Overseas Adventure Travel℠
Since 1978

WELCOME TO

Angers

Your
FREEDOM TO EXPLORE ANGERS

1 Discover the Apocalypse Tapestry

The Château d'Angers is home to the famous Apocalypse Tapestry. Indisputably one of the most important tapestries in France, it is preserved in a superb custom-built gallery, making for an unforgettable experience.
Price: €11 (multi-museum tickets available)
Opening times: 05 Sept-30 April: 10AM-5.30PM
02 May- 04 Sept: 10AM-6.30PM; everyday.
Address: 2, Promenade du Bout du Monde

2 Musée des beaux-arts (Fine arts museum)

This museum holds the city's permanent exhibition of fine arts from the 14th-21st century, as well as the history of Angers. Temporary exhibitions throughout the year.
Price: €6 (free from 5PM)
Opening times: Tuesday to Sunday, 10AM-6PM (closed May 1 and Nov 1, Nov 11)
Address: 14 Rue du Musée

3 La maison des vins (Wines of Anjou and Saumur)

Walk right in and discover the best wines the Loire Valley has to offer.
Hours: closed for renovations until April 2025
Opening times to be checked
Address: 5 bis place Kennedy

Your FREE TIME ACTIVITIES ANGERS

Galerie David d'Angers: This gallery showcases the works of renowned 19th century local sculptor Pierre-Jean David, known as David d'Angers, in the remains of the former Toussaint abbey, dating from the 13th century. Renovated in 1984, melding antiquity and modernity, the building is itself an audacious feature of modern architecture, honouring the artist's cultural legacy.
Price: €4 (free from 5PM)
Opening times: Tuesday to Sunday: 10AM–6PM (Closed May 1, Nov 1, Nov 11)
Address: 33 bis Rue Toussaint

Jean Lurçat Museum: outstanding contemporary tapestry inspired by the Apocalypse tapestry, set in a former hospital from the 12th century + contemporary textile creations.
Price: €8 (free from 5PM)
Tuesday to Sunday : 10 am to 6 pm
Address : 4 boulevard Arago

Gallery In Arte Veritas: only for modern art lovers – strange sometimes shocking, yet fun art.
Free entrance
Tuesday to Saturday : 10 am – 12.30 pm – 2 pm to 7 pm
Address : 16 rue des Lices

Arthothèque Arts Library: contemporary art exhibitions, access through the fine arts museum gardens.
Free entrance
Tuesday to Saturday 1PM/6PM
Address: Repaire Urbain - 35 boulevard du Roi René

Touristic train: 45 minute long touristic circuit around Angers, including La Doutre district
Price: €8.50
Times may vary
Address: Place Kennedy

Cheese shop Fromagerie Beillevaire: Great cheese selection and adorable staff who will give you recommendations
From Tuesday to Saturday : 8.30 am -1.30 pm and 3.30 pm to 7.00 pm
Address: 10, rue Talot

My favourite? the chateau d' Angers

Your FREE TIME ACTIVITIES ANGERS

Walking - Discover the area of Angers walking on a major trail of France (ask your TEL for more info).

Atoue Loire - Boat ride on the Maine River: discover Angers and the area from a different perspective. Two large river boats: 'La Boheme' and 'La Libellule' offering a relaxing cruise with an informative presentation of the riverscape and fauna. (booking required), 06 85 40 26 23 / www.atoueloire.com

Public parks and Gardens - Open to the public 8AM-sunset
Parc de Balzac by the Maine River on the other bank
Parc Saint Nicolas composed of several parks & a lake on the other bank of the Maine
Jardin des Plantes with its little ponds and 11th century church.

Food markets days:

Near Hotel de France
Wednesday and Saturday - 8AM-1PM: Place Lafayette
Friday 4-7PM: Square Jean Chevillard and Rue Saint-Julien

Near Hotel d'Anjou
Tuesday - 8AM-1PM: place Ney
Wednesday and Saturday - 8AM-1PM: Place Lafayette
Friday 4-7PM: Square Jean Chevillard and Rue Saint-Julien
Saturday 8AM-1PM: Place Leclerc

TRANSPORTS IN ANGERS

Allo Taxis : +332 41 87 65 00 or ask reception

XS Transport (Xavier) : +337 89 91 02 40

Tram + Bus : The Irigo network, which manages public transport in Angers, offers a vast fleet of buses and trams linking not only the city, but also the surrounding communes.
There are NO circular lines touring the city.
Price: €1.60 unlimited use, one-hour ticket (€2 if you get a ticket through the driver instead of the automated machine) - €4.50 for a day pass

Have a wonderful time in Angers!

My FAVORITE RESTAURANTS ANGERS

AROUND HOTEL DE FRANCE

Brasserie de la Gare : Gastronomic brasserie specialising in seafood, vegetarian options, English menu $$. Don't forget to try the local speciality - La Gouline.
Opening times: Every day, 10AM-12PM
Address: 7 Place de la Gare

Gribiche: Endearing bistro. Traditional dishes, jazzed up for modern taste buds and served generously, are enticingly chalked up on slate menus: porkpie, calf's head gribiche sauce, lamb shank and desserts to die for with lashings of salted butter and cream. Fine choice of reasonably priced tipples. $$
Opening times: Monday - Friday 12:00PM - 1:00PM. / 7:30PM -9:00PM (Wednesday lunch only)
Address: 9 Rue Max Richard

Le Relais: Elegant bistro with frescoes & artwork, serving local cuisine, seasonal dishes & regional wines. $$
Opening times: Tuesday - Saturday 12:15PM - 1:15PM / 8:15PM - 9:15PM
Address: 9 Rue de la Gare

La Fleur de Blé - $- $$ Pizzas, antipastis, fresh produce and salads, good value for a casual meal
12 pm - 2.30 pm and 7 pm -10 pm (closed – Wednesday)
Address: Place de la Gare tel. 02 41 87 54 89

Bouillon St Laud $- $$ The classics of French cuisine for an unbeatable price.
Opened everyday 7.00 am to midnight.
Address: Place de la Gare Best to book, always busy.

My FAVORITE RESTAURANTS ANGERS

AROUND HOTEL D'ANJOU

La crémaillère - $- $$ Delicious "galettes" or buckwheat crepes selection. Efficient service in a nice setting. Very local.
12.00 am - 1.45 pm and 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm
Address: 30 Rue Bressigny tel. 02 41 87 77 12

Le Mail - $$ - $$$$ Traditional French cuisine inspired by the Chef's Travels around the world. Bistronomy style.
Monday to Sunday: 12:00 pm -2:00 pm Monday to Thursday: 7:00 pm -9:00 pm Friday and Saturday: 7:00 pm -10:00 pm
Address: 2, Av. du 11 Novembre tel. 02 41 25 46 27

Le Café Joyeux - $ - $$ Inclusive café, supporting people and workers with disabilities. Fresh food with fresh ingredients, including soups, sandwiches, light bites.
Monday to Saturday: 9:00am - 7:00pm
Address: 36 Boulevard du Maréchal Foch

My FAVORITE RESTAURANTS ANGERS

IN ANGERS CENTER

1801 : Les Cuisines du Musée French cuisine, snacks, light lunch $$.
Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday 10AM-6PM.
Address: 14 Rue du Musée, In the courtyard of the fine art museum. Tel: +33 2 41 24 84 57

Les Petits Prés: $$ - $$$$
Top chef Samuel Albert returning to his ancestral city from Paris is offering you the choice between a fine dining restaurant experience and an elevated brasserie.
Opening times: Everyday from 8 AM to midnight.
Address: 6, Place du Ralliement tel. 02 41 88 42 87

La Ferme: traditional cuisine with a modern twist, with local regional producers, not a large selection of vegetarian dishes, the speciality is local Charolais beef. $$.
Opening times: Wednesday to Saturday: 12-1.45PM / 7-9PM Sunday 12PM-1.30PM
Address: Pl. Freppel, square to the right of the western entrance of the cathedral. Tel: +33 2 41 87 09 90.

The LOIRE VALLEY WINES

Grape varieties and wine styles vary a lot in the region (light red; dry, sweet or sparkling white; rosé). The Loire Valley is France's second-largest producer of sparkling wines, after Champagne. Two of the more prestigious varieties are Vouvray and Saumur.

Upper Loire - Known for its Sauvignon blanc, producing white wines such as “Sancerre”. Another good appellation is "Pouilly Fumé" (not to be confused with "Pouilly Fuissé", in Burgundy). Touraine: known for its light red wines, from Cabernet Franc in “Bourgueil” & “Chinon”. Produces a variety of white wines (dry, sweet or sparkling) from Chenin blanc in “Vouvray”.

Anjou-Saumur - Similar to Tourain with respect to varieties, but the whites are often more powerful than their upstream neighbours. The sweet “Coteaux du Layon” works well as an aperitif or with foie gras. “Saumur” & “Saumur-Champigny” provide light red wines. Anjou produces a good everyday sweet rosé.

Pays Nantais is situated closest to the Atlantic. "Muscadet" (from the Melon de Bourgogne grape) and "Gros Plant" near Nantes, on the Loire estuary, are dry white wines that go well with seafood.

You can discover those wines with local delicacies like rillettes* from Le Mans, Anjou or Tour, or traditional local cheeses like “Sainte-Maure” or “Crottin de Chavignol”.

Bon appétit et bonne dégustation!

The BOULE DE FORT

The “boule de fort”, less known than the petanque, is a traditional game typical of Anjou. Players are members of circles. The game is played on a curved field with boules which are not round and competitors wearing slippers! It’s the “boule de fort” mystery!

It is unique in France and listed as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. The rules are similar to petanque, but the conditions are totally different: the game is played indoors and in silence, on a curved field with asymmetric and lopsided boules. It’s really not easy to place a boule close to the “maître” (jack).

The origin of the boule de fort game is rather mysterious. There are a lot of different theories about it. Some say, the game was first brought to the Loire Valley by English and Dutch merchants who played a similar game called “boulingrin” (“bowling green” or “lawn bowl” in English as a reference to grass fields) which was popular all over the Commonwealth. In some parts of Belgium and the Netherlands as well as in the North of France (around Tourcoing, Lille, …), people played “bourle” which is also similar to “boule de fort”. In fact, nobody really knows where this sport comes from, but this doesn’t keep people from playing!

The “boule de fort” clubs or circles are convivial places where people meet to play and train for challenges, but also to have a chat. Maintenance fees are paid with the income of the refreshment bar.
Today, clubs are open to everybody, but it was not always like this: up to the 1970s, women were not allowed in the clubs and newcomers could only be admitted when sponsored by a club member.

BOULE DE FORT RULES

The aim of the game is simple: place the boules as close to the “maître” (equivalent to the jack at the petanque) as possible. You need 12 points to win and play in teams of two or three.
It’s the difficult conditions that make the boule de fort game so original: the field is curved, not flat. The boules are not round nor balanced. They are half flat (larger than high) with an iron circle. So, one side is heavier than the other (that’s the “fort”) and the centre of gravity is staggered. In this context, it is impossible to throw the boule straight because it never follows a straight path. First of all, you never really throw the boule: you place it softly to make it roll. At the edge of the field, players in carpet slippers hold on to the banister. Boule de fort is a quiet game: in theory, it is not allowed to comment a turn in order not to distract the player. But this rule is not always followed …
Equipment and conditions have changed over time. In the past, the boules were made of guaiacum, a dense and hard kind of wood. The field is bare ground. An intendant looks after it. He lives on-site and receives a small allowance.
Today, the 1,4 kg heavy boules are made of plastic. The size of the field has been reduced and the bare ground replaced by synthetic surfaces such as resin or lino. The games are played indoors, in long buildings displaying the name of the circle or the club up front.

BOULE DE FORT RITUALS

The clubs are intrinsically convivial places. Member fees and drinks allow to pay the maintenance of the field and a concierge if there is still one.
When a challenge is played, the winner pays the loser a drink. During a friendly game, it’s the other way around. If a player forgets to put the “maître” (jack) back in place, he offers a whole bottle to drink; same for someone crossing the field without getting on the walkway. Finally, a team which has not scored at all during a game has to “biser le cul de la Fanny” (kiss Fanny’s arse) to ward off the defeat. Fanny is usually a picture of a nude woman with a huge bottom, which losers have to kiss, if possible, religiously.
In the catholic clubs, a road leading to a small village is painted on the walls of the building. This village is Brion, because “aller à Brion” (go to Brion) was a synonym to “biser le cul de Fanny”. Both expressions have the same origin: during an assembly day in Brion, a gossip is said to have shouted: “Losers can kiss my arse forward off!” Please note that if you lose in Brion, you say “go to Jumelles”!

My SHOPPING LIST ANGERS

La Maison du Quernon : Fine chocolates, including the local speciality, Quernon d'Ardoise.
My tip if you'd like to take some home as souvenirs: make a group order and have it delivered in our last hotel in Paris in a heatproof box - the chocolates will be absolutely fresh and beautiful to take home.
Opening times: Monday - Saturday, 9AM-7PM, order online https://quernon.fr
Address: 22 Rue des Lices

Château d'Angers gift shop: Great books, lovely tapestry-style pillow covers, and more.
Opening times: same as the Château

Tourisme office gift shop: A great selection of local specialities, along with some art nouveau posters of Angers and local artists' creations.
Opening times: Monday 2:00PM - 5:30PM / Tuesday - Sunday 10:00AM - 5:30PM
Address: 7 Place Kennedy

Cointreau: Take a bottle of Cointreau back home, as Angers is the birth place of the liquor. Available in any and all grocery stores along the way.
My tip: Buy it in Paris to avoid having to carry it all the way.

Poire tapée: A local speciality and delicacy that is part of the landscape history of the Anjou region. Sometimes available at the Villandry castle restaurant gift shop, if not, you can order it online and have it delivered in Paris.

Fabric and art: Angers is known for its art and fashion boutiques. It is definitely a great stop if you are looking into buying a new stylish designer outfit at a great price or looking into taking home a local artist piece. Simply stroll the Rue des Lices and the city centre streets to find your very own gem. Don't forget to stop at the Maison d'Adam.

La maison d'Adam: The building itself is beautiful, but it has been under major renovations for quite a while now, and the façade might not be finished for another while, yet. But you will find inside a collection of art pieces from local artists.
Opening times: Monday 2:00PM-7:00PM / Tuesday - Saturday 9:30PM-7:00PM
Address: 1 Place Ste Croix

On our way to Sarlat, we will stop in a Limoges porcelain workshop which has a lot of high quality and unique pieces to offer: from dinnerware to jewellery, pillboxes and lampshades.
My favourite? The coffee cups and tea cups, of course.