

CONNECTION

This English Section appears bi-weekly Edited by : Wendy Y.C. Yeh

Profile

On the Road Again: Rouen, France (3)



Most of the top tourist attractions in Rouen lie within the city's pedestrian zone. It is a charming area of winding medieval lanes and picturesque houses. Highlights include the magnificent cathedral, the renowned Fine Arts Museum, and the remarkable Gros Horloge clock tower.

Rouen has more than 50 religious buildings, and many of the churches are gems of Gothic architecture. In the heart of the old town, the Cathedrale Notre-dame in Rouen is one of the largest and most impressive Gothic cathedrals in France.

The cathedral's main structure was built in the 13th century, but the entire building was not completed until the 16th century. I was dazzled by the elaborate façade, which inspired impressionist painter Claude Monet. The cathedral's central doorway was the subject of Monet's famous painting series.

Above the façade, two towers loom over the town. The tower on the right is called the Tour du Beurre (Butter Tower in English) because it was paid for by offerings from the faithful, who in return were permitted to eat butter during Lent. The cathedral also boasts France's highest spire at 151 meters.

The fascinating Musee des Beaux - Arts in Rouen ranks among the most important art museums in France. In a pleasant tree-lined square, this fine arts museum is renowned for its variety and breadth of artistic movements. The excellent collection includes a wide range of paintings, sculptures, drawings, and objets d'art from the 15th century to the 21st century. The most notable works include the

17th century masterpieces by Rubens and other prominent artists as well as the 19th-century masterpieces of Monet and other successful artists.

The majestic 14th-century church named Abbatiale Saint-Ouen Church is considered a masterpiece of Late Gothic architecture. The building's tower is topped with a pinnacled section known as the "Crown of Normandy." With its immense structures, the abbey's harmonious vaulted interior offers a peaceful space for spiritual worship. There are many exquisite stained-glass windows, which allow light to filter into the sanctuary. The splendid sunrays in the room invoked a gentle and magical atmosphere for deep thoughts and heartfelt reflections.

My tour of Rouen started early in the morning. The sun was high in the clear sky, but the grass on the sidewalk was still glistening with dew. I loved the fragrant freshness in the air.

I saw some birds flying free in the early morning light. They sent a seasonal whisper of what was to come. The sunray made crazy diamonds on the windowpanes. I knew it was going to be a perfectly glorious day for me to sightsee. As I was strolling through the streets, some locals greeted me with a warm smile. I saw the joy in their eyes reflecting the sun's brilliant rays.

I, too, wanted to soak my soul under such a sun.



▲strolling through the bustling streets of Rouen in France



▲being in awe of the gentle and magical atmosphere inside the magnificent Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Rouen in France



▲the elaborate facade of the Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Rouen inspired Claude Monet's famous painting series



▲many people are drawn to the heavenly sound of these organs

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週一至週五 9:00am-6:00pm
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