



ROYAL
FORTRESS
OF CHINON

GROUPS AND
PROFESSIONALS
2024

STRONGER THAN A CASTLE



forteressechinon.fr

Un site du Conseil départemental d'Indre & Loire

TOURAINES
LE DÉPARTEMENT





FORTERESSE ROYALE DE CHINON

Located on the rocky outcrop at the edge of Anjou, Touraine, and Poitou, the Royal Fortress of Chinon is a reflection of the height of prestige in the Middle Ages.

This thousand-year-old construction was the last refuge of Henry II of England. It also hosted Eleanor of Aquitaine, Charles VII, and Joan of Arc during major turning points in French history.

Today, the “three castles” that make up the Loire Valley Medieval royal fortress reveal their secrets to visitors through reconstitutions, immersive tours, and a variety of events and activities.

To visit the Royal Fortress of Chinon is to walk in the footsteps of Joan of Arc, learn how wartime equipment worked, and soak in amazing panoramic views of the Loire Valley.

NOT TO BE MISSED

- Guided Tour
- Immersive tours with HistoPad
- New reconstitutions and furnished rooms
- Discovery through play: Monument Game
- Events

FEATURES

- Rare Medieval site in the Loire Valley
- Royal residence for 4 centuries (12th-15th)
- Stunning panoramic views of vineyards and the Medieval city
- Mecca of French history
- Located in a UNESCO World Heritage Site area

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An Exceptional Site

A bridge takes visitors over the Vienne into the passages of the old city. The streets of Chinon inevitably lead to the foot of the Fortress, beckoning visitors to discover this charming thousand-year-old site and its views of the Loire Valley. The Fortress is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A view of Chinon and the Loire Valley

On a rocky outcrop, the Fortress's high towers overlook the Medieval city, the Vienne River, and the valley's green landscape.

The Medieval city bears traces of its noble past. Although the walls once encircling the city were destroyed to make way for the banks of the Vienne, the fortifications, wood-sided houses, and churches recall the vibrant life here in the Middle Ages. In the north, a panoramic view of the plateau invites visitors to enjoy another Chinon treasure: its vineyards, which once drew the praises of Rabelais.



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The Fortress's "Three Castles"

Many towers dot the castle walls, illustrating the changes in defensive architecture from the 12th to the 15th centuries: full or hollow round towers, with an Anjou embankment, in a horseshoe, a dungeon that once served as a prison to Templars.

Within the walls, the space is divided into three distinct parts which the kings called their three castles: Fort du Coudray, the Chateau du Milieu, and the Fort Saint George.

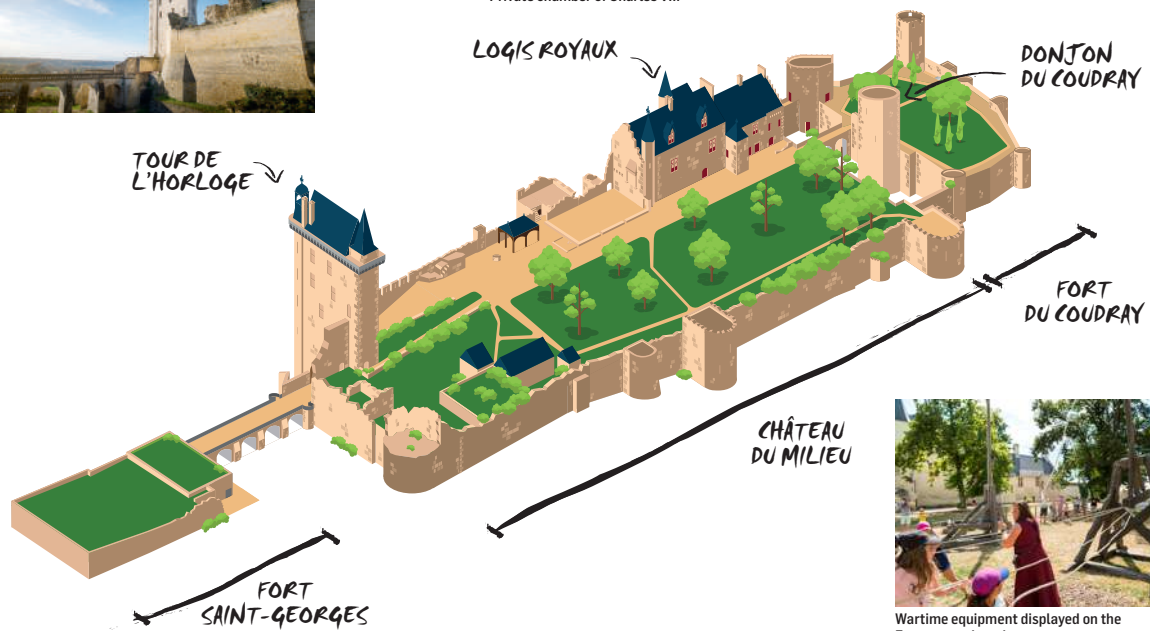


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Private chamber of Charles VII.

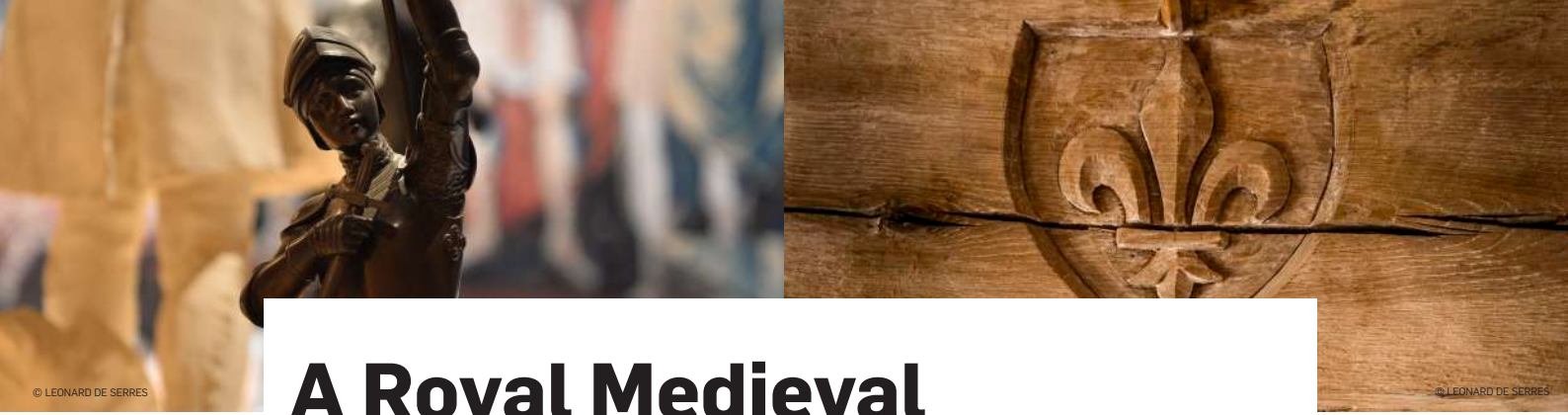


Wartime equipment displayed on the Fortress esplanade.

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A Royal Medieval Fortress

The only royal Plantagenet fortress in the Loire Valley

The Royal Fortress of Chinon is one of the largest Medieval historic monuments in France. The remarkable Medieval fortress was once occupied by the kings of France and provides unique insights into life at court during the Plantagenet and Charles VII era.

Key Dates

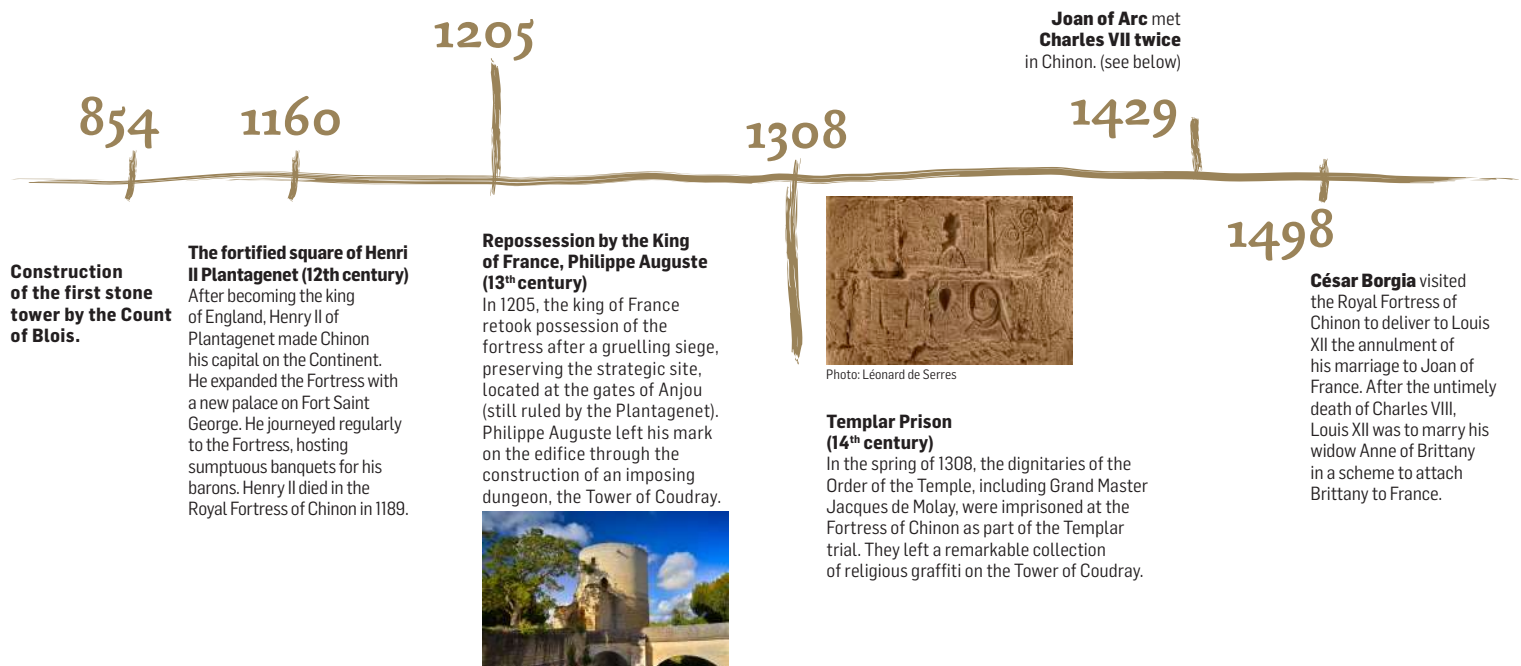
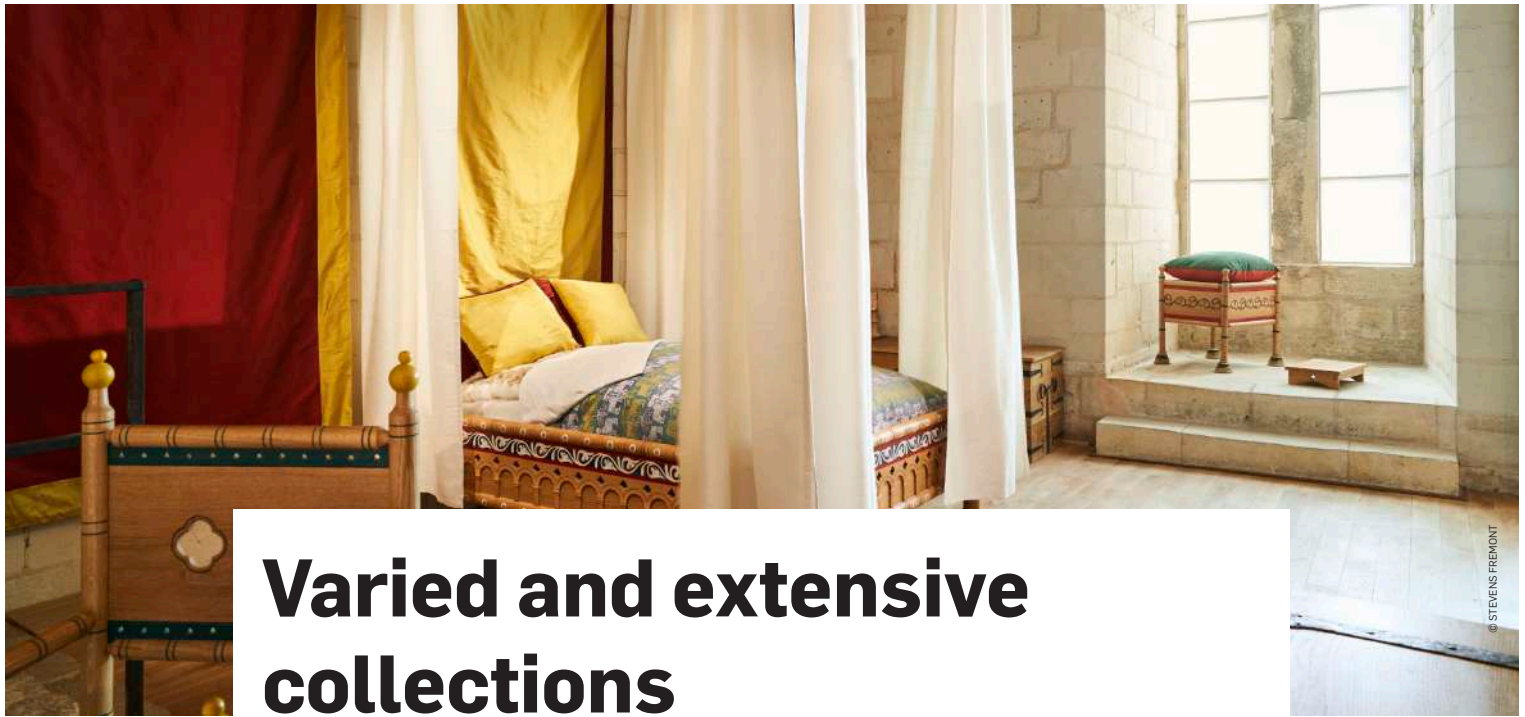


Photo: Léonard de Serres



The meeting of Joan of Arc and Dauphin Charles (1429)

In the 15th century, the Fortress was the scene of an encounter that would change the course of history and accelerate the end of the Hundred Years' War: Joan of Arc was introduced to the young dauphin and managed to convince him that she could deliver him France's throne. This famous episode from the Joan of Arc epic is generally described as a mythical and miraculous scene: **The Recognition!** Two meetings actually took place in Chinon. The 1st took place in late February 1429. After an 11-day journey on horseback across France, Joan was granted a private meeting in the king's chamber. The second meeting took place a month later. This was an official presentation of Joan of Arc at the court, confirming her role as the standard bearer of the king's armies.



Varied and extensive collections

The living quarter rooms feature furnished reconstructions of the royal chambers of Eleanor of Aquitaine (12th century) and Charles VII (15th century), as well as the site's collections.

Archaeological Collections

The objects exhibited on the ground floor of the royal quarters come from archaeological excavations that have given insight into centuries of life on the site.

The Joan of Arc Collections

The queen's former apartments are dedicated to the Joan of Arc collections. The emphasis is on representations of Joan of Arc from the 16th to 20th centuries.

The royal chambers of Charles VII and Eleanor of Aquitaine

Thanks to the skills of researchers and craftspeople, these iconic rooms of the royal apartments have been brought back to life.

New

Arms room

The collections on display come from military equipment used at the time of the Hundred Years' War.

Bombards and veuglaires

Two bombards and two veuglaires are on display in the Fortress park. They are typical of the early days of gunpowder artillery in the 15th century.

The monumental clock

The Clock Tower owes its name to the monumental clock that it has housed since 1399. It is one of the four oldest bells in Touraine. *



© LEONARD DE SERRES



An Immersive Experience with the HistoPad

The HistoPad has added a spectacular dimension to visits at the Royal Fortress of Chinon, providing 360° 3D reconstitutions. Dive into the Middle Ages!

New

Creation of a new immersive space

The battle of the kings:
Plantagenets versus Capetians!
Take a trip back to 1204 and relive the siege of the Royal Fortress of Chinon as if you were there!

Feature included in the entrance fee to the castle at no additional charge; available in 9 languages



An Immersive Visit

Thanks to virtual reconstructions, visitors can enjoy a spectacular immersive experience that brings to life a number of rooms that either no longer exist or have been transformed. This panoramic presentation introduces visitors to life in the 12th, 14th, and 15th centuries. For instance, the HistoPad lets visitors experience Christmas with Henri II Plantagenet in the great hall of his palace; attend a Renaissance scene with Joan of Arc; visit the kitchens of Queen Marie of Anjou; or watch the preparations for her departure in the castle courtyard.

3D Learning

To fully understand the impact of artillery on siege techniques, visitors can operate the 3D reconstruction of “La Hire”, a 15th-century bombard named after one of Joan of Arc’s companions.

A Fun Tour

Valuable objects have been hidden in the 3D scenery. Children can collect them during their visit in a kind of treasure hunt. Treasure hunters will receive a prize by email. Bigger kids can send Medieval selfies in virtual costumes suggested by the HistoPad.



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Programmes and Visiting Experiences

Choose your Chinon experience from a range of different tours for all ages and centres of interest. The team at the Royal Fortress of Chinon is at your disposal to help you find the best experience for you.

Choose your visit

INDIVIDUALS

- **Free and immersive HistoPad tour**

Immersive visit with augmented reality using HistoPad, available in 9 languages



Recommended Duration: 2 hours

Included in the monument entrance fee.

- **Guided Tour**

Visit with a monument guide

Duration: Guided tour 1 hour + 1 hour to discover the site on your own

Included in the monument entrance fee.

- **Medieval activities for families**

War machines in action, life in the Middle Ages.

Activities every day in July and August.



YOUNG AUDIENCE

The Fortress is committed to providing children and families with a fun and age-appropriate experience as part of the Mom'art happy museum scheme.

- **Children's "Visiting with Bertille" route**



With challenges and games in iconic places.

Map provided at the entrance for ages 5-10, included in the entrance fee.

- **Activities and events during the school holidays**

- **Treasure hunt with HistoPad**

SCHOOLS

A file is available for teachers to prepare their visit and include the history of Chinon in their curriculum. Museum docents can provide guided tours with commentary in addition to programming and workshops.

Programming available from kindergarten age through secondary school.

Tour / Workshop: from €1.5 / €4 **View all our educational and cultural activities in the discovery catalogue or on the fortress website at <https://www.forteressechinon.fr/en/>.**

GROUPS

advance booking required for all services

Groups of 15-50 people

Can accommodate groups with fewer than 15 people upon request (at an additional cost).

- **Free and immersive HistoPad tour**

Immersive visit with augmented reality using HistoPad,



Recommended Duration: 1.5 hours

Included in the monument entrance fee.

- **Guided Tour**

Guided Tour

Duration: Guided tour 1 hour + 1 hour to discover the site on your own

Included in the monument entrance fee

- **Thematic guided tours**

- The Plantagenets in Chinon

- The Plantagenet Arsenal

- The Plantagenet Administration

Duration: 1 hour Fee: + €2.5/person

- **Express Tour**

Duration: 30 minutes at no additional fee

- **Machines of war demonstrations**

Duration: 30 minutes at no additional fee

- **Combo "Gargantuan Day" visit**

Tours of the Royal Fortress of Chinon and the Rabelais-La Devinière Museum (6 km away), followed by an estate wine and "fouace" tasting.

Lunch not included

Duration: All Day Fee: €16/€14

- **VIP "Monument Game & Tasting" visit**

Groups of 15-20 people - Fee: €40 per person

- **Monument Game: "new enigma"**

See description below.

- **Wine cellar visit and tasting**

Continue your adventure in the heart of the medieval city of Chinon under the Fortress! Marc Plouzeau will reveal the secrets of the Chinon AOC winemakers in his cave-like cellar. Round your visit off with a vintage tasting.

Duration of the complete visit: at least 2h 30.

In French and English

Bonus features:

- Guided tour with no extra charge
- Up to 50 people Bigger groups can be split into two tour groups.
- The Fortress can provide cane/folding chair devices.
- A gourmet moment, with local and seasonal products at the entrance to the Fortress from April to August.
- Restaurants and lodgings are available near the Fortress.
- Free parking is available for buses
- Bicycles: located 5km from a bike path, with facilities for cyclists: a secure bike shelter, repair kits.
- Free for the driver and group guide (for 15 paid entrance fees)



New enigma in 2024

LEARN BY PLAYING: THE MONUMENT GAME

Monument Game: An Escape Game taking place throughout the Fortress

Cooperation and critical thinking will be the keys to your success.

Available year-round in French and English. Must be booked in advance: 02 47 93 13 45

Duration: 1.5 hours. Game suitable for ages 9 and up
Fee: €21/€17



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2024 Calendar



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Activity: "Motionless journey back to Eleanor's time"

Spring holidays

Let yourself be guided for an immersive relaxation session that will take you on an imaginary journey to the Middle Ages. Booking required.

Duration 20min. Capacity: 30 people.

Rendez-Vous in the Garden

June

Special tours of the Fortress Park.

Wine Thursdays.

July/August

Meet with Chinon AOC winemakers and taste their wines.

Medieval Events and Activities

Every day in July and August

Daily activities about life in the Middle Ages and machine firing.

The medieval festival of Chinon

August

3 days of medieval activities and shows.



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© J.C. COUTANT

Christmas in the Land of Castles

December

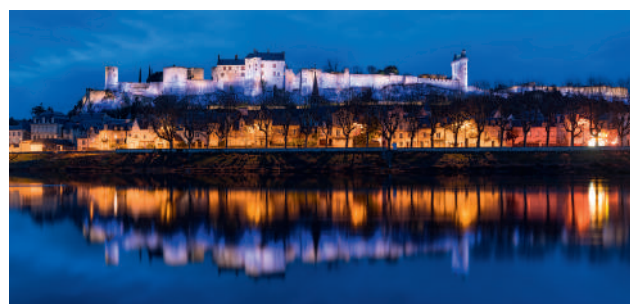
Exhibit and programming on Christmas Myths and Legends.

(theme: Eleanor of Aquitaine)

The Fortress in Lights

Every day at nightfall

Enjoy the Fortress's spectacular architecture thanks to lighting at night from the banks of the Vienne.



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Practical information

The Royal Fortress of Chinon has been awarded the Quality Tourism designation and offers all the facilities and services to make your visit an enjoyable one.

Days and Hours of Operation

Open year-round, every day
(except 1 January and 25 December)

- Jan., Feb., Dec.: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- March, April, Sept., Oct.: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- 1 May-31 August: 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Last ticket sold 30 minutes before closing.
Visit www.forteressechinon.fr

Rates

- Full price: €10.50
- Reduced rate (young people from 7 to 18 years old, groups from 15 people): €8.50
- Free for children under 7
- Professional tourism rate: €7.50
- Thematic tour: + €2.50/person
- School groups: from €1.50/student
- Workshops for children €11, €9 from the 2nd child
- Monument Game €23/€17

E-tickets: Professionals

There is a platform to buy tickets in bulk at professional rates. Please log in at:
www.forteressechinon.fr, “ticketing”, “access to my professional space”, then create your account by clicking on “register”.
Payment by credit card or bank transfer.

Services



- Free parking.
- Outdoor catering: gourmet area open from April to August.
- Several restaurants in the city.

Venue Rentals

1 indoor space 80 seated / 199 standing + 1 outdoor space 500 people
Prices start from €900 (*please contact us for a quote.*)

Getting here and parking



2.5 hours from Paris (A10) / 2.5 hours from Nantes (A85)
→ 35 minutes from Tours/Saumur
→ 15 minutes from Azay-le-Rideau/Fontevraud Abbey



Nantes / Paris



Tours / St-Pierre-des-Corps / Chinon



Stop on the Loire by Bike cycling tour.

Prepare your stay:

www.azay-chinon-valdeloire.com
www.touraineloirevalley.com

Find us on social media

@ **forteressechinon**





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BOOKINGS

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