



# MUST-SEES in Thiérache



Schedules and information are not contractual. Tourist Office cannot be held responsible in case of error or modification.

## LE FAMILISTÈRE DE GUISE

Place du Familistère - 02120 GUISE  
[+ 33] [0]3 23 61 35 36 - [accueil@familistere.com](mailto:accueil@familistere.com) - [www.familistere.com](http://www.familistere.com)

Jean-Baptiste André Godin (1817-1888), founder of the renowned Godin stove factory, dreamt of a company which would offer its employees the "equivalents of wealth". To this end, he created the Familistère, or "Social Palace", in the second half of the 19th century. Discover the Familistère community through its museum, show apartment, workers' housing, its garden, shops, the Familistère Theatre and the swimming pool-cum-laundry.



From 04/01 to 28/02 and 01/11 to 09/12 (closed Mondays): 10am-12.30pm - 1.30pm-6pm

From 01/03 to 31/10 (open daily): 10am-12.30pm - 1.30pm-6pm

**Adult admission:** from €7 to €10 (reduced rate for students and the unemployed).

**Child admission:** from €0 to €7 (free for under 10s).

**Additional charge for guided tour:** €2



## BLANGY WATERFALL AND NATURAL AREA

Route de Blangy - 02500 HIRSON

Nestled in the heart of the Hirson forest and a stone's throw from the Belgian border, the River Oise puts on a show! This is an ideal spot for a refreshing family walk. Upstream from the waterfall, a 2km footpath will take you around the waterway. Just a few kilometres away, and accessible by car, the Rocher du Pas Bayard is also worth a visit.

Accessible all year round.

In addition to accommodation at the Domaine de Blangy, the site offers activities such as canoeing, climbing, or bicycle rental from Thiérache Sport Nature : (+33) [0]3 23 58 34 41.

*Bear in mind that the flow of the waterfall is lower in the summer!*



# PARFONDEVAL VILLAGE



ONE OF 'FRANCE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES'  
Route départementale 520 - 02360 PARFONDEVAL

This picturesque village in Thiérache has preserved its rural charm with its pond in the main square. It is officially classified as one of 'France's Most Beautiful Villages'. The 16th-century fortified church was also built to serve as a refuge. The tiny village streets are home to fine examples of rural built heritage, a wash house, a Protestant temple and bocage landscape. A handful of local farmers and livestock breeders keep this small village of 160 inhabitants alive.

Accessible all year round.

Fortified church open from 9am to 4pm, with guided tours on Saturday and Sunday in July and August, from 4.30pm to 6.30pm, except Sunday 21/08.

Short walking tour (1.25km) with free audio guide (available from the restaurant of Le Relais de la Chouette or the Tourist Information Office, during the summer season).

For more information, contact Les Amis de Parfondeval: +33(0)6 22 44 15 91 - amis.parfondeval@gmail.com



# SAINT-MICHEL ABBEY

8 rue du Chamiteau - 02830 SAINT-MICHEL  
(+ 33) (0)3 23 58 87 20 - abbaye-st-michel@wanadoo.fr

This Benedictine abbey, founded in 945, has been perfectly preserved. It houses the large Boizard organ dating from 1714, and murals depicting the life of Saint Benedict, which were discovered only recently in the cloister. In the abbey outhouses, a museum devoted to forestry and rural life houses more than 15,000 exhibits including vast collections of basketry and timber-related items.

From 02/01 to 11/11 (closed Tuesdays): 2pm-6pm

Adult admission: from €1.80 to €4.60 (abbey and museum)

Child admission: from €0 to €2.90 (free for under 13s).



# GUISE CASTLE

Allée Maurice Duton - 02120 GUISE  
(+ 33) (0)3 23 61 11 76 - chateauguise@clubduvieuxmanoir.fr - www.chateauguise.fr

From the Medieval castle dominated by its keep, the Dukes of Guise built one of Northern Europe's largest fortresses in the 16th century, a stronghold which was later to attract the attention of Vauban. Bombed during the First World War, the castle then served as a dumping site for a septic tank engineer and almost disappeared. Fortunately, in 1952, a young local named Maurice Duton decided to save the castle and founded the Club du Vieux Manoir, a youth organisation who to this day organise work camps and activities to bring the castle back to life!

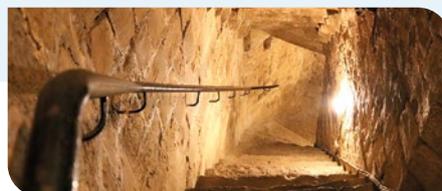
Adult admission: from €5 to €7 (reduced rate for students, unemployed and disabled visitors).

Child admission: from €0 to €5 (free for under 6s).

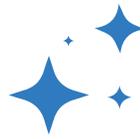
From 01/04 to 30/06 and 01/09 to 06/11 (closed Mondays): 10am-1pm - 2pm-6pm

From 01/07 to 31/08 (open daily): 10am-6pm

Guided tours: by appointment only.



# FORTIFIED CHURCHES



Some 60 churches are to be found throughout the Thiérache de l'Aisne region. Freely open to visitors, these churches were fortified between the mid-15th century and the mid-17th century by local communities, with the help of the clergy and noble landowners. The fortresses were built to protect the villages from passing armies during periods of war. The wars may have passed, but these buildings remain an impressive sight for visitors!

## 9 churches not to miss:



### BURELLES - SAINT-MARTIN

*Open daily from 9am to 7pm. Guided tours by appointment (including the upper level) with the Association Saint-Martin de Burelles - +33(0)6 36 08 24 00*

This church is a typical example of military architecture. It boasts a complete defence system, with a tower, watch-towers, a brattice and some 60 arrow slits. It is one of the few churches with access to the upper level (by appointment). The upper level houses a guard room and vast shelter room accessible by the belfry. Virtual visits of the upper levels via computer on site or on YouTube: saint martin de burelles



### JEANTES - SAINT-MARTIN

*Open daily from 9am to 6pm.*

The fortified church of Jeantes is home to 400m<sup>2</sup> of murals and frescos, created by the Dutch artist Charles Eyck in 1962, in addition to remarkable stained glass windows. A timed meter (takes €2 coins) will allow you to light up the frescos.



### ENGLANCOURT - SAINT-NICOLAS

*Open daily from 10am to 5.30pm (may be subject to works in 2022)*

This is a unique church in that it does not possess a bell tower and the keep lies in its chancel. Built on a ridge overlooking the Oise Valley, the church also retains a secret...a statue of the Virgin which is said to have blinked its eyelids. Press cuttings in the church recount the story of what is still referred to as "The Miracle of Englancourt".



### MONTCORNET - SAINT-MARTIN

*Open daily from 9am to 5pm.*

The largest fortified church in Thiérache boasts two huge brick towers with a stone base, arrow slits, watchtowers and turrets. It is believed to have served as a Templar command base, which would explain its unusual plan in the shape of a Greek cross. You will easily spot numerous traces, both inside and outside, of successive transformations to the church down through the centuries.



### WIMPY - SAINT-MARTIN

*Open daily from 9am to 5pm.*

This purely military building, flanked by two impressive turrets, listed as Historical Monuments in 1932, boasts more than 60 arrow slits and vast area heated by 4 fireplaces, including 2 on the ground floor considered to be the largest church fireplaces still in existence in Thiérache!



### FLAVIGNY-LE-GRAND ET BEURAIN - SAINT-MÉDARD

*Open weekends from 9am to 6pm*

The present-day church was erected in the mid-16th century, when the first Duke of Guise modernised the Medieval fortifications with a bastioned brick rampart. The upper level is open to group visits only.



### PLOMION - NOTRE DAME DE L'ASSOMPTION

*Church closed for renovations until spring/summer 2022.*

This building is an example of a church with the complete range of fortification features: a tower, keep, turrets, watch-towers and more than 60 arrow slits, including 42 in the keep!



### GRONARD - SAINT-THÉODULPHE

*Open daily from 9am to 7pm. Guided tours by Mr. Christian Vanneau, Aisne Greeter: +33(0)3 23 98 18 35*

This church, with its keep and two facade towers, is nestled in pleasant, leafy surroundings. A renovated wash house nearby and a hiking trail add to the interest of this site for visitors. You'll be amazed by the incredible story of Sant Thiou and his miraculous fountain.



### PARFONDEVAL - SAINT-MÉDARD

*Open daily from 9am to 6pm. Guided tours on Saturday and Sunday during the summer season.*

This church has been specially renovated and equipped for visits, and offers the opportunity to climb to the upper level to explore its shelter room. Please note that digital tour guides are unavailable during the winter season.

# LE MAROILLES

Maroilles, the most sophisticated of strong cheeses is the only AOP or protected origin cheese from the Hauts-de-France region. It has been produced since the 11th century in Thiérache, where cattle graze in the bocage meadows of the Nord and Aisne departments. Depending on its format, it is matured for 3 to 5 weeks, during which it is brushed and washed with salted water. You can buy Maroilles cheese directly from our local producers below:



#### ▶ LAIT 2 FERMES

2, rue de la Hérie 02500 EPARCY - (+33) [0]6 74 96 67 07 - [www.lait-2-fermes.fr](http://www.lait-2-fermes.fr)  
In addition to its shop, "Lait 2 Fermes" offers visitors a freely accessible tour path. Shop open from 9am to 12pm, Monday to Saturday, and Friday from 3pm to 7pm.



1, rue Hurtebise 02140 HAUTION - (+33) [0]3 23 98 22 50 - [www.maroilles-claire-halleux.fr](http://www.maroilles-claire-halleux.fr)  
From 02/01 to 31/03 and 01/11 to 31/12. Open 9am-12pm - 2pm-5.30pm  
From 01/04 to 31/10: Open 9am-12pm - 2pm-6pm  
Note: shop closed Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday throughout the year.



#### ▶ MAROILLES FAUQUET

28, rue de la Croix 02170 LE NOUVION-EN-THIERACHE - (+33) [0]3 23 98 35 70  
Shop open Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 12.30pm and from 1pm to 3.30pm.

9, rue Dardennes 02500 MONDREPUIS - (+33) [0]3 23 58 13 51 - [www.maroilles-lesire.fr](http://www.maroilles-lesire.fr)  
Shop open daily from 8.30am to 11.45am, except public holidays.



#### ▶ MAROILLES LEDUC

4, route de La Capelle 02260 SOMMERON - (+33) [0]3 23 97 23 86 - [www.leduc-maroilles.com](http://www.leduc-maroilles.com)  
Shop open Monday to Friday, from 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 4.30pm.

## EUROVELO 3 AND HIKING TRAILS

EuroVelo 3, or the "Pilgrims' Trail", is a cycle trail starting in Trondheim, Norway and ending in Santiago de Compostela in Spain. France is crossed by 1,600km of the trail, also known here as the "Scandibérique". It goes through 18 departments, including Aisne. Running along the former Axe Vert (or Green Path) in Thiérache between Guise and Hirson, EuroVelo 3 offers nature lovers the chance to explore the Oise Valley with its bocage landscape and fortified churches. 14 EuroVelo 3 routes, adapted to families, groups of friends or sport cyclists, are available for free from the Tourist Office.



Download all hiking trails from our website:  
[www.tourisme-thierache.fr](http://www.tourisme-thierache.fr)

