



To ... (by car)	Berny-Rivière	Villers-Cotterêts
Berny-Rivière	-	23 min
La Ferté-Milon	33 min	11 min
Longpont	23 min	11 min
Vic-sur-Aisne	2 min	21 min
Villers-Cotterêts	23 min	-

Key

-  PLACES TO VISIT
-  LOCAL PRODUCERS AND FARMERS
-  LEISURE ACTIVITIES
-  HIKING
-  TOURIST INFORMATION
-  TRAIN STATION
-  CAMPER VAN AREA

Index of the towns and villages

Ambieny.....C2	Montgobert.....C3
Ancienville.....C4	Montigny-Lengrain.....B2
Audignicourt.....B1	Morsain.....C1
Berny-Rivière.....B2	Mortefontaine.....B3
Bieuxy.....D1	Noroy-sur-Ourcq.....C4
Chouy.....D4	Nouvron-Vingré.....C1
Corcy.....C4	Oigny-en-Valois.....B4
Coyolles.....A4	Passy-en-Valois.....C5
Cutry.....C2	Pernant.....C2
Cœuvres-et-Valsery.....C3	Puiseux-en-Retz.....B3
Dammard.....C5	Ressons-le-Long.....C2
Dampleux.....C4	Retheuil.....A3
Dommiers.....C3	Saconin-et-Breuil.....D2
Épagny.....C1	Saint-Bandry.....C2
Faverolles.....C4	Saint-Christophe-à-Berry.....B1
Fleury.....C4	Saint-Pierre-Aigle.....C3
Fontenoy.....C2	Silly-la-Poterie.....C5
Haramont.....B3	Soucy.....B3
La Ferté-Milon.....B5	Taillefontaine.....A3
Largny-sur-Automne.....A4	Tartiers.....C1
Laversine.....C2	Troësnes.....C5
Longpont.....C3	Vassens.....C1
Louâtre.....D4	Vézaponin.....C1
Macogny.....C5	Vic-sur-Aisne.....B2
Marizy-Saint-Mard.....C5	Villers-Cotterêts.....B4
Marizy-Sainte-Geneviève.....C5	Villers-Hélon.....D4
Monnes.....C5	Vivières.....B3

Before heading back home...

Here's our to-do list before going back home.



Cruises on the Ourcq



Château de La Ferté-Milon

- ☒ Go to the Tourist Office
- ☒ Hunt for treasures at a car boot sale in a village
- ☒ Learn some French at the Cité internationale de la langue française
- ☒ Act like a knight at the château de La Ferté-Milon
- ☒ Stroll along the Ourcq
- ☒ Get to the top of the General Mangin's observation tower to admire the sunset
- ☒ Meet a stag in the forest of Retz
- ☒ Gaze at the ruins of the Gothic abbey of Longpont

Unmissable local events

Medieval Fair in La Ferté-Milon

June

Jazz'N Ambieny Festival

June

Bastille Day (13th and 14th of July)

July

Morty Jazz Festival

July

Stag roar at night

September

Medieval Fair in Fontenoy

September

Living on French time

How do I know when I should go to the restaurant?

French people usually lunch between 12:00 and 14:00 and have dinner between 19:00 and 20:30.

Consequently, restaurants are open at these same times. Likewise, we recommend you make a reservation to be sure to get a table.

Why are shops and services close?

It might be for two reasons. First, you should note that, generally, in France, most of the local shops and services are closed on Sundays and Mondays. However, supermarkets are open, even on Sunday mornings (until noon) for most of them.

The other reason is because today might be a bank holiday. There are no rules about opening or not during a bank holiday. Most of the shops and public services will be closed. However, some touristic places might be open. We recommend you to give a call or check online for each place you'd like to visit, just to be sure not to end up in front of closed gates.

Spring / Summer bank holidays

Easter weekend: the Monday following Easter Sunday is bank holiday.

May 1st: Labour Day, on this one particularly, most of the shops, services and touristic places will be closed

May 8th: V.E. Day to celebrate the end of the Second World War.

Holy Thursday and Whit Sunday: are moving bank holidays. The Monday following Whit Sunday is also a bank holiday, giving French people the opportunity to take a 3 days weekend.

July 14th: Bastille Day is National Day of France (related to the French Revolution).

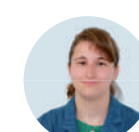
August 15th: the Assumption, is a religious holiday to celebrate the Rise of the Virgin Mary.

I need a doctor or medications, but it's Sunday. Where should I go?

To find a doctor or pharmacy on Sundays, visit the nearest tourist office for the contact details of the closest emergency chemist. Soissons and Compiègne have the closest hospitals. In case of emergency from a foreign phone, dial 112.

Our tips

Vous avez été accueilli par :



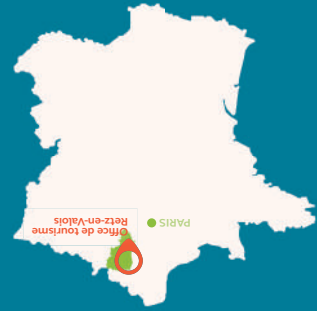
Ségolène



Romain



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Facebook : ot.villers-cotterets
www.tourisme-villers-cotterets.fr
ot@retzenvalois.fr
+33 3 23 96 55 10

8, rue de la Fabrique - 02290 Berny-Rivière
La Croix du Vieux Pont
(from April to September)

Seasonal Tourist Office
Berny-Rivière

Tourist Office Retz-en-Valois
(all year long)
6, place Aristide Briand - 02600 Villers-Cotterêts

History and heritage

The former Duchy of Valois is full of many historical monuments. Property of Kings and Princes of France, the duchy has attracted great families thanks to its abundant game-rich forests and rich farmlands. Discover magnificent examples of Gothic Art at the abbey of Longpont, Renaissance architecture at the Pavillon Henri II and at the former royal Château de Villers-Cotterêts or Medieval remains at the donjon of Vic-sur-Aisne or the ruins of the fortress of La Ferté-Milon. If you are more into Literature, then, head to the museums dedicated to Alexandre Dumas and Jean Racine. Both these famous French writers were born and raised in the area.



Abbey of Longpont

Local markets & farmers

As the very image of the country way of life, weekly markets are ideal to fill-up your basket with fresh products such as local veggies, fruit, or fish and meat but also flowers, honey or clothes and fabrics. To enlighten local production, there are also several monthly farmers' markets in the area.

WEEKLY MARKETS (until 12:30)

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Vic-sur-Aisne: place du général de Gaulle (B2)

THURSDAY MORNING

Villers-Cotterêts: place Aristide Briand, impasse du Marché and place du Docteur Moufflier (B4)

FRIDAY MORNING

La Ferté-Milon, small market: île Lamiche (B5)

SUNDAY MORNING

Villers-Cotterêts, small market:
place du Docteur Moufflier (B4)

MONTHLY FARMERS' MARKET (until 12:30)

2nd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Ambleny: place de l'église (C2)

La Ferté-Milon: île Lamiche (B5)

Ressons-le-Long: hamlet of La Vache Noire (C2)

MUSÉE ALEXANDRE DUMAS

24, rue Demoustier - 02600 Villers-Cotterêts (B4)
+33 3 23 96 23 30 webmuseum.com/ws/musee-dumas

PAVILLON HENRI II

15, passage du manège - 02600 Villers-Cotterêts (B4)
+33 6 60 75 52 67 pavillonhenrii.com

CHÂTEAU DE LA FERTÉ-MILON

Rue du vieux château - 02460 La Ferté-Milon (B5)

MUSÉE DU MACHINISME AGRICOLE

68 bis, rue de la Chaussée - 02460 La Ferté-Milon (B5)
+33 3 23 96 29 85

MUSÉE JEAN RACINE

2, rue des bouchers - 02460 La Ferté-Milon (B5)
+33 3 23 96 77 77

ABBEY OF LONGPONT

2, place de l'abbaye - 02600 Longpont (C3)
+33 3 23 96 01 53 abbayedelongpont.fr

ABBEY OF VALSERY

Route de l'abbaye - 02600 Cœuvres-et-Valsery (C3)
+33 3 23 55 26 39

CHÂTEAU DE MONTGOBERT

47, allée du château - 02600 Montgobert (C3)
+33 3 23 96 36 91 chateaudemontgobert.com

DONJON DE VIC-SUR-AISNE

2, rue de Pomponne - 02290 Vic-sur-Aisne (B2)
+33 3 23 55 04 60 chateau-de-vic.com

JARDINS DU CHÂTEAU DES FOSSÉS

26, rue de la vallée de Baudrimont - 02600 Haramont (B3)
+33 3 23 96 85 98 alexandre-dumas-aux-fosses.fr

JARDINS DE LA MUETTE

2, rue du château - 02600 Lagny-sur-Automne (A4)
+33 6 45 50 84 76 jardinsdelamuette.com

JARDIN DES CHARMETTES

4, route de Vez - 02600 Lagny-sur-Automne (A4)
parc-castellant.fr/index.html

PRIEURÉ DE LONGPRÉ

32, rue de la vallée de Baudrimont - 02600 Haramont (B3)
prieuredelongpre.com

CARRIÈRES DE CONFRÉCOURT

02290 Nouvron-Vongré (C1) soissonnais14-18.fr



Local Farmers

LES JARDINS DE PONTARCHER

Fruit, vegetables and flowers picking
RN 31 - 02290 Ambleny (C2)
+33 6 14 85 42 71

LE SAFRAN DE LA GRENOUILLÈRE

Saffron and saffron based products
Lieu-dit La Grenouillère - 02290 Montigny-Lengrain (B2)
+33 6 49 21 82 48

LE DOMAINE DE POUY

Fruit and potatoes
Lieu-dit Le Pouy - 02600 Mortefontaine (B3)
+33 3 23 96 34 85 ledomainedepouy.com

CHÈVRERIE MYRTILLE ET COMPAGNIE

Goat cheese
Lieu-dit Falloise - 02290 Nouvron-Vingré (C1)
+33 6 41 99 99 20

LES VERGERS DU PETIT MARAIS

Fruit and local products
Ferme des pommiers - 02600 Oigny-en-Valois (B4)
+33 7 78 13 16 26 les-vergers-du-petit-maraais.business.site

FERME DES MARRONNIERS

Fruit
1, route de Compiègne - 02600 Taillefontaine (A3)
+33 3 23 96 01 65

LES VERGERS DE DAMPLEUX

Fruit, vegetables, local products
Avenue de la Ferté-Milon - 02600 Villers-Cotterêts (B4)
+33 3 23 53 20 77 www.vergers-dampleux.fr

THE TEAM'S FIRM FAVORITE

Cité internationale de la langue française

After a major restoration project led by the Centre des Monuments Nationaux since 2020, the Cité internationale de la langue française at the Château de Villers-Cotterêts will open its doors to the public at the end of the summer 2023.

The Cité is both a listed historical monument and a place for the Arts and Culture based on a program fully dedicated to the French Language. Thanks to its permanent exhibition, visitors discover the French language in all its aspects and voices, accents and international resonance. Following the immersive and playful contents, visitors see, hear and enjoy the French language in its diversity.

CITÉ INTERNATIONALE DE LA LANGUE FRANÇAISE (B4)

Place Aristide Briand - 02600 Villers-Cotterêts
cite-langue-francaise.fr



Cité internationale de la langue française

Hiking

Hiking is the best way to discover our villages and countryside landscapes. From the Vallée de l'Aisne to the forest of Retz, and the Vallée de l'Ourcq, you will discover charming villages such as Longpont or La Ferté-Milon, typical architecture and the famous "Pas de moineaux" houses. Get your hiking shoes and let's go! Along the 68 km long "Route Européenne d'Artagnan", explore the area on a horseback on the footsteps of the famous musketeer.

	Start	Distance	Duration	Interests
Final hours of the men executed at Vingré	Nouvron-Vingré	4,5 km	1h15	
General Mangin's observation tower	Puiseux-en-Retz	5 km	1h30	
The Salamander	Villers-Cotterêts	9 km	3h	
In the footsteps of the French soldiers	Vic-sur-Aisne	14,1 km	5h	
A la lisière de Retz	Saint-Pierre-Aigle	8,6 km	3h	
Les bords de l'Ourcq	La Ferté-Milon	9 km	3h	
Les sept muids	Morsain	11 km	3h	
Les Pas Saint-Martin	Ambleny	12 km	3h30	

Forest History Panorama countryside

The Forest of Retz

The Forest of Retz is the former forest of the Kings of France. Among them, King François 1st particularly liked it for hunting. Today, the forest remains one of the biggest of France as it is bigger than Paris itself with its 13,225 hectares labelled as "Forêt d'Exception"®. Home to History and legends, the Forest of Retz will offer you a privileged moment into Nature to take a break and have a picnic. In September, experience a 100% authentic moment of the forest life: the stag roar at night!



General Mangin's Observation Tower

Outdoor activities

Our vast rural area is home to many different outdoor activities. If you are up for an adventure, why not try the treetop course or a paintball game? Nature lovers will enjoy the forest of Retz, and the countryside landscapes by bike or on a horseback. During the summer, you can also enjoy the local swimming pool or embark on a cruise on the Ourcq Canal.

Equestrian centres

ÉCURIES DU PAS SAINT MARTIN

12, rue des Fossés - 02290 Ambleny (C2)
+33 3 23 74 05 92 ecuriedupassaintmartin.ffe.com

CENTRE ÉQUESTRE DE BERNY-RIVIÈRE

42, rue de la Fabrique - 02290 Berny-Rivière (B2)
+33 6 25 62 47 40 berny-riviere-02.ffe.com

ÉQUI SPHÈRE

Ruelle Grand père - 02290 Berny-Rivière (B2)
+33 6 77 33 33 26 equi-sphere.fr

ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE D'ÉQUITATION DE DAMPLEUX

5, route de Fleury - 02600 Dampleux (C4)
+33 3 23 96 20 83 eefr.ffe.com

MYÉQUIDREAM

2 bis, hameau de la Grille - 02600 Longpont (C3)
+33 6 07 25 88 58 myequidream.com

CENTRE ÉQUESTRE DE VILLERS-COTTERÈTS

40, route de Compiègne - 02600 Villers-Cotterêts (B4)
+33 3 23 96 42 18 centreequestre-villerscotterets.ffe.com

How to get a fishing license?

In France, you are not allowed to fish freely. You need to get a license to be allowed to practice. The easier way to buy one is to go the Decathlon store, located in Soissons, where the staff will help you to choose the proper license according to your needs.

General Mangin's Observation Tower

Located at the top of a 220 metres high hill, the 25 metres high General Mangin's observation tower offers one of the highest points of view of the local area. On each of its eight floors, thanks to games, sound records and a spyglass, you will discover everything about the forest of Retz, its leading role during the counter-offensive of July 1918 and about the local area during the First World War.

The forest is also home to the Guards' Grave Cemetery where 98 British soldiers are buried. These brave soldiers fought in these woods to stop the German progression toward Paris.

GENERAL MANGIN'S OBSERVATION TOWER

Route du faite en forêt de Retz (B3)
+33 3 23 96 55 10 tourisme-villers-cotterets.fr

GUARD'S GRAVE CEMETERY

D81 - Forest of Retz (B3) cwgc.org



Have fun !

PARC CANOPEE

D943 - Rue de la Foulée - 02290 Ambleny (C2)
+33 6 10 47 53 02 canoopaeaventure.com

RETZ TACTICAL GAMES

Route du moulin - 02600 Lagny-sur-Automne (A4)
+33 6 73 47 28 06 retztacticalgames.com

HÔTEL DE L'ABBAYE: ELECTRICAL BIKE RENTAL

8, rue des Tourelles - 02600 Longpont (C3)
+33 3 23 96 02 44 hotel-abbaye-longpont.fr

CYCLES DU RETZ: BIKE RENTAL

94, rue du général Leclerc - 02600 Villers-Cotterêts (B4)
+33 3 23 72 61 32 cyclesduretz.fr

PORT-AUX-PERCHES: CRUISES ON THE OURCQ

2, rue François Mitterrand - 02460 Silly-la-Poterie (C5)
+33 6 29 05 56 91 portauxperches.fr

SWIMMING-POOL

Rue Juneaux - 02600 Villers-Cotterêts (B4)
+33 3 23 96 18 27

DECATHLON

Parc des Moulins
79, route de Chevreux - 02200 Soissons