

PROGRAM
2025

Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil

www.chateau-ainaylevieil.com



SEASON 2025

Saturday, March 29, 2025

OPENING OF THE CHÂTEAU D'AINAY-LE-VIEIL

- Guided tours of the château's interior. Departure from the rose garden,
- Guided tours of the gardens,
- Self-guided tours of the gardens,
- Private tours upon request,
- Free self-guided tour of the Museum of Art and Popular Traditions.

An original contest!

Young Guide Contest

Once a guide, always a guide!

During the 2025 season, the Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil organizes an **exclusive contest** in order to involve children and promote the unique history of the Renaissance Logis and the Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil to younger audiences and their families.

THE CONCEPT: *"Become a Guide of the Renaissance dwelling"*

Children aged 8 to 12 will be asked to prepare an imaginative and/or educational tour of the Renaissance dwelling, incorporating historical and artistic elements they will discover on-site.

Prizes to be won!

CONTEST RULES: available for download online.





Expositions

In the Gardens

- **"Grandeur nature"**, a sculpture exhibition by *Denis Monfleur* in the Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil gardens.



In the Museum of Art and Popular Traditions

- **Permanent exhibition:** Dive into the daily life of Ainay-le-Vieil residents on the eve of World War I.



- **Temporary exhibition:** Photographs by *Pierrot Men*, in collaboration with the *Capazza Gallery*.

Events

During the 2025 season, the Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil is participating in the 6th edition of the Nouvelles Renaissances, which will be celebrated under the theme of "celebration" in the Centre-Val de Loire region.

The Centre-Val de Loire will be celebrating a triple anniversary: the 25th anniversary of the Loire Valley's inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the 20th anniversary of the Loire à Vélo cycling route, which launched the cycling tourism dynamic in the region, and the 15th anniversary of the inscription of the gastronomic meal of the French on the UNESCO list. This recognition of our French art de vivre, the time shared with family and friends around a table or on a stroll, is a constant source of inspiration for the Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil. We indeed welcome a large number of cycling visitors each year who pass along the Canal de Berry and stop by the château.

The Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil is also a gastronomic stop, as Maria Rodriguez has been running the restaurant La Volière for the past three years. She offers fine dining that combines local cuisine with South American flavors, being Venezuelan herself.

These anniversaries will inspire us to offer our visitors new experiences related to French history, culture, art, garden art, slow tourism, and gastronomy. Many discoveries await throughout the 2025 season.



Sunday, April 20

AINAY CELEBRATES CHILDREN

The Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil celebrates family and offers a special program to enjoy together: Easter egg hunt, treasure hunt, circus and traditional game workshops, pony rides, and walks around the château. Parents, children, and grandparents are invited to spend a fun and festive family day.

Free admission for under 18s.

Hours to be checked on the château's website: www.chateau-ainaylevieil.com



Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4

GARDENS OPEN FOR NEURODON

An event organized by the "Fédération pour la Recherche sur le Cerveau" (Brain Research Federation) and the "Comité des Parcs et Jardins de France" (Committee of Parks and Gardens of France) to raise funds for neuroscience research. It has been proven that nature positively affects brain function from a young age. Each visitor to the château this weekend will contribute to advancing research in this field. For each ticket purchased, €2 will be donated to the FRC.

Highlighting Neurodon through the park and gardens of the Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil aligns with a cause dear to us for several years and proves the benefits of nature on our brains.



Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11, 2025

WORLD TOPIARY DAYS

Official day on Sunday, May 11.



From Saturday, June 7, to Sunday, June 8

"RENDEZ-VOUS AUX JARDINS" 22ND EDITION

This year's theme is "*Stone gardens - Gardens stones*".

Exhibition by Denis Monfleur in the gardens. We will also offer a tour of the gardens by the owners.



Saturday, July 5, and Sunday, July 6
18TH ÉDITION OF THE SALON DES CURIOSITÉS

The Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil hosts about thirty antique dealers whose stands occupy different historical rooms of the castle around the haute-cour.

For one weekend, the "Carcassonne du Berry" opens its doors to bargain hunters and curiosity enthusiasts.



From Thursday, August 14, to Sunday, August 17

4th Edition of the Rencontres musicales du Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil

Four days of concerts with David Molard Soriano at the conductor's stand and in artistic direction.

Program to be checked on the event's website: www.rencontres-ainayleveil.fr

Monday, September 1st

CHANGE IN OPENING HOURS AND DAYS



Sunday, September 21

EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS

The Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil celebrates Heritage under the theme: "Architectural Heritage."

Since 2019, the owners of the Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil have been engaged in its restoration. Among the companies they have hired is Jacquet, whose masons and stone cutters have contributed to the preservation of many prestigious historical monuments throughout France.

Étienne Thiriet, regional director of Auvergne and Centre for Jacquet, will come with several companions to discuss the château's restoration and present the craft of masonry and stone cutting through demonstrations.

An opportunity to discover this ancestral know-how that preserves our heritage and perhaps pass it on to future generations.

Sunday, September 29

CLOSING OF THE CHÂTEAU VISITS



Saturday, October 4, and Sunday, October 5

PLANT FESTIVAL

The association "Les Jardins de La Loubière" organizes its 18th plant festival in the upper courtyard of the Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil. You can buy plants and various derivatives, from essential oils to garden decorations.

The entrance ticket is €2 per person and entitles you to participate in the exhibitors' raffle. Many prizes to be won.

To prepare for your visit, please check our website to verify the latest updates and information.

www.chateau-ainaylevieil.com

IN PRACTICE

Location :

Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil
7 rue du château
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On Site :

Restaurant "La Volière"

