

OFFICIAL VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Château d'Angers

Angers · From 14€

https://chateau-angers.visit-tickets.com/en/ · Skip-the-Line Tickets & Official Prices



History & Experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

From Fortress to Ducal Palace

GOOGLE 4.5 ★★★★☆ 19 201 reviews

TIQETS 4.7 ★★★★★ 380 reviews

The Château d'Angers stands as a monumental testament to the turbulent history of Anjou, perched on a strategic **slate schist promontory** overlooking the Maine river. Its origins trace back to prehistoric times, with Neolithic cairns and Gallo-Roman fortifications discovered beneath its foundations. However, the structure we admire today was primarily commissioned by **Louis IX in the 13th century**. This Capetian king sought to secure the County of Anjou after conquering it from the Plantagenets, transforming the site into an impregnable military fortress that asserted royal authority over this vital region.

Over centuries, the castle evolved from a stark military stronghold into a refined ducal residence. In the 15th century, under the patronage of **Yolande of Aragon**, the fortress became a nest for the House of Anjou. It was here that René of Anjou was born, marking a shift towards comfort and prestige. The architecture reflects this transition, blending robust defensive walls with elegant living quarters, showcasing how power shifted from brute force to sophisticated governance during the late Middle Ages.

The castle's history is not without scars; in the 16th century, following the Wars of Religion, King **Henry III ordered its partial destruction**. Yet, only the upper parts of the towers were dismantled, preserving the main structural integrity of the medieval masterpiece. For centuries afterward, it served utilitarian purposes as a prison, garrison, and even an ammunition depot during World War II, slowly losing its noble aura until its rediscovery as a cultural heritage site.

Today, the Château d'Angers is managed by the Centre des monuments nationaux and serves as a guardian of exceptional art. Since 1954, it has housed the **Apocalypse Tapestry**, listed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. This unique textile masterpiece, combined with the preserved ramparts and royal lodgings, offers visitors a complete immersion into the medieval world, where stone and fabric together narrate the epic saga of kings, dukes, and the divine.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping through the ancient gates, you are immediately enveloped by the sheer scale of the **medieval ramparts**. The air feels cooler, filtered through centuries of history, as the massive stone walls rise above you, creating a sense of awe and protection. Walking along the curtain walls, the panoramic view of Angers unfolds before your eyes, with the green expanse of the moat-gardens contrasting sharply against the rugged slate foundation. The silence here is profound, broken only by the distant hum of the city, inviting you to imagine the sieges and ceremonies that once echoed within these bounds.

As you move towards the interior, the atmosphere shifts from martial grandeur to intimate elegance. The light filtering into the Apocalypse gallery is soft and respectful, highlighting the vibrant colors of the tapestries that have survived nearly seven centuries. This juxtaposition between the cold, imposing strength of the fortress and the delicate, narrative richness of the textiles creates a unique emotional resonance. You are not just observing history; you are walking through a **living museum** where every stone and thread tells a story of faith, power, and artistic excellence.

PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Practical Information

ADDRESS

City center · Tram: Château Station (Line A, direct exit) or Bus Line 1/2.

OPENING HOURS

Seasonal hours: 10am-6:30pm in summer, 10am-5:30pm in winter. Ticket office closes 45 min before closing.

PRICES

Free for under 18s and 18-25 EU/EEA. Adult rate: €14 summer / €11 winter.

VISIT DURATION

Allow about 1h30 to leisurely explore the ramparts, the royal residence, and the Apocalypse gallery without rushing.

PHOTOS

Photography is allowed in most areas. Note specific restrictions during temporary exhibitions or for the protection of the tapestry's fragile textiles.

AUDIENCE

Site suitable for all: families with children (playful route), medieval history enthusiasts, and international visitors thanks to multilingual audio guides avai

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & Transportation

Metro

: Angers: Esplanade Bus Station — 7 min à pied

Angers: Esplanade Bus Station (7 min) · Ibis Styles Angers Centre Gare (8 min)

Bus

: Angers - Bus and SNCF Station — 8 min à pied

Angers: Esplanade Bus Station (10 min) · Ibis Styles Angers Centre Gare (11 min)

Car

Angers: Esplanade Bus Station (5 min) · Ibis Styles Angers Centre Gare (6 min)

Bike

Angers: Esplanade Bus Station (5 min) · Ibis Styles Angers Centre Gare (6 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Château d'Angers ?



📍 2,Promenade du Bout du Monde — 49100 Angers

🌐 47°28.201′ N, 0°33.601′ O

ORGANIZATION

Navigating the Castle Layers

Ground Floor & Ramparts

This level includes the extensive curtain walls offering panoramic views of Angers and the Maine river. Visitors can explore the dry moats and garden moats, which provide a peaceful setting. The lower sections also contain remnants of the original defensive structures and access points to the inner courtyards.

Royal Residence & Courtyards

Located within the fortified enclosure, this area showcases the transformation of the castle into a ducal home. It features reception rooms, kitchens, and living quarters used by the Dukes of Anjou. The architecture here highlights the comfort and status of the medieval nobility, contrasting with the outer military defenses.

Apocalypse Gallery & Chapel

The crown jewel of the visit, this dedicated space houses the UNESCO-listed Apocalypse Tapestry. The gallery is designed to protect the fragile textiles while allowing optimal natural light. Adjacent to this is the Saint-Laud chapel, containing vestiges of the earlier episcopal residence and Roman walls.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Accessibility for people with reduced mobility**

Partial access to the ground floor and large open spaces; verification required for upper floors.

Families

Site suitable for families with play areas on the ramparts and an educational trail.

Audio guide

French, English, Spanish

SELECTION

Must-See Masterpieces and Views

01 Apocalypse Gallery

The Apocalypse Tapestry

This is the largest preserved set of medieval tapestries in the world, depicting scenes from the Book of Revelation. Woven in the early 14th century, the **vivid colors and intricate details** remain striking after nearly 700 years. It is listed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, symbolizing the pinnacle of medieval textile art.

> 💡 The tapestry was originally intended for the dining hall of the Count of Anjou, serving as a backdrop for meals, meaning it was seen daily by the elite while they ate.

02 Curtain Walls

The Ramparts View

Walking along the top of the walls offers a unique perspective of Angers and the surrounding Loire Valley. The **panoramic view** extends to the Sèvre River and the city's historic center. This vantage point helps visitors understand the strategic importance of the castle's elevated position on the slate promontory.

> 💡 The walls are built directly on the natural rock, with some sections reaching up to 47 meters in altitude, making them nearly impossible to breach in medieval times.

03 Ducal Residence

Royal Lodge of René of Anjou

These rooms offer a fascinating glimpse into the private life of the Dukes of Anjou. Unlike the public ceremonial spaces, the lodge reveals the domestic side of medieval royalty, including kitchens and bedrooms. The architecture here reflects the **comfort and elegance** introduced by Yolande of Aragon in the 15th century.

> 💡 René of Anjou, known as 'the Good', was born here, and his reign marked a golden age for arts and culture in Anjou.

04 Chapel Area

Saint-Laud Chapel

Hidden within the castle grounds, this chapel contains significant archaeological layers. Beneath the medieval structure lie **Gallo-Roman wall fragments**, providing a tangible link to the site's ancient past. It serves as a quiet sanctuary within the fortress, reflecting the spiritual life of its inhabitants.

> 💡 Excavations revealed that this area was part of an earlier episcopal residence dating back to the 9th century, long before the current castle was built.

05 Exterior Grounds

Garden Moats

Once defensive dry moats, these areas have been transformed into lush green spaces. They offer a peaceful contrast to the imposing stone walls, ideal for resting after climbing the ramparts. The gardens are arranged at the foot of the walls, enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the **fortified perimeter**.

> 💡 These moats were originally designed to prevent siege engines from approaching the walls, but now they serve as a popular picnic spot for locals.

06

Archaeological Site

Neolithic Cairn Remains

Discovered in 1997, these remains date back to 4500 BC, showing human presence on the site millennia before the castle. The cairn consists of slate slabs forming funeral chambers, demonstrating early mastery of local materials. This discovery underscores the **ancient significance** of this specific promontory.

> 💡 The use of slate in Neolithic times indicates that the region's quarries were exploited thousands of years before the medieval castle construction.

07

Outer Walls

Capetian Defensive Towers

Built under Louis IX, these towers exemplify 13th-century military architecture. Their robust design was intended to deter attacks and assert French royal power in Anjou. Although partially destroyed in the 16th century, their remaining bases still convey the **imposing strength** of the original fortress.

> 💡 The destruction ordered by Henry III was symbolic, aiming to erase the memory of rebellion, yet it inadvertently preserved the lower medieval structures.

08

Throughout the Site

Audio Guide Stations

Multilingual audio guides enhance the visit by explaining the complex history of counts, kings, and dukes. They help distinguish between architectural eras and provide context for the artworks. Using the guide allows for a **self-paced exploration**, ensuring no detail is missed in this rich historical landscape.

> 💡 The audio guide is available in French, English, and Spanish, making the site accessible to international visitors who might otherwise miss key historical nuances.

TIPS

Tips for an Optimal Visit

TIMING

Arrive early in the morning, right at opening (10 am), to beat school groups and enjoy optimal natural light for viewing the Apocalypse Tapestry.

BILLET

Students aged 18-25 from the EU/EEA enter for free; remember to bring a valid ID proving age and nationality to avoid paying the full adult rate.

PARCOURS

Start with the Apocalypse Gallery first thing, then walk the ramparts, and finish with the Royal Lodge to avoid crowds and fatigue.

PHOTO

Photograph the ramparts at the beginning or end of the day when golden light accentuates the stone reliefs and provides better contrast.

PAUSE

Take a break in the Garden Moats at the foot of the walls; it is a peaceful, shaded area perfect for a picnic or rest after climbing.

ENFANTS

Families should use the playful route on the ramparts, which allows children to climb and imagine medieval sieges safely under supervision.

AUDIOGUIDE

Rent the audio guide to clearly distinguish between the different architectural eras (Capetian vs. Ducal) and fully appreciate the historical transitions.

CONFORT

Wear comfortable walking shoes with good grip, as the ramparts include steps and ancient paved surfaces that can be slippery or uneven.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

How much is the entrance to Angers Castle?

The adult ticket costs €14 in high season (May-September) and €11 in low season (September-April). Visitors under 18 and young Europeans aged 18 to 25 enjoy free entry all year round.

What exactly does the entrance ticket include?

Your ticket provides full access to the entire site: ramparts, courtyards, gardens, royal residence, chapel, and the famous Apocalypse gallery. It also includes access to temporary exhibitions offered during your visit w

Is advance booking required?

Online booking is not mandatory but recommended during high season to avoid queues. During normal periods, you can purchase your tickets directly at the on-site ticket office. Always check availability for special guided

Are there discounts for groups?

Yes, special rates are available for accompanied groups and school trips. It is advisable to contact the castle reception several days in advance to organize your visit and benefit from optimal conditions with the Centre

Why is the Apocalypse Tapestry famous?

It is the largest preserved set of medieval tapestries in the world, listed in the UNESCO Memory of the World register. It depicts scenes from the biblical Apocalypse with unique iconographic precision for the 14th centu

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

UNESCO Recognition

The Apocalypse Tapestry is not just a national treasure but is listed in the **UNESCO Memory of the World** register. This recognition highlights its global significance as an exceptional example of medieval textile art and biblical illustration.

Strategic Geology

The castle is built on a **slate schist promontory** that varies in altitude between 35 and 47 meters. This geological feature provided a natural defense, making the site difficult to attack and easy to defend throughout history.

Royal Birthplace

In the 15th century, **Yolande of Aragon gave birth to René of Anjou** within these walls. This event cemented the castle's status as a major ducal residence, shifting its focus from pure military use to political and social prominence.

Surviving Destruction

Despite orders from **Henry III to destroy the castle** in the 16th century, only the upper parts of the towers were demolished. This partial destruction ironically preserved the core medieval structure, allowing it to survive into the modern era.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

After exploring the castle, the surrounding area offers excellent opportunities to extend your visit. Just steps away, the **Suspended Gardens of the Maine** provide a breathtaking landscape park with panoramic views of the river and the castle itself, perfect for a leisurely stroll. For those interested in religious architecture, the nearby **Saint-Maurice Cathedral** is a masterpiece of Angevin Gothic style, featuring flamboyant details and imposing towers that dominate the skyline. If you wish to delve deeper into art, the **Angers Museum of Fine Arts** houses prestigious collections including works by Goya and Rubens. Finally, the bustling Place du Ralliement offers ideal spots for a quick lunch or coffee break, allowing you to recharge amidst the lively atmosphere of the historic center.

Visiting the Château d'Angers is more than a tour; it is a journey back in time to the heart of medieval Europe. The experience leaves you with a deep appreciation for the resilience of both stone and spirit. Whether you are captivated by the dramatic scenes of the Apocalypse or the serene views from the ramparts, this site offers a **profound connection to the past**. It is a place where history breathes, reminding us that while kingdoms fall, art and memory endure.