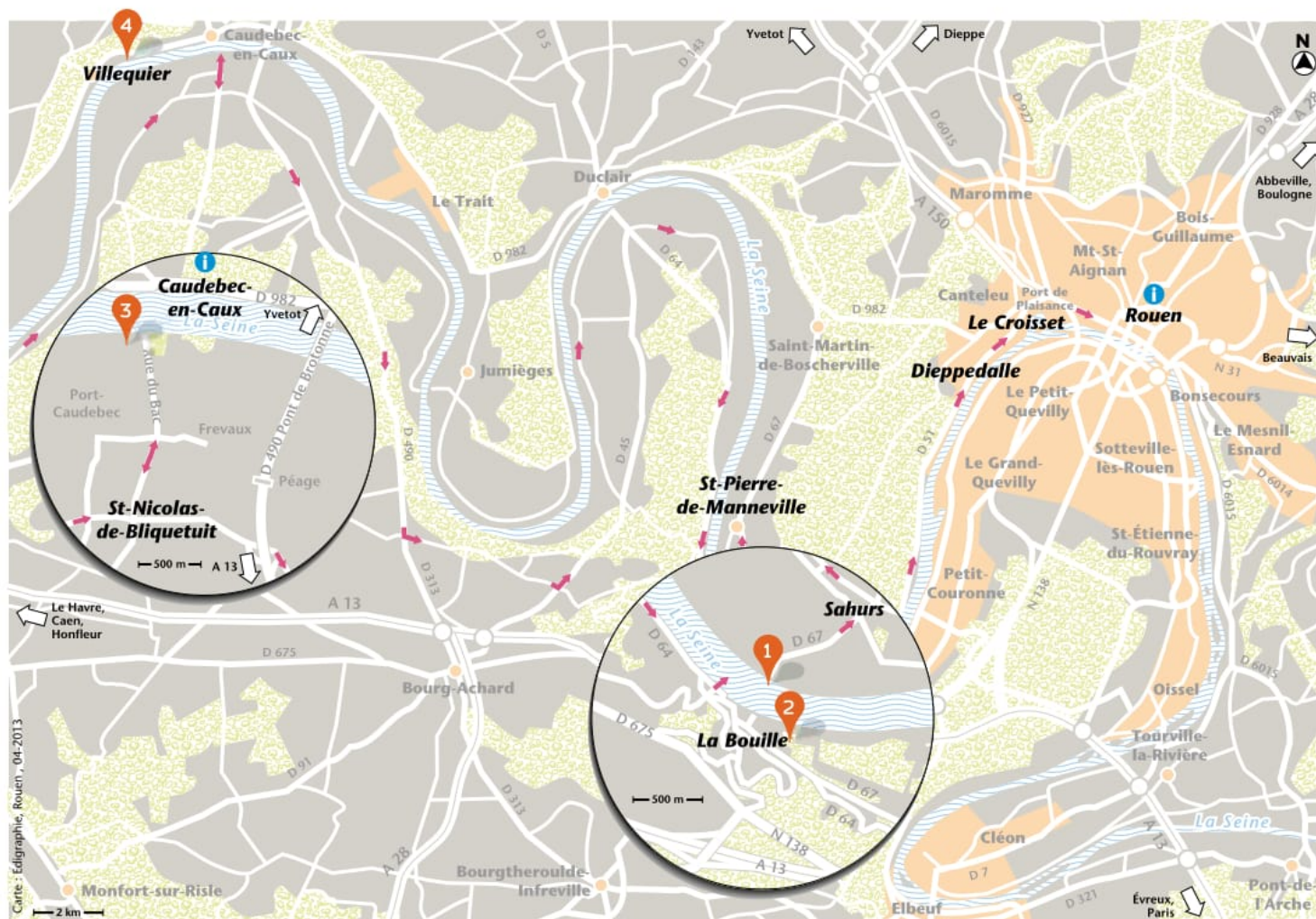
Entre Quillebeuf et Villequier (Between Quillebeuf and Villequier).  
William Turner, 1832 Collection de la Tate Gallery, Londres







## Trail The river



### Itinerary along the banks > of the river Seine

You can follow this itinerary by car. Leave from Rouen and drive along the river for 15 km (9.3 mi): Dieppedalle, Croisset, Hautot-sur-Seine and Sahurs. Industrial settings, rural landscapes, beautiful houses and gardens are open for visits: the Manoir de Soquence in Sahurs, the Manoir de Villers in Saint-Pierre-de-Manneville.

After the information panel No 1, take the picturesque ferry boat to cross to La Bouille. Then take the D675 and D313 roads to Saint-Nicolas-de-Bliquetuit, you will drive through the Boucles de la Seine Normande Regional Natural Park and arrive at the information panel No 3. Take time to go to Caudebec-en-Caux to visit the MuseoSeine (opening in 2014). (Caudebec-en-Caux – La Bouille: 38 km – 23.5 mi; La Bouille-Rouen: 20 km – 12.5 mi). Keep driving along the river Seine to Villequier (4 km – 2.5 mi). At the hamlet La Maison Blanche, the information panel is along the towpath.



# Impressionist banks of the River Seine

4 information panels

1

## **Le sentier au bord de l'eau à Sahurs le soir (Water path in the evening at Sahurs), Alfred Sisley, 1894 (Sahurs)**

The different parts of the painting produce a kind of mirror effect. The viewer's eye can see all the different shades of colours even though it is attracted by the little white sails. The artist's purpose here was to convey pictorial emotion. Nowadays, crossing the river between La Bouille and Sahurs on the ferry boat is still a special moment.

2

## **La Seine à La Bouille, coup de vent (The Seine at La Bouille, Gust of Wind), Alfred Sisley, 1894 (La Bouille)**

Sisley left Moret-sur-Loing on the invitation of François Depeaux, the patron from Rouen, to paint a landscape: the setting of the River Seine and the reflections on water. The gust of wind is depicted with curved brushstrokes that even express the rustling of leaves and the lapping of water. The boat's billowing sails emphasizes the impression of wind. Nowadays, the port facilities of Rouen have moved towards La Bouille. The Impressionists would have obviously enjoyed painting the silos, the Flaubert Bridge, and the ferry boats.

3

## **St-Nicolas-de-Bliquetuit, La Seine à Caudebec-en-Caux (The Seine at Caudebec-en-Caux), Eugène Boudin, 1889**

This painting of the River Seine is simply composed of 3 horizontal sections: the river, the town and the sky. The composition reminds us of Japanese prints, which were popular at that time. Today, it is worth exploring this town by the river, which has been rebuilt after the war (the only remain is the Flamboyant Gothic Church Notre Dame).



La Seine à La Bouille, coup de vent (The Seine at La Bouille, Gust of Wind), Alfred Sisley, 1894. Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rouen



La Bouille today

4

## **Entre Quillebeuf et Villequier (Between Quillebeuf and Villequier), William Turner, 1832 (Villequier)**

Between 1821 and 1832, Turner sailed along the River Seine for a British publisher to depict views for first travel books. The blue-green tones of the landscape contrast with the bright ochre and white tones of the boats. The tugboat's intense plume of smoke in the middle, as well as the red buoy on the left representing the danger of the largest meander, add a certain dramatic force to the painting. Today, this meander remains as magnificent as what it used to be, especially with its charming church.

### Did you know?

#### *Norman skies by Sisley*

Impressionist painters did not always intend to depict the picturesque aspect of these inspiring sites. That way, capturing a fleeting effect of light is more important than painting an accurate and documentary view of the landscape.

Sisley was fascinated by skies: "The sky can never be in the background. Not only does it give depth to the painting with its successive planes, but its shape also adds movement to it. Is there a more splendid, a more undulating sky than the one we often see in summer, I mean the blue sky with its beautiful strolling clouds. The clouds stretch through the sky, form into vapour trails and eddies, and slowly disappear with the setting sun. I always start a painting with the sky; this shows how much it is important to me."



# Tips for staying in the Seine Valley

Follow the river Seine downstream and explore charming villages, panoramic views and historical places, witnesses to Norman Roman art and Impressionism.

The meanders of the River Seine are full of surprises: La Bouille and its narrow little streets, Villequier whose main street is along the bank of the River, the magnificent Château of Saint-Maurice d'Etelan with its terraces overlooking the River Seine, etc. In the meantime, you will surely see a huge cargo ship sail past Caudebec-en-Caux or Villequier.

The Seine Valley contains real wonders of Roman art and Gothic art, whether they are still home to religious communities or architectural witnesses to this religious faith in the Middle-Ages. Discover the magnificent ruins of the most impressive Norman abbey, the Jumièges Abbey, where you will enjoy a 3D architecture lesson, but also the Benedictine Abbey of Saint-Wandrille where time is shared between prayers and hard toil. In the shade of the Cistercian Abbaye du Valasse, you will be able to have lunch in splendid 7th century vaulted rooms. Further upstream, **Giverny has become a place of pilgrimage** for art lovers. We enjoy wandering in **Monet's garden... a unique experience** where we can feel the atmosphere that used to exist in the days of this master of Impressionism.



## Do not miss:

- **The Museum of Fine Arts in Rouen**  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 35 71 28 40. Where painters from the Ecole de Rouen (Rouen School), including Albert Lebourg, hang along with Alfred Sisley and Claude Monet.
- **The Musée des Impressionnismes in Giverny**  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 32 51 94 65  
About the history of Impressionism and beyond. Temporary exhibitions of Claude Monet's paintings are also held.
- **Monet's Foundation, house and gardens in Giverny**  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 32 51 28 21  
Monet created a garden of flower beds and a water garden with water lilies, which later became his sources of inspiration.

## > We also love...

- Taking the picturesque ferry boat in Sahurs to cross the river to go to La Bouille.
- Using the bridges, amazing works of art across the River Seine, from Rouen to the Normandy Bridge.
- Visiting the Flaubert Pavilion in Croisset, (phone: + 33 (0)2 76 08 80 88) where the writer's personal belongings are displayed.

## Further information:

Rouen Tourist Information Centre  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 32 08 32 40

Caudebec-en-Caux Tourist Information Centre  
Phone: + 33 (0)2 32 70 46 32

[seine-maritime-tourism.com](http://seine-maritime-tourism.com)





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