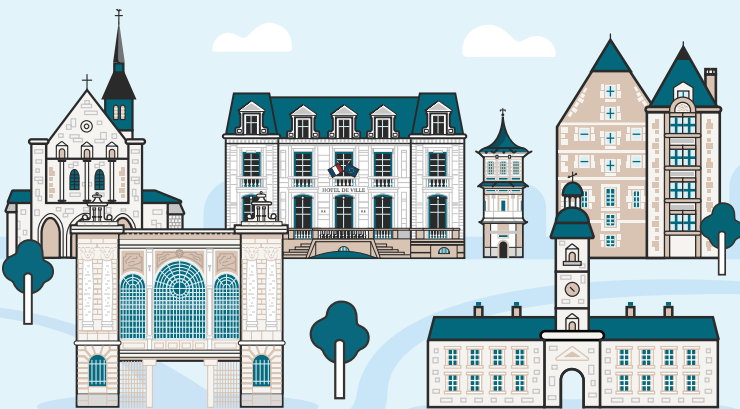




ARCOURS ATRIMOINE



19 ICONIC LOCATIONS
TO DISCOVER ROMORANTIN-LANTHENAY



ROMORANTIN
LANTHENAY

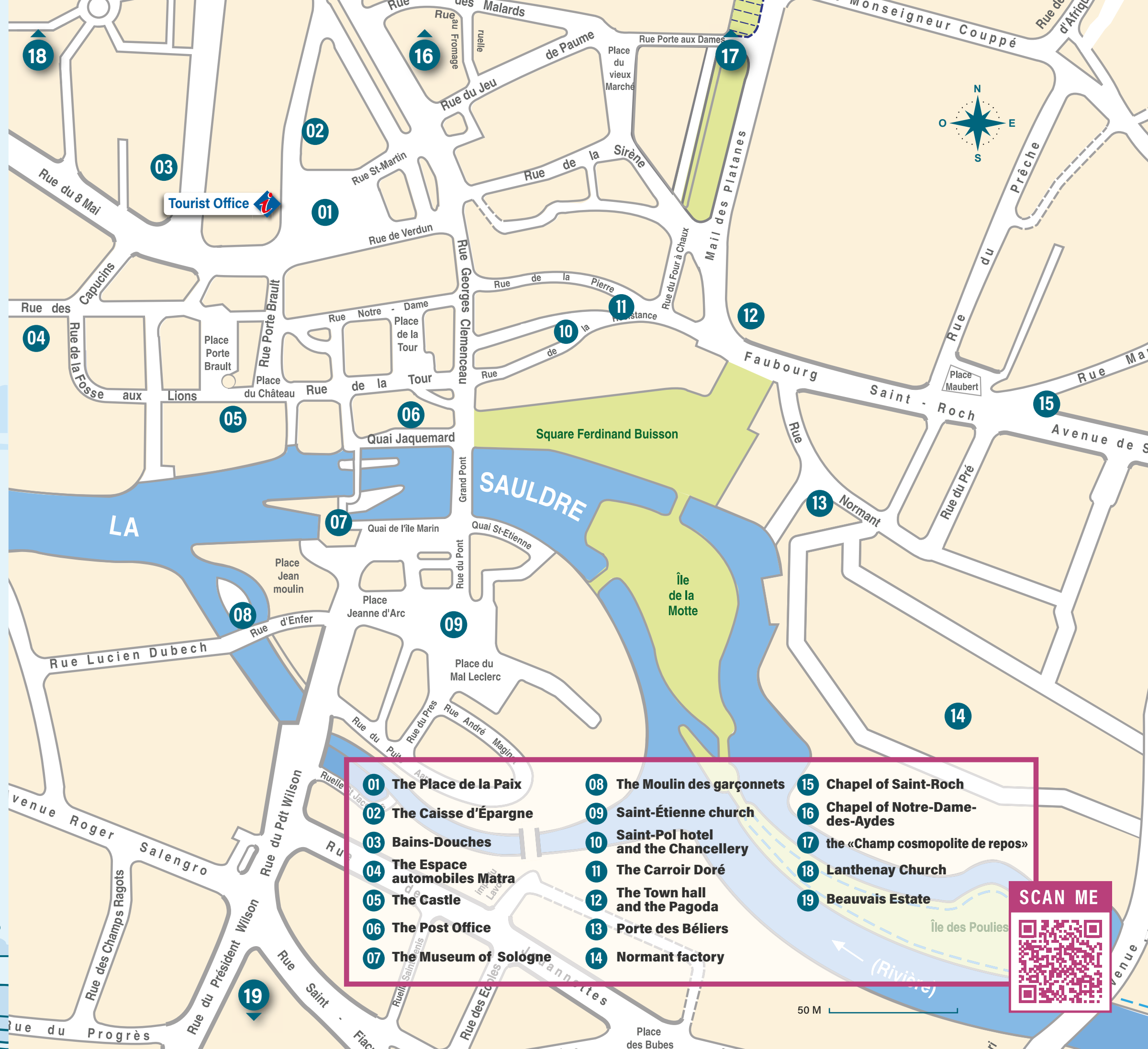
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SCAN ME



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A LITTLE HISTORY :

Discover the fabulous history of Romorantin-Lanthenay. The streets of the medieval town still bear witness to the stays of the court of King Francis I of France and Leonardo da Vinci. Can you hear the echo of the looms at the Normant factory that made the town rich in the 19th and 20th centuries? The 1970s saw the start of Matra Automobiles's great industrial adventure, which has now given way to a "greener" city. Enjoy a tour along the water as you stroll through the square or the Beauvais estate. And last but not least, the 'Champ cosmopolite de repos' (Cosmopolitan resting place) will charm you with its unique features.

01 The Place de la Paix

This square was built in the late 18th century on a former cemetery. In 1887, a dramatic event thrust it onto the national stage: the execution of the Thomas couple, sentenced to death for witchcraft.



1 min ↓

02 The Caisse d'Épargne

In 1910, Romorantin architect Pierre Chauvallon designed the building in a modernised Gothic style. The façade ornaments recall the virtues of work and collective effort, which are symbolised by a beehive.



2 min ↓

03 Bains-Douches

The building, which was built in 1927 in Art Deco style, offered 24 cabins. It played a significant social role at a time when very few homes had a bathroom. The pediment is a reminder of the virtues of water.



2 min 30 ↓

04 The Espace automobiles Matra

A symbol of the town's industrial past, built in the early 19th century, this building was home to some big names: the Monteux shoe factory in 1914, followed by the Beaulieu camera company in 1960.



05 The Castle

All that remains of the residence built by Jean de Valois, Count of Angoulême, around 1448 are a keep and a tower. In 1969, modern offices were added and the former château became the sub-prefect's residence.



3 min ↓

06 The Post Office

This Art Deco building, erected in 1932, is still in use today. The two lampposts date back to 1939. In 1994, the entrance was moved to the other side of the building, to Place de la Tour.



1 min 30 ↓

07 The Museum of Sologne

This museum, which has been awarded the «Musée de France» label, explores the history, nature and traditions of Sologne. It is housed in three historic buildings: two mills and the Tour Jacquemart, a 12th-century vestige.



2 min ↓

08 The Moulin des garçonnetts

The «Moulin des Garçonnetts» (16th century), built on stilts, became the Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture in 1995. Its yellow tint marks the height reached by the historic flood of 2016.



2 min ↓

09 Saint-Étienne church

This collegiate church, founded in the 12th century and now a parish church, retains from its origins the square of the transept and the lower part of the bell tower. The "Merklin et Cie" organ can be accessed via a remarkable 17th century staircase.



3 min ↓

10 Saint-Pol Hotel and the Chancellery

The Saint-Pol Hotel, built in the early 16th century, is decorated with a porcupine, the symbol of Louis XII. On 6 January 1521, François I of France was seriously wounded in the face there. The Chancellery, a timber-framed dwelling dating from the same century, housed the royal seals.



11 The Carroir Doré

The lower part of this crossroads house dates from the 15th century. The corner posts are adorned with beautiful carvings: on the left, the Annunciation and on the right, Saint Michael slaying the dragon and Saint John the Baptist and the lamb.



1 min ↓

12 The Town Hall and the Pagoda

The industrialist Anatole-Aristide Normant had this private mansion built around 1880. An Asian pagoda was also built by Romorantine architect Auguste Chauvallon, to serve as a water tower and reading room.



1 min 30 ↓

13 Porte des Béliers (Ram gate)

This gateway, which was built in 1900, was the entrance to the Normant and later Matra factory. It is a triumphal arch to the glory of industry, and features several symbols of wool production, such as the two rams' heads that gave it its name.



4 min ↓

14 The Normant factory

From 1800, the Normant family developed a drapery business that employed up to 1,200 people. In 1969, the site was taken over by Matra Automobiles, which shut down in 2003. The site was then rehabilitated by the town and opened to the public.



4 min ↓

15 Chapel of Saint-Roch

People used to go to this 1626 chapel in procession on 16 August to invoke Saint Roch against epidemics. The corner turrets were added in the 19th century and worship ceased around 1990.



SEE ALSO

Distance from 01 : 550 m

16 Chapel of Notre-Dame-des-Aydes

This chapel, built in 1640, was sold during the French Revolution and converted into a theatre. In the mid-19th century, it was returned to the parish. Today the building is used by a theatre company.

47, Fbg d'Orléans



Distance from 01 : 1.3 km

17 The «Champ cosmopolite de repos»

Pierre-François Debegues, head of the Romorantin National Guard, created this site in 1830 «to bury all those who were refused a Christian burial». To this day, he lies there alone.

41, rue Joseph Gaveau



Distance from 01 : 1.6 km

18 Lanthenay church

The church of the former parish of Lanthenay has retained its nave and narrow, semi-circular arched windows since the 12th century. A tradition used to take place in this square every Easter Monday: the Hard-boiled Egg Assembly.

Rue Notre Dame du Lieu



Distance from 01 : 2.1 km

19 Beauvais Estate

This simple 16th century tenant farm became a country estate in the 19th century with a château, greenhouses, a park and mills. It even has the Saint-Marc chapel, built in 1607, where the owners were buried.

23, Rte de Selles-sur-Cher

