

VILLE DE
Reims
www.reims.fr



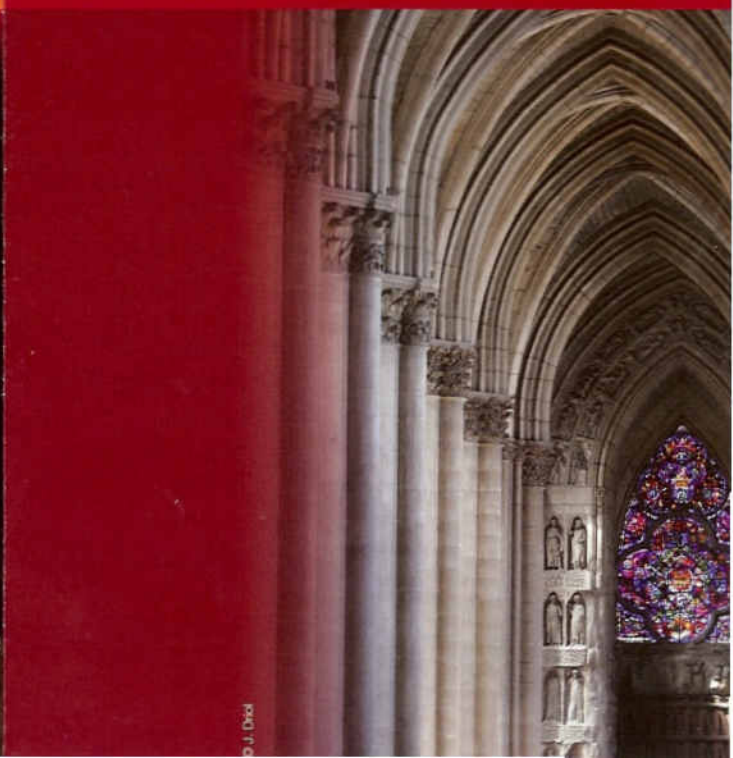
Learn the tale of

Notre-Dame de Reims Cathedral

A universal reference

25 kings of France were crowned at the Cathedral of Reims, which acquired a European destiny after the Franco-German reconciliation, which was made official under its arches by Charles de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer in July 1962.

Notre-Dame de Reims is also crucial in terms of the history of art: a centrepiece of Gothic architecture, the Cathedral, qualified as a universal reference, has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1991.



A history spanning the centuries

Other cathedrals preceded the construction of the current edifice, which began in 1211. On the same site, on ancient Roman baths, a Paleochristian cathedral was erected, the first building in the western world dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Preceded by a baptistery, Clovis was baptised here at the end of the 5th century by Bishop Remi. This founding act imparted the site with a historical destiny: the tradition of crowning the kings of France in Reims. In the 9th century, Louis the Pious, following his imperial coronation in Reims, authorised the town's ramparts to be partially dismantled, and the stones were used to build a cathedral characteristic of Carolingian architecture. Transformed and rebuilt, the building burned down on 6 May 1210. Exactly one year later, on 6 May 1211, building of a new cathedral started.

From the coronation of Henri 1^{er} in 1027, the Kings of France come to Reims to be crowned that is to say 30 kings except Louis VI, Henri IV and Louis XVIII.

800 years ago...

When construction of the cathedral started in May 1211, a first generation of Gothic cathedrals had already been built in Senlis, Noyon, Laon and Paris. These buildings were not as elevated inside due to an exterior strut consisting of relatively simple flying buttresses. Then, in Soissons, Chartres and Reims, followed by Amiens and Beauvais, cathedrals were made higher and brighter to meet demand from theologians of the time.

The builders of the Cathedral of Reims innovated with a slender window-chassis, repeated throughout the building. They hollowed out stone tympanums above the three portals on the façade, which were replaced with stained-glass windows for the first time in the history of architecture.

The vault of the nave (38 m) is supported outside by flying buttresses, whose technical purpose is disguised with processions of angels. The ornamentation and decor of the cathedral are the results, like the architecture, of innovative flair: the stained-glass windows inside illustrate tales narrated by the profusion of statues outside. The Cathedral is the manifesto of monarchy crowned in Reims, with Mary "queen of the sky", to whom the cathedral is devoted, present everywhere, and with the recurrent representation of the symbolic relationship between kings in the Bible and the kings of France.

The Cathedral's construction began with the apse and continued with the structure throughout the 13th century; the tops of the towers were only completed in the 15th century, when a fire destroyed the framework in 1481: the roof was rebuilt and work stopped in 1516 before the spires that had been planned were erected.

From the 20th to 21st century

Emblematic of the history of France, the Cathedral was set on fire in 1914 by the German artillery and was a target until the end of the First World War. Henri Deneux, chief architect of Historical Monuments, raised the cathedral from its ruins and, thanks to the generosity of John D. Rockefeller Jr, fitted it with a reinforced concrete frame, which today is an undeniable advantage supporting the rebuilt lead roof.





Exceptional sculptures

The Cathedral of Reims has a very rich collection of sculptures, superior to all other European cathedrals. 2,303 statues decorate the building, including 211 which measure between 3 and 4 m in height and 788 life-size animals. On the left portal, notably, we can see the statue of the Smiling Angel(1), the emblem of the city of Reims, and the statue of

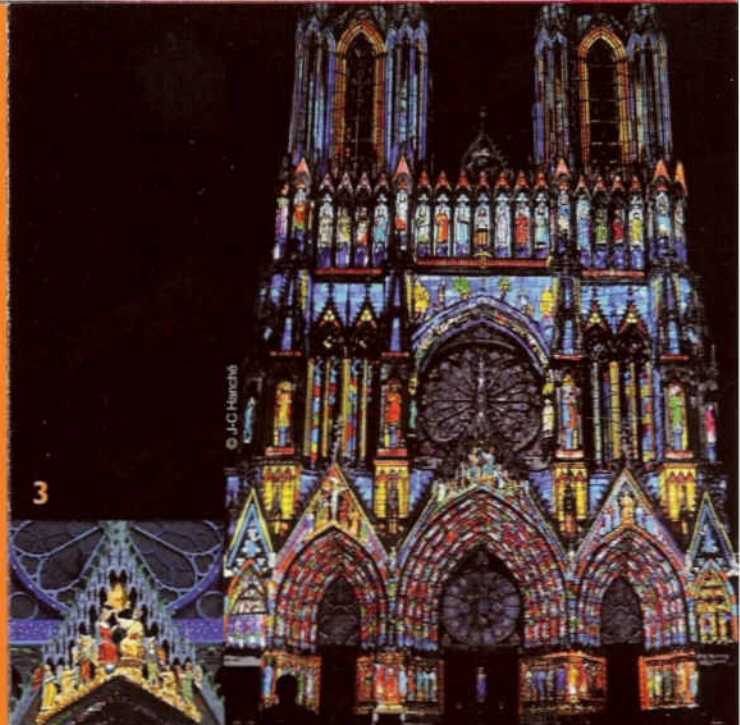
the Queen of Sabah, restored in 2006-2007. 50 metres from the ground, on the western face, is the "kings' gallery"(2) with, in the middle, the baptism of Clovis. Further down, we can admire the story of David and Goliath and, just above the grand portal, the crowning of the Virgin Mary(3). Notre-Dame de Reims has a rare unity of style, despite being built over more than two hundred years (mainly in the 13th century).

2



The tradition of stained-glass windows

Despite successive destructions in the 18th century, the Cathedral of Reims still has a number of 13th-century stained-glass windows in the top parts of the nave, choir and transept. Since the end of the First World War, the Cathedral has regularly received contemporary stained-glass windows. The most famous of these are three windows by Marc Chagall in 1974, situated in the axial chapel: l'arbre de Jesse [The tree of Jesse], les deux testaments [The two testaments] and les grandes heures de Reims [The highlights of Reims]. In 1954, Jacques Simon was the best choice to make the Vitrail du Champagne after installing the small rose window in 1937. In 1961, his daughter Brigitte Simon-Marq made a stained-glass window baptised L'Eau Vive with what was left of the fund-raising money. In 2011, the year of the 800th anniversary of the Cathedral, the building received stained-glass windows by German artist Imi Knoebel, designed as part of the public commission. They are situated in the two radiating chapels next to the Chagall chapel.



3

Dream of colours

The cathedral façade showcased in an exceptional presentation.

The City of Reims offers you the chance to enjoy a wonderful imaginary journey through time. Created by Skertzo, the heritage scenographers, "Rêve de Couleurs" (Coloured Dream) is a visual show that transforms the architecture, bringing the host of sculptures on the cathedral to life.

The paper cathedral becomes an illumination.

The architect's pencil outlines the plan...

Shouts ring out. Stones clatter. The framework rises.

The unceasing ballet of the builders erects a cathedral.

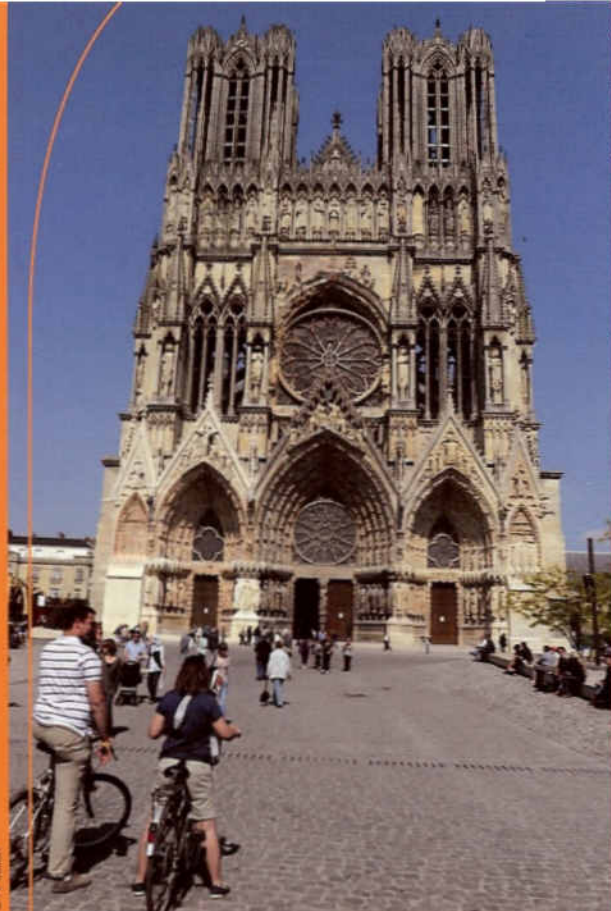
It is immense.

The colours of the coronations, the immense ornaments in front of the portals, the crowd flocking in, the gold, the façade shimmering with a thousand points of light, here is where the kings are crowned.

Soon the sculptures are revealed in the beauty of their colours: the pink of a cheek, the black of a pupil, the gold of fabric, a blue plumed wing and the angel with the hint of a smile...



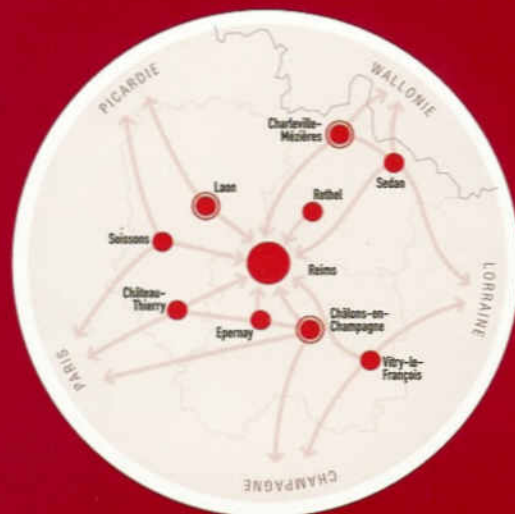
Night-time show during the touristic season.



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The Cathedral of Reims is...

- An international label, UNESCO listed in 1991
- The Cathedral where the kings of France were crowned from the 10th century
- A major achievement of Gothic art with 2,303 statues
- 1.5 million visitors per year, from all over the world
- A total exterior length of 149.17 m
- Nave height of 38 m
- Height of the two façade towers of 81.50 m



Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Reims

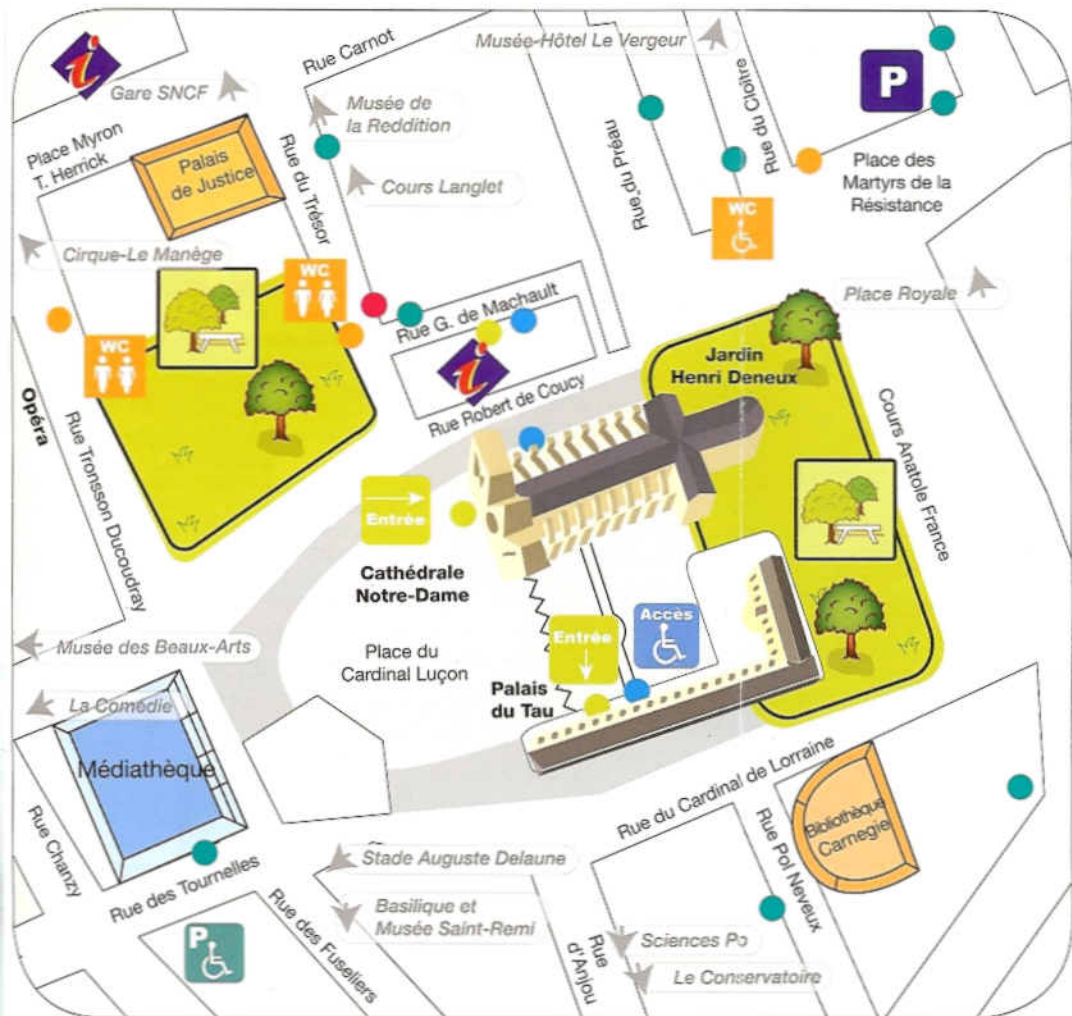
Place du Cardinal Luçon
51 100 Reims, France
Open every day from 7.30 am to 7.30 pm
www.cathedrale-reims.com

Office de Tourisme de Reims








Tourist office near the Cathedral
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51 100 Reims, France
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www.reims-tourisme.com



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LÉGENDES

-  Toilettes
 - Rue du Trésor (du 1er avril au 30 septembre) du lundi au dimanche de 7h à 18h45
 - Rue Tronson-Ducoudray (toute l'année) du lundi au vendredi de 7h à 18h45, Samedi de 8h à 17h45
 - Fermés les dimanches et jours fériés
 - Place des Martyrs de la Résistance Toilettes pour personne à mobilité réduite - Accessible pour 0,40€ (en pièces de 0,20€ et 0,10€)
-  Boîte aux lettres
-  Espaces pique-nique
-  Accès Handicapés
-  Places de stationnement pour personnes à mobilité réduite
-  Entrées
-  Parking

La cage à écureuil ou grue des bâtisseurs

À toutes les époques, les bâtisseurs ont inventé ou modernisé des systèmes qui leur permettaient de lever de lourdes charges avec un minimum d'efforts.

Ces "grues médiévales" en bois utilisaient le corps de l'ouvrier marchant à l'intérieur du tambour pour construire des cathédrales de plus en plus hautes et lumineuses.

C'est donc le poids de l'individu qui est l'énergie. Les diamètres des tambours varient de 4 à 5 mètres pour lever environ 500 kilos grâce à une seule personne. La cage à écureuil est l'engin de construction le plus puissant du Moyen Âge.

Parvis
de la Cathédrale,
au pied
de la Tour nord,

>
Du 14 mai
au 23 octobre
2011



Démonstrations et explications menées par des animateurs spécialisés

Tous les samedis au mois de mai de 14 h à 19 h
ainsi que les jours suivants :
Samedi 14 : 14 h - 22 h, **dimanche 15** : 14 h - 19 h

Tous les samedis au mois de juin de 14 h à 19 h
ainsi que les jours suivants :
Jeudi 2 : 14 h - 19 h, **vendredi 3** : 14 h - 22 h
Samedi 4 : 14 h - 22 h, **dimanche 5** : 14 h - 19 h
Dimanche 12 : 14 h - 19 h, **lundi 13** : 14 h - 19 h

Tous les dimanches au mois de juillet de 14 h à 19 h
ainsi que les jours suivants :
Jeudi 14, **vendredi 15** et **samedi 16** : 14 h - 19 h

Tous les dimanches au mois d'août de 14 h à 19 h
ainsi que les jours suivants :
Samedi 13 et **lundi 15** : 14 h - 19 h

Tous les samedis au mois de septembre de 14 h à 19 h
Et le **dimanche 18** : 14 h - 17 h

Tous les samedis au mois d'octobre de 14 h à 19 h
Et le **dimanche 23** : 14 h - 19 h

