



Heritage Days: Les Journées du Patrimoine

by Sue Burgess

Les journées européennes du patrimoine (European Heritage Days) will be held on the weekend of September 19th and 20th 2015. These heritage days come under the ministry of culture and communication and this year's 32nd edition is entitled Patrimoine du XXI^e siècle, une histoire d'avenir (Heritage of the 21st century, a story of the future).

At the time of writing this article 529 events are listed for the Deux-Sèvres département. You can find them at:

www.journees-du-patrimoine.com/DEPARTEMENT/journees-patrimoine-79-deux-sevres.htm

Among the buildings open for visits, you will find **abbatiales** (abbey churches), **châteaux forts** (castles) **châteaux** (manor houses), **églises** (churches), **fours communaux** (bread ovens), **fours à chaux** (lime kilns), **logis** (stately homes), **fontaines** (fountains and springs), **moulins** (mills), **moulins à eau** (water mills), **moulins à vent** (windmills)

Les parcs (the grounds) of some large houses will be open as will **les jardins** (the gardens). Some private houses not usually open to the public will open up their courtyards (**la cour**) and gardens or their chapels (**la chapelle**) and pigeonier (**un pigeonnier**).

Activities (**des animations**) will be organised in interesting natural sites (**espaces naturels**).

Some public buildings, which are not usually open for visits, will be open to the public over the weekend - town halls (**les mairies**), the administrative centres (**les préfectures**). Some of these places are very popular and you have to reserve in advance or be prepared to queue (**faire la queue**).

On some of the events you will be able to wander around freely on your own (**visite libre**) and at other events there will be guided tours (**visite guidé**).



Vocabulary / Vocabulaire:

Classé au patrimoine mondial de l'humanité	designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site
le musée	museum
une galerie d'art	art gallery
une exposition	Exhibition
une église.....	church
une abbaye	abbey
une abbatiale	abbey church
un prioré	priory
une tour.....	tower
un clocher	church tower / bell tower
un pont.....	bridge
roman / romane	romanesque
romain / romaine	roman
visite guidé	guided tour
une collégiale.....	collegiate church

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Tel: 06 86 23 39 82 - Email: burgess.susanelisabeth@gmail.com
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