# DÚ 30 JUIN AU 2 JUILLET 2023

# LES MÉDIÉVALES DE BAYEUX DITIO **PRESS KIT**

GRANDE PARADE NOCTURNE - SPECTACLES DE RUE MARCHÉ MÉDIÉVAL - ARTISANS D'ART **RECONSTITUTIONS HISTORIQUES** 

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La Renaissance



COMPLET

# **36<sup>TH</sup> BAYEUX MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL** FIRE AND FLAMES EVERYWHERE

From 30th June to 2nd July the Medieval Festival will set Bayeux alight ! For the 36<sup>th</sup> edition, the department for cultural action has selected the theme of fire. Jugglers, craftspeople, dragon-tamers and tavern keepers will be joining forces for a red-hot programme...

The Festival, one of the biggest of its kind in France, has become unmissable: the medieval Grand Parade will once again open the festivities. Given this year's theme, the event will take place in the evening, after dark. Fire-eaters, jugglers and fantastical creatures will certainly get things off to an explosive start!

Other highlights of the weekend include a fire show to be presented on Saturday evening in the gardens of the Hotel du Doyen : the Zoolians company, a mysterious brotherhood, will perform its mystical ritual at nightfall to the hypnotic beat of percussion...

Alongside the performance companies, re-enacters and craftspeople based at the Hotel du Doyen and in the Place Charles de Gaulle will bring the history of craftsmanship to life: in addition to glassmakers, blacksmiths and potters, a candle-maker and a metal founder will be using fire to create individual items in front of visitors.

From opening parade to street theatre shows, from medieval market to historical encampments, Bayeux will once again be dressing up in its most beautiful finery for a weekend's journey in time.

> "The Medieval Festival of Bayeux has become an unmissable event in Bayeux and one of the leading festivals in Normandy thanks to the hard work of the various city departments, the continuing support of our partners, the participation of local clubs and organisations and the involvement of the community."

### PATRICK GOMONT



Mayor of Bayeux, President of Bayeux Intercom, Vice-president of the Normandy Region in charge of culture and heritage

#### PROGRAM ON

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# **36<sup>TH</sup> BAYEUX MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS**

An unmissable event that has become one of the biggest of its kind in France with over 500 taking part - the Grand Medieval Parade will once again open the festivities. The fire theme means the parade will once again take place after dark. The medieval market will also be held on the Friday evening as a prelude to the weekend, which will be enlivened by numerous minstrels and troubadours wandering around the streets of Bayeux.

### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June

### **GRAND PARADE BY NIGHT**

With over 500 participants – professional companies, clubs and voluntary organisations - the grand parade is one of the highlights of the festival. Setting off after dark once again, the event will be ablaze with fire-eaters, jugglers and fantastical creatures. Be there at 10.30pm on Friday 30 June for an explosive start!

NEW Start Time 10.30 PM

Departure from place Saint-Patrice at 10.30 pm and arrival in front of the Town Hall

In the event of bad weather, the parade will be rescheduled to Sunday 11.00 am





The market will aso be open on Saturday from 10.00 am to midnight and Sunday from 10.00 am to 7.00 pm

### MEDIEVAL MARKET

Each year, the nerve centre of the Bayeux Medieval Festival is the medieval market, where participants in costume encounter amazed visitors, and over a hundred artisans and craftspeople come from Normandy and elsewhere to recreate the colourful atmosphere of these hubs of barter and exchange. Jewellery, leather-work, wooden toys, clothes as well as spices, teas, and medieval cakes add colour and smells to the lively streets.

Around the Cathedral Friday from 7.00 pm to midnight

# SATURDAY 1ST JULY

### SHOWS FEATURING FIRE

#### FUEGOLOKO by la Tribu Kassgueul

Arriving from a faraway country in the North, or maybe the South, or even the East, the Tribu Kassgueul, definitely not from the West, will create pandemonium as they light up the Bayeux Medieval Festival with their joyful, unrestrained and fiery antics!

- Place de Gaulle
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> july at 9.00 pm

#### **ARCANES** by Zoolians

Broken rhythms, raucous chants, shimmering mist: a mysterious brotherhood comes to life, half dog, half wolf, meticulously developing its rites. Their attention focuses, heavy thuds of percussion take over their bodies and the mystical energy of the sorcerers fuses into a hypnotic trance.

- Garden of the Hôtel du Doyen .
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> july at 10.30 pm

**Warning:** spaces are limited! Tickets are free of charge and can be obtained during the day at the information booth in rue Lambert-Leforestier.





PRESS KIT - BAYEUX MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL - 36TH EDITION FROM JUNE 30TH TO JULY 2ND 2023 PRESS CONTACT: +33(0)2 31 51 60 47 - communication@mairie-bayeux.fr The Karitas ensemble consists of three voices and a reader who will be sharing their passion for the vocal music of the Middle Ages. Their repertoire is drawn from all over Europe, from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Some of the pieces were composed by troubadours, some by unknown musicians and some were sung by pilgrims.

### 2023THEME





# **CONCERTS** KARITAS

Cathedral Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 8.30 pm

### NATAVERNE

This group from the Ardeche region is a leading light in the world of Celtic medieval and pagan folk-rock. In a tribal, evocatively lit verdant setting, the six costumed musicians violin, flute, guitars, bass, percussion and vocals - will transport vou into a timeless world.

Town hall esplanade Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 10.00 pm

# **A RED-HOT** THEME

Following on from the themes of medieval bestiary, trade, and costume, the Bayeux Medieval Festival has chosen to highlight fire as the theme for 2023. Fire is a vital element that was first used above all for cooking food. Later it would be used by craftsmen for working with different materials. Craftspeople based in the courtyard of the Hotel du Doyen and in the Place de Gaulle will be astonishing watching visitors as they recreate this history. Visitors could also be surprised by the roar of a ferocious, smoking dragon as they turn a street corner...

### **DELICIOUS DELICACIES IN FRONT OF THE FIRE**

In the courtyard of the Hotel du Doyen, performers from the Muse company will introduce visitors to the tastes of the past with workshops and tastings. Roast meats, soups, sauces, bread, cheese: as they are introduced to their cooking methods and techniques, visitors dive into the heart of former societies, their customs and their ways of doing things. Thanks to the baker, the hunter, the cheesemaker, the spice seller and the hypocras seller they will learn more qbout History through the stories told by these actor-cooks...

### **BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE**

The re-enacters based in their encampments in the Place de Gaulle are never far from their fires. The fire is a source of both heat and protection, but they can also use it to work with their tools. The Feux de l'Envol company will be making their anvils ring as they burn charcoal. The blacksmiths can choose whether to make tools, weapons or jewellery. A few metres away the Viking glass-spinner craftsmen of Utforsker will be carefully working their raw materials. The stick potter Mikaël Kantpig turns his potting wheel with the strength of his arms, making his pots in the same way as in the Middle Ages.





Thanks to this pictogram, quickly identify the activities related to the 2023 theme.



### FIRE AND FLAMES **EVERYWHERE FROM STREET PERFORMERS!**

There will be three circuits for wandering street performers to liven up the town, designed to create an element of surprise for visitors throughout the weekend. They'll turn a corner and be confronted by the Wanderers from the Compagnie Vortex, or the Drake Hunters of the Zoolians Company will appear, riding their fantastical steeds - dragons breathing out smoke.... A bit further on, fire jugglers from the Kassgueul Tribe will set things alight with their joyful, unrestrained and fiery antics!

# **CRAFTSMANSHIP**, **HEART AND BODY**

As well as being the soul of the medieval market, artisans actually invade the whole town! In the Place de Gaulle, re-enactors show off the skills and know-how of yesteryear. In the Hôtel du Doyen courtyard opposite the majestic Cathedral, builders and master craftsmen make a din with their hammers, picks and point chisels...

### HISTORIC **ENCAMPMENTS**

The former Place du Château, which changed its name to Place de Gaulle following the famous General's speeches in 1944 and 1946, is the main site for historic encampments. Alongside the craftspeople - potters, glass makers and blacksmiths - will be the Compagnons de Formigny. The members of this very local company present everyday life as it was lived by people in Normandy at the end of the Hundred Years War (15<sup>th</sup> century), through sketches and activities that involve the audience. Others lead workshops for children.



## **MEDIEVAL WORK SITE**

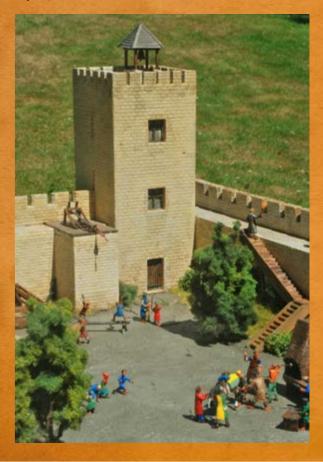
Although the cathedral was completed several centuries ago, the medieval work site will be installed once again at its foot: stone-cutters, blacksmiths, sculptors and carpenters will share their ancestral knowledge of building techniques. Due to the work currently being carried out on the stained glass windows of the Cathedral, the medieval work site is being set up in the courtyard of the Hôtel du Doyen

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## **INTRICATE CRAFTSMANSHIP**

Did you know? Until the 18<sup>th</sup> century Bayeux had a castle! This one was situated place de Gaulle, formerly called Place du Château but renamed in 1946 following the speeches of the famous General. Bayeux castle was built in about 960 by Richard 1<sup>st</sup>, third Duke of Normandy, and occupied an area of almost 12,000m<sup>2</sup>. Louis XVI gave orders for it to be dismantled from 1788 onwards.

The Art6 company displays a 1/72 scale model of Bayeux Castle from east to west in the 13th century (also displayed: a castle mound and its enclosure and a model of the castle of Osaka in Japan).



# FOR YOUND LORDS **AND LADIES**

The Bayeux Medieval Festival is for all the family! For very young children there are wooden toys, and the Festival has invited companies who have devised activities specially for children. From metal-casting to candle-making, there's a host of unforgettable activities awaiting our little angels!

### WORKSHOPS AROUND **THE THEME OF FIRE**

**COULEUR MIEL** by la Compagnie 380

After an introduction to the beehive and its inhabitants with the help of clever, interactive animated models and delicious stories, children can have a go at making a wax candle that they can take with them when they leave.

Place de Gaulle



#### TURN THE MERRY GO ROUND! by the Compagnie du Clair-Obscur

This unique 'roundabout' is original, environmentally friendly needing no external power source, and is 'home made' using recycled materials. It is powered by the parents operating the arm of the press. The attraction is accompanied by specially created music and presented by an actor who greets the children and settles them humorously and gently.

Place de Gaulle



#### L'APPRENTI FONDEUR by la Baraterie en Art

Drawing a medallion, making a mould, casting it in tin and giving form with their own hands to a creation they've imagined themselves: children can have a chance to do this thanks to the Baraterie en Art company at its encampment in the Place de Gaulle! The young casting artists can take their masterpieces with them.

Place de Gaulle



### **GAMES GARDEN**

Like every year, the games garden will be hosted by the association La Semaine des 4 jeudis. Wooden toys and team games for all ages. This association lets you try shuffleboard, skittles, bowling, and games of skill and balance.

Place de Gaulle









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#### **PHOTO SOUVENIR**

Claire Bigot provides personalised photo sessions in her mobile Big Studio. With sets, studio lighting, a digital laboratory and costumes for Vikings, lords and ladies or wizards, the Big Studio offers a complete transformation! Portraits can be of individuals, couples, families or groups of friends, in black and white. Fine art prints, printed and framed on the spot, are also available.

Place de Gaulle Good to know: from 20 euros according to format

# **AN EVENT BACKED BY THE INHABITANTS**

The success of the Bayeux Medieval Festival owes a great deal to the city's inhabitants, clubs and voluntary organisations, schools, council and elected representatives, all of whom take part in the festival. They dress in costume and take part in the parade, contributing to the special atmosphere of the medieval city during the festivities. The event is also of vital importance for the clubs and organisations, some of which fund the majority of their projects out of receipts from the weekend.

"Le Gay Scavoir has been taking part in the Medieval Festival since its inception. The organisation promotes Norman folk traditions and the members give a show of Normandy peasants' folk dances in traditional costume. It's an opportunity to show the public our passion and what we do."

> Olivier Delaroque, president of the Gay Sçavoir



"We wouldn't miss this event for anything in the world!" Alain Le Monnier, Robert Bonillo

and Éric Laurent, three archers from Bayeux



"We have 80 volunteers to organise for the Bayeux Medieval Festival! Leaders, trainers, players, relatives... Everyone gets involved and it creates a real bond. In our tavern we try to work as much as possible with local suppliers: butcher, baker, cider producer... Short, local supply chains!"

> Philippe Virginie, **Bayeux Football Club volunteer**





"Our tavern in Place de la Liberté makes a profit of about 3.500€ for each of the three schools that are represented. In 2022 this sum enabled us - among other things - to take classes to the Puy du Fou, or on a discovery trip to Pont d'Ouilly. Being at the Medieval Festival is a great opportunity provided by the town."

> Sandrine Barbé, president of the Bellevue School parents association.

"We start getting organised seven months before the event. Things speed up from April onwards: the volunteers get together and we share out the different jobs. Technicians, servers, washers-up, cooks... Altogether, 180 volunteers get involved in the Medieval festival. And everyone really looks forward to it. The idea is that everyone has fun and enjoys themselves."

> Alain Jeanne, president of the association Courir pour les trisomiques ("Run for victims of Down Syndrome")



ar with its tavern in the Place de Gaulle

"About 30 volunteers make delicious fried apple fritters at the organisation's stand on Place de Gaulle every year. The Medieval Festival enables us, along with the plant sales we organise throughout the year, to survive without any subsidy from the council. The profits allow us, in particular, to buy equipment for the organisation's gardens in rue Bellefontaine."

> **Georges Joret**, president of the Saint-Fiacre association.



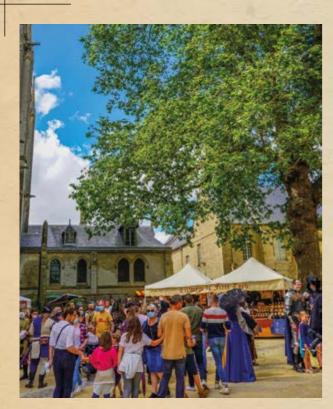
"We've been taking part in the Medieval Festival for fifteen years: we've gone from a little 3m<sup>2</sup> tavern at the beginning to a stand of about 200m<sup>2</sup> and about thirty volunteers. Among them, there are about fifteen who sing songs from our repertoire which is based on the Bayeux Manuscript. The Medieval Festival is essential for our organisation: the event itself, plus the subsidies, allows us to fund most of our activities for the rest of the year."



# THE BAYEUX MEDIEVAL **FESTIVAL SINCE 1987**

### **THE RENOWNED BAYEUX** MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL

Attracting more than 60,000 visitors each year, the Bayeux Medieval Festival is the third largest medieval festival in France after Provins and Dinan. Bayeux differs from the others in that it is free for its visitors: market, shows, parade... All are absolutely free! The many companies who perform here in Bayeux enjoy meeting up in this charming and unspoiled medieval city whose cobbled streets converge towards the cathedral and its surroundings. In the heart of the conservation area, consisting of half-timbered 13th and 14<sup>th</sup> century houses, rises the majestic cathedral, in which the world-famous Bayeux Tapestry will be on display for the first time. These features all contribute to the special atmosphere of the town during the festivities.



### **A FEW MARKERS**

• 1987 : Birth of the Bayeux Medieval Festival. To celebrate the 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of William the Conqueror's Death, a little medieval market, a parade and few animations were organised

- **1991**: 5<sup>th</sup> edition, already close to 20,000 visitors in the streets of Bayeux
- 1999 : creation of the medieval book fair
- 2006 : 20<sup>th</sup> edition, more than 150 exhibitors at the medieval market
- 2011 : creation of the games garden for children
- 2016 : 30<sup>th</sup> edition and 950<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **Battle of Hastings**

• 2018 : the medieval book fair celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> edition

• **2020** : the 34<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bayeux Medieval Festival had to be cancelled due to COVID-19

- 2021 : a scaled-down version of the event was held due to the unpredictable public health situation
- 2022 : 35<sup>th</sup> edition, return to normal after two low-key years
- 2023 : 36<sup>th</sup> edition



**KEY FIGURES** 

ROFESSIONA

**OVER 500 PARTICIPANTS** IN THE GRAND PARADE

# **BAYEUX, A MEDIEVAL CITY OF NORMANDY**

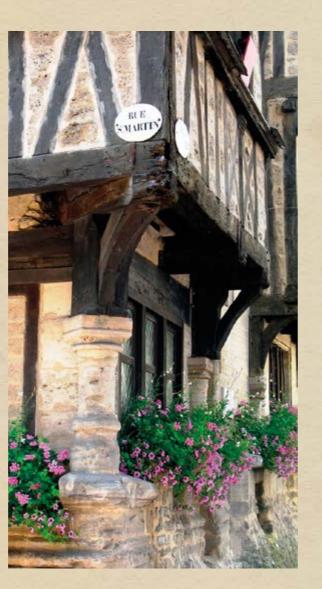
Bayeux is a town situated in the west of the Calvados Département, just a few kilometers from the coast of the English Channel and the D-Day landing beaches. Miraculously spared from the bombings of June 1944, the town, with its halftimbered houses, square-towered manor houses and private mansions, has retained all its medieval charm. Home of the renowned Bayeux Tapestry, the capital of the Bessin area forms a perfect backdrop to the Medieval Festival.

### THE OLD TOWN OF BAYEUX. **A CONSERVATION AREA**

The historic town centre is laid out around the cathedral. A stroll through the cobbled streets reveals half-timbered houses dating from the 13th and 14th centuries, square-towered 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century manor houses, and elegant private mansions. With a little imagination, one can still hear the clatter of clogs on the cobblestones in the streets around the cathedral! Bayeux, along with Honfleur, is the only town in Normandy to benefit from a conservation area, and has gone to great lengths to preserve an exceptional heritage which attracts thousands of tourists from France and abroad each year.

### THE BAYEUX CATHEDRAL **AND THE BEAUTY OF STONE**

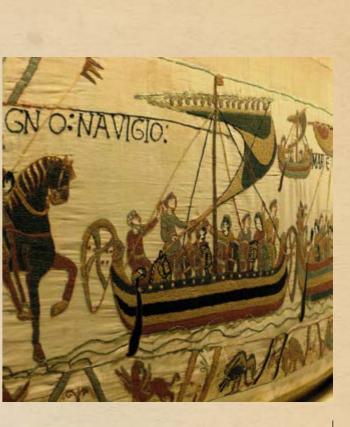
The Bayeux Cathedral, a gem of Norman architecture, situated in the heart of the conservation area, remains a major example of religious buildings in Normandy. The cathedral was consecrated on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1077, by Bishop Odo of Conteville, in the presence of his illustrious brother, William the Conqueror, duke of Normandy and king of England. The Bayeux Tapestry from the Middle Ages was probably intended to be hung in the cathedral nave.



### THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY: **A TREASURE FOR** HUMANKIND

The Bayeux Tapestry is one of the rare artefacts listed "Memory of the World" by UNESCO which is open to the public. This thousand-yearold authentic embroidery takes you back to the days of strongholds and castles. Considered as the precursor of comic strips, it relates the Epic Adventure of William the Conqueror, the famous Duke of Normandy, who went to Hastings in 1066 to seize the throne of England. Its historical value and aesthetic quality continue to inspire artists and historians from around the world.





### THE MAHB, MUSEUM **OF ART AND HISTORY BARON GÉRARD**

Situated in the historical centre of Bayeux, adjacent to the cathedral, the MAHB offers more than 2500m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space, in the most prestigious parts of the Bishop's Palace (11th - 16th Century). The museum, which bears the label « Musée de France », has seen its original surface area doubled. The scenography was entirely rethought, offering an innovative design where the original features of the palace interact with modern materials. The Episcopal palace is a protected Historical Monument, at the heart of Bayeux's heritage development programme and is one of the most remarkable urban residences in Normandy.

# THE PARTNERS OF THE MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL









Le Bessin - Côte de Nacre



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# ALL THE WEEKENDS EVENTS AT A GLANCE

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|---|---|------------|--|--|--|--|
| Jardin de l'Hôtel<br>du Doyen           | Parvis de<br>l'Hôtel de Ville   | Cathédrale |  |  |  |  |
| DIMANCHE de 13 h 30 à 19 h              |   |            |  |  |  |  |
| LE GRAND                                |   | - , iii,   |  |  |  |  |
| CHARIVARI <sup>®</sup> 45 min.          | LES ABOYEURS<br>30 min.   |            |  |  |  |  |
|   |   | 2          |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |            |  |  |  |  |
| SACRÉ GUILLAUME <sup>®</sup><br>50 min. | LES COUPEURS<br>DE BOURSES 30 min.  |            |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |            |  |  |  |  |
|   | LA NEF DES FOUS<br>40 min.  |            |  |  |  |  |
| LE GRAND                                |   |            |  |  |  |  |
| <b>CHARIVARI*</b><br>45 min.            |   |            |  |  |  |  |
|   | LES ABOYEURS<br>30 min.   |            |  |  |  |  |
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#### SAMEDI SOIR UNIQUEMENT

| ARCANES | NATAVERNE |         |
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|         | NATAVERNE |         |
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|         |           | 45 min. |
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# **PRACTICAL INFORMATIONS**

### COME IN COSTUME

Visitors are encouraged to dress up in costume if they wish! Obviously, the organisers require that costumes are medieval.

**To be noted: on Saturday and Sunday, free entrance** to the three museums for people in costume and children under 10.

O More information bayeuxmuseum.com

### PRICES

All shows are free of charge\*: animations, shows, concerts... This is a policy decision by the town council, which makes the Bayeux Medieval Festival one of the leading events of this kind in France.

\*Except products for sale in the taverns and at the medieval market

### WHERE TO PARK

Parking is available during the event (except the streets concerned by festivities). It is possible to park on the outskirts and walk to the town centre (5-10 minutes walk).

#### **PARKING WITH** A CAMPERVAN?

Parking area rue Trébucien 💻 (for motorhomes less than 8 meters) Paying from 5.00PM to 8.00AM

GPS coordinates latitude : 49.276348, longitude : -0.712541 Price: 5,50€ 28 places

#### Parking area Museum of the Battle of Normandy

(for motorhomes more than 8 meters) Paving from 5.00PM to 8.00AM GPS coordinates latitude : 49.273331, longitude : -0.712562 Price: 5.50 € 14 places

#### Service area chemin du Hameau de la Rivière 📕

Equipped with a paying hook-up point GPS coordinates latitude: 49.281539, longitude -0.696116 Price: 3 € for 100 L

A service area with drinking water supply, black and grey water tank discharge and household waste disposal is available at the Bords de l'Aure municipal campsite, for campsite users.

More information on camping-bayeux.fr

#### COME BY TRAIN WITH SNCF NOMAD TRAIN AND THE NORMANDY REGION!

SNCF Nomad Train is offering promotional fares to come to the Bayeux Medieval Festival by train:

• From Normandy - Pass Normandie Découverte (Normandy Discovery Pass) from 20€ for 2 people, unlimited journeys for 2 days. Free for up to 3 children, and accompanying persons can be added (5€ per person).

More info on ter.sncf.com/normandie/tarifs-cartes/bons-plans/pass-normandie-decouverte

• From Paris - Pack Tribu, 25% reduction on the price of tickets for groups of 4 - 9 people.

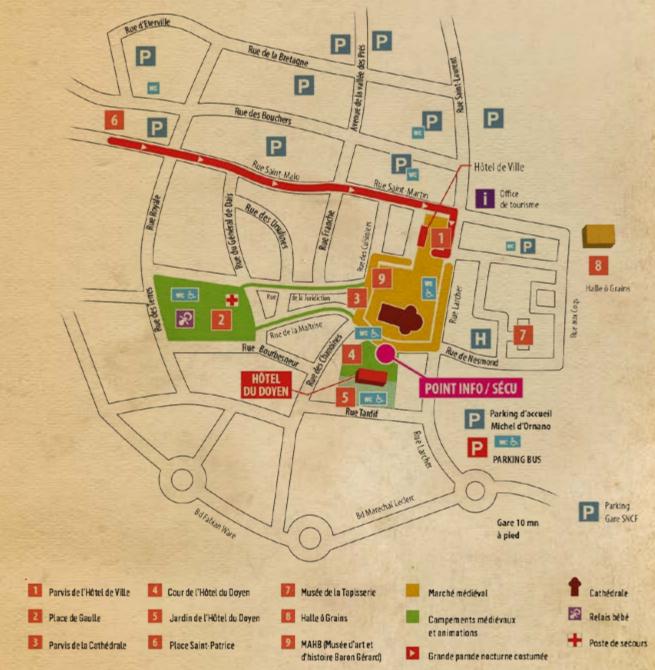
More info on ter.sncf.com/normandie/tarifs-cartes/offre-krono-plus/pack-tribu

• The train station is a 10 minute walk away.



Info and purchases on SNCF Nomad Train

#### **ALL EVENTS ARE FREE / CATERING FACILITIES**



| 1 | Parvis de l'Hôtel de Ville | 4 | Cour de l' |
|---|----------------------------|---|------------|
| 2 | Place de Gaulle            | 5 | Jardin de  |
| 3 | Parvis de la Cathédrale    | 6 | Place Sal  |

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# CONTACTS

### **PRESS CONTACT**

#### Communication Department

Mairie de Bayeux 19 rue Laitière 14400 Bayeux communication@mairie-bayeux.fr +33(0)2 31 51 60 47

During the event: Anne-Lise ORDONEZ +33(0)6 73 63 48 58

### **ORGANISATION CONTACT**

#### Cultural Action Department 📕

Mairie de Bayeux Hôtel du Doyen 11 rue Lambert Leforestier 14400 Bayeux actionculturelle@mairie-bayeux.fr +33(0)2 31 92 03 30

### LESMEDIEVALES.BAYEUX.FR

#### **PHOTOS CREDITS**

Unik studio, Stéphane Maurice, Virginie Meigné, Dex Aïe, Studioroby photographe, James Ledolley, Jonas graphiste, Jean-Marc JANSEN, Nataverne, Cie La Muse, Les Feux de l'Envol, Les compagnons de Formigny, Art6, Compagnie 380, La Baraterie en Art, Cie du Clair-Obscur, Frédéric Coune, Picasa, Alban van Hassenhove, Frédéric Bisson, Les Aboyeurs, PrisciliaThenard, Compagnie Vortex, La Semaine des 4 jeudis, Utforsker, Mikaël Kantpig, Ville de Bayeux, Bayeux FC, L'Orphéon, OT Bayeux Intercom, Bayeux Museum.