



**ROYAL  
FORTRESS  
OF CHINON**

**GROUPS AND  
PROFESSIONALS  
2026**

# **MORE FORTIFIED**

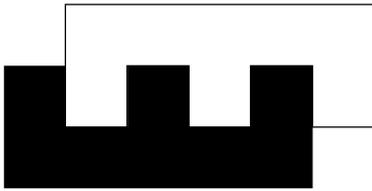
## **THAN A CASTLE**



[forteressechinon.fr](http://forteressechinon.fr)

Un site du Département





## **FORTERESSE ROYALE DE CHINON**

# SUMMARY

Rising from a rocky spur at the meeting point of Anjou, Touraine and Poitou, the Royal Fortress of Chinon reflects the most prestigious times of the Middle Ages.

Once the last stronghold of Henry II Plantagenet, King of England, its thousand-year-old walls stood at the heart of history, welcoming Eleanor of Aquitaine, Charles VII and Joan of Arc during the major turning points of French history.

The ‘three castles’ composing the only royal medieval fortress in the Loire Valley now reveal their secrets through historical reconstructions and a variety of events.

Visiting the Royal Fortress of Chinon means walking in the footsteps of Joan of Arc, understanding how a medieval war machine worked, immersing yourself in the heart of the Middle Ages through interactive tours, or admiring the magnificent panoramas of the Loire Valley.

- 04 — **An Exceptional Site**
- 06 — **A Medieval Fortress with a Royal Past**
- 08 — **Richness and Variety of the Collections**
- 10 — **An immersive journey with HistoPad**
- 11 — **Events Calendar 2026**
- 12 — **Visit Information and Admission Prices**
- 14 — **Venue Hire and Event Spaces**
- 15 — **Useful information**



### **NOT TO BE MISSED**

- Free guided tour
- Immersive tours with HistoPad
- Interactive experiences
- Events
- Monument Game: Learn through play
- Fully furnished historical reconstructions

### **KEY FEATURES**

- Over 1,000 years of history
- A rare medieval site in the Loire Valley
- Exceptional panoramas
- Royal residence from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Located within the UNESCO World Heritage-listed area



From the bridge over the Vienne to the narrow alleys of the old town, Chinon's streets lead naturally to the Fortress, each step inviting visitors to explore this ancient site and enjoy its unique views of the Loire Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

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## **An Exceptional Site**

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### **A View Over Chinon and the Loire Valley**

Rising from a rocky outcrop, the tall towers of the fortress walls overlook the medieval town, the waters of the Vienne, and the lush landscapes of the valley.

The medieval town still bears the marks of its prestigious past.

To the north, the panorama over the plateau invites visitors to discover another treasure of the Chinon region: its vineyards, already praised by Rabelais.

Located in an exceptional environment, a wide range of activities is available in the vicinity of the Fortress: cellar visits, boat trips on the Vienne river, or hiking and biking tours in the heart of the vineyards.

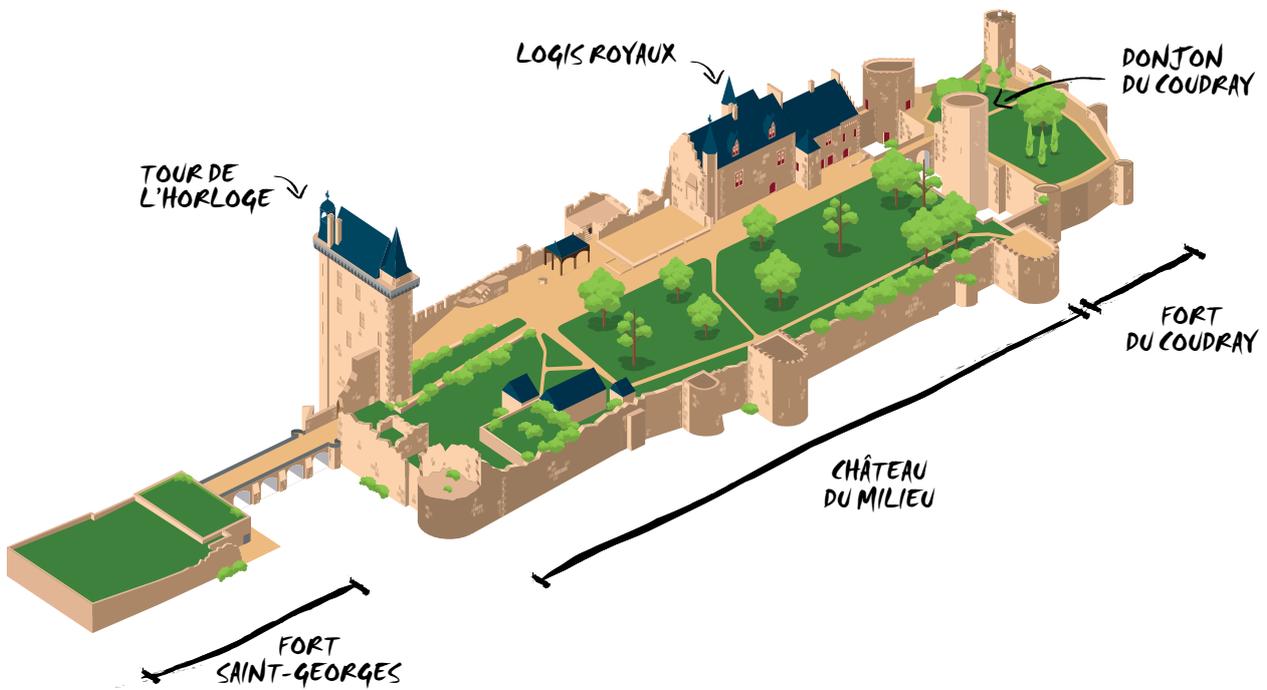
### The 'Three Castles' of the Fortress

Numerous towers illustrate the evolution of defensive architecture from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries: round towers, solid or hollow, with an Angevin slope, horseshoe-shaped, and a keep that once served as a prison for the Templars...

Within the walls, the fortress is divided into three distinct areas that the kings referred to as their three castles: the Fort du Coudray, the Middle Castle, and the Fort Saint-Georges.

The Middle Castle occupies the center of the fortress. Its gate-tower, now known as the Clock Tower, has housed one of the four oldest bells in Touraine along with its monumental clock mechanism since the late 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The royal apartments of Charles VII and Marie of Anjou were built against the southern rampart of the Middle Castle. Restored in 2010, this elegant stone lodging, punctuated with turrets and mullioned windows, is crowned with a slate roof. Its rooms house the furnished historical reconstructions and collections of the site.



The Royal Fortress of Chinon is one of the most important historical monuments of the Middle Ages in France. This remarkable medieval fortress was the residence of both the kings of England and France, providing an unparalleled insight into court life during the era of the Plantagenets and Charles VII.

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## A Medieval Fortress with a Royal Past

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### Ancient origins

The site of the Fortress has been occupied for three thousand years. At the end of the Gallic period, a soldier from Caesar's army established his residence here. In the royal apartments, his sword is displayed along with its scabbard. It was not until the end of the Roman Empire that the rocky promontory was fortified.

### From the Counts of Blois to the Counts of Anjou (10<sup>th</sup> century)

The strategic importance of the site became evident from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, when the Counts of Blois, followed by the Counts of Anjou, established it as a defensive position to control the Loire Valley. A few generations later, the Counts of Anjou gave rise to the prestigious Plantagenet dynasty, which cemented Chinon's royal destiny.

**The Only  
Plantagenet  
Royal Fortress  
in the Loire  
Valley**

### Henry II Plantagenet's Stronghold (12<sup>th</sup> century)

Having become King of England, Henry II Plantagenet made Chinon one of his continental capitals. He expanded the Fortress by building his palace on the Fort Saint-Georges. He stayed there regularly and hosted sumptuous banquets with his barons.

Henri II died at the Royal Fortress of Chinon in 1189.

His wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, was a woman of remarkable character and power, with an extraordinary destiny.



## Key dates



### Recapturing by the King of France, Philip Augustus (13<sup>th</sup> century)

Recaptured by the King of France in 1205 after a grueling siege, the Fortress retained its strategic importance due to its location at the gateway to Anjou, which remained under Plantagenet control. Philip Augustus left his mark by commissioning the construction of a massive keep, the Tour du Coudray, which restored the site's defensive capacities that had been weakened during the nine-month siege.

### The Templar's Prison (14<sup>th</sup> century)

In the spring of 1308, the dignitaries of the Order of the Temple, including Grand Master Jacques de Molay, were imprisoned in the Royal Fortress of Chinon during the trial of the Templars. They left on the walls of the Tour du Coudray a remarkable collection of graffiti with religious themes.

### Joan of Arc Meets the Dauphin Charles (1429)

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Fortress was the setting for a meeting that would change the course of history and hasten the outcome of the Hundred Years' War: Joan of Arc was introduced to the young Dauphin and succeeded in convincing him that she would lead him to the throne of France.

This famous episode of the Joan of Arc saga is generally described as a mythical and miraculous scene: The Recognition! In fact, there were two meetings at Chinon. The 1<sup>st</sup> audience took place at the end of February 1429. After an 11-day ride across France, Joan was received in a small private gathering in the king's chamber. A month later, the second meeting took place, serving as Joan of Arc's official introduction to the court and confirming her role as standard-bearer of the king's armies.





© LEONARD DE SERRES

## The Diversity and Richness of the Collections

### Archaeological Collections

The objects on display come from archaeological excavations carried out on the site. A Gaulish warrior's tomb, a relief of Saint George slaying the dragon, a Plantagenet playing dice... these are just a few of the items that evoke the life of the site over the centuries.

### Furnished Reconstruction of Charles VII's Private Chamber

It is the result of the collaborative work between historians and craftsmen, whose expertise brings this iconic room of the royal apartments back to life. A gold-embroidered quilt and an exceptional hanging canopy, custom-made for the king's bed, are the centerpieces of this reconstruction.

### Joan of Arc Collections

The focus is on representations of Joan of Arc from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the prints room, discover Joan of Arc through romantic portraits, wartime posters, and Épinal prints. In the room dedicated to sculpture, numerous statues of Joan rub shoulders with the Recognition Tapestry (the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Aubusson tapestry).



Charles VII's Private Chamber - © LEONARD DE SERRES



Charles VII's Private Chamber - © STEVENS FRODMONT



Joan of Arc Collections - © STEVENS FRODMONT



© STEVENS FRÉMONT

### **The Plantagenet Spaces: Eleanor of Aquitaine's Chamber**

The chamber includes a bed with its richly decorated fabrics, two chairs, two chests, and a table. The objects displayed on the table, such as toiletries and a chess set, complete the effect of a space still inhabited. The fabric of the quilt, recreated for the occasion, is inspired by a fragment of fabric from the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> centuries preserved in the Le Carroi Museum in Chinon: the cope of Saint-Mexme.

#### **Craftsmanship by Skilled Artisans**

The furniture was created by the Tancoigne cabinetmakers, based on a study conducted by Cécile Lagane, PhD in medieval archeology and a specialist in the study of medieval material culture and furnishings.

The silk decoration features stylized animals and plants, faithfully recreated and woven by the **Roze Silk Workshops**, a living heritage company based in Touraine. The painted decoration, inspired by 12<sup>th</sup>-century designs, was carried out by the restorers of the **Moulinier workshop**, a company specialized in the conservation and restoration of protected heritage (Loir-et-Cher).

### **The Armory**

The collections on display come from military equipment used during the Hundred Years' War: rare armets and burgonet helmets, coat of mail, authentic tower and foot crossbows, reproductions of polearms. The reproduction of an early 15<sup>th</sup>-century Milanese suit of armor is the most spectacular piece in this room.

### **Bombards and Veuglaires**

Two bombards and two veuglaires are presented in the park of the Fortress. These stubby guns are made of wrought iron. They are characteristic of the beginnings of gunpowder artillery in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

### **The Monumental Clock**

The Clock Tower owes its name to the monumental clock it has housed since 1399. It is one of the four oldest bells in Touraine. The gear system still visible today can be dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> or the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The mechanism is highlighted by the presence of a Zoetrope, an original optical illusion device.



Reconstruction of Marie d'Anjou chamber.  
© HISTOVERY

Thanks to HistoPad technology, the discovery of the Royal Fortress of Chinon is spectacularly enhanced, with 3D reconstructions in 360°. Dive into the heart of the Middle Ages!

## An immersive journey with HistoPad

### An immersive tour

Transformed or disappeared rooms are virtually reconstituted in their original state, allowing a spectacular 360° immersion into the heart of the 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. With HistoPad, you can relive the exceptional Christmas court of Henry II Plantagenet in the great hall of his palace, witness the scene of the Recognition with Joan of Arc, visit the kitchens of Queen Marie of Anjou, or watch the preparations for her departure on a voyage in the castle courtyard.

### 3D Interactive Experiences

Since 2023, an additional space has been dedicated to the siege of 1204-1205. Using the latest technologies developed by Histovery (including AI), visitors can relive the siege of Chinon from the perspective of the defenders, the troops of John Lackland, King of England. The entire early-13<sup>th</sup>-century Fortress has been recreated in 3D to highlight the successive phases of the siege through dynamic sequences that enhance the dramatic effect, including collapsing walls under artillery fire, burning roofs, and the ability to make virtual shots with trebuchets and tower crossbows.

The experience is accessible from the Treasure Tower, a space opened to visitors for this purpose.

To better understand the impact of artillery on siege techniques, visitors can operate the 3D reconstruction of La Hire, a 15<sup>th</sup>-century bombard named after one of Joan of Arc's companions.

### A Treasure Hunt

Valuable objects have been hidden in the 3D scenery. Children can collect them during the visit and join in the treasure hunt. A reward will be sent by email to treasure hunters. Teens and adults can try a medieval selfie by virtually wearing the costumes offered through HistoPad.



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**Included with Fortress Admission  
available in nine languages free of charge**





© J.C. COUTANT



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## Events Calendar 2026

### Head to the garden

#### June

Special tours of the Fortress Park.

### Medieval live events

#### Every day in July and August

Daily events, including demonstrations of siege engines.

### Wine Thursdays

#### July / August

Meetings and tastings hosted by the winemakers of the Chinon AOC.

### The Medieval Festival of Chinon

#### 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of August

Three days of medieval events and performances.

### Christmas in the land of castles

#### December

Myths and legends of the Fortress.  
Christmas exhibition and events.

### Fortress Illuminations

#### Every day at dusk



© STEVEN FRÉMONT

### The Fortress under Construction: In the Footsteps of the Builders

#### From spring 2026

For over a thousand years, the Royal Fortress of Chinon has shaped the Chinonais landscape with a silhouette formed by successive architectural projects. Each ruler left their mark by adding a tower, a lodging, or a chapel.

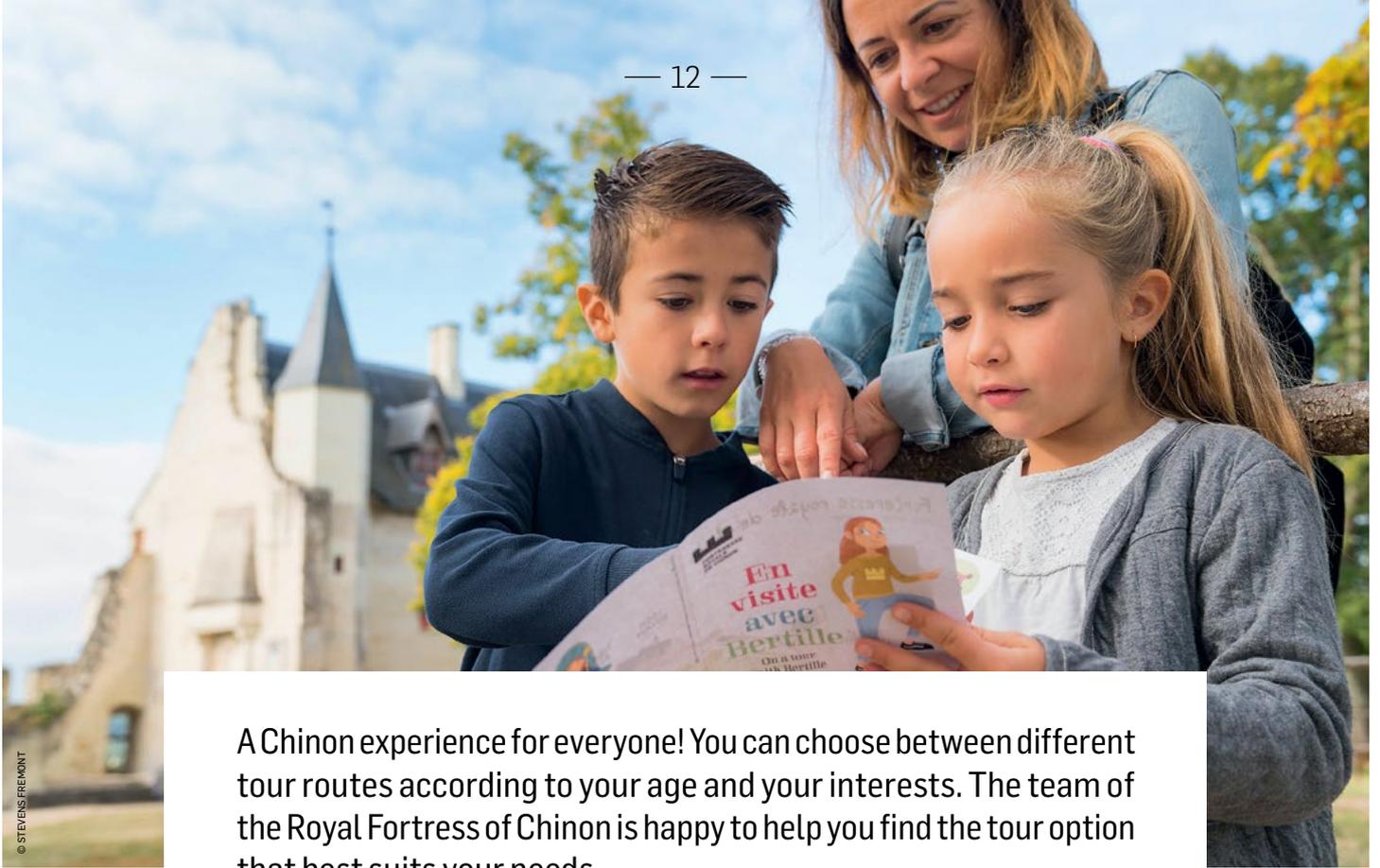
A new major construction site opens with the renovation of the northern front of the enclosure of the three castles. For three years, archaeologists, architects, and heritage craftsmen will work to preserve and to pass on this legacy.

Starting in Spring 2026, the Fortress will offer a unique experience exploring both medieval and modern construction sites.

At Fort du Coudray, dive into the medieval world: operate a 12th-century wooden crane, discover traditional trades (stonecutters, masons, carpenters, rope makers...), and experiment with the foundational techniques of architecture in a tracing area.

On the side of the Middle Castle, the construction site will be revealed through educational panels, a panoramic viewpoint from the terrace of the Tour des Chiens, and a photographic exhibition in the Clock Tower, echoing the major works of the 'third millennium'.





© STEVE FREMONT

A Chinon experience for everyone! You can choose between different tour routes according to your age and your interests. The team of the Royal Fortress of Chinon is happy to help you find the tour option that best suits your needs.

## Visitor Information and Admission Prices

### INDIVIDUALS

- **HistoPad immersive self-guided tour**

Immersive tour in augmented reality thanks to HistoPad, available in 9 languages



🕒 1h30–2h

- **Guided tour**

Guided tour led by a site guide (fully accessible)

🕒 1 hour guided + 1 hour to explore the site on your own

### SCHOOL GROUPS

Offers available from kindergarten to high school, all year round, on reservation.

- **HistoPad immersive self-guided tour**

- **Guided tour**

- **Firing demonstration of war engines**

- **Educational workshops**

Teachers have access to a complete file that helps them prepare the visit and link the history of Chinon to their curriculum.

See the full offer in the Discovery catalog or on the website [www.forteressechinon.fr](http://www.forteressechinon.fr)



### YOUNG VISITORS

Available all year round

- **Children's tour**

'Visiting with Bertille' age 5-10

Complete challenges through activities in iconic locations. Map provided at the welcome desk

- **Treasure hunt with HistoPad**



- **Events during school vacations**

Themed tours and events.

See the full program online at [www.forteressechinon.fr](http://www.forteressechinon.fr)

### Monument Game

The guardians of time

**5 areas across the Fortress dedicated to an Escape Game.**

5 areas across the Fortress dedicated to an Escape Game. Cooperation and problem-solving are the keys to success.

Available all year round in French and English.

🕒 1h30. Suitable for the whole family from 9 years old.

👤 From 3 to 30 players.

## GROUPS

**All group services are available year-round, by reservation only.**

### • HistoPad immersive self-guided tour

Immersive tour in augmented reality thanks to HistoPad, available in 9 languages.



🕒 1h30–2h

### • Guided tour

Guided tour led by a site guide (fully accessible)

🕒 1 hour guided + 1 hour to explore the site on your own

👤 50 people

### • Thematic guided tours

- The Plantagenets in Chinon.

- The Plantagenet Arsenal.

- The Plantagenet administration.

🕒 1h30

👤 50 people

## TOUR AND TASTING

### • Tasting tours in the Middle Ages

Tasting tours in the Middle Ages

What wines were consumed in the Middle Ages, and on what occasions? What place did wine have at the table of kings? Visitors learn about the history of wine before sampling hypocras, the famous spiced wine.

🕒 1h30.

👤 20 people

### • Privilege tour 'Monument Game & tasting'

- Monument Game 'new challenge'

Life-size game throughout the fortress.

• Tour and tasting

Continue your adventure in the heart of the medieval city of Chinon under the Fortress!

End your visit with a tasting session.

🕒 2h30

👤 20 people

### • Firing demonstration of war engines

🕒 1h30 including 30 minutes of firing demonstration and 1h recommended self-guided tour.

👤 50 people

## CHRISTMAS

Offer available in December only.

### • Christmas themed guided tour

A guide tells you all about Christmas, from history to legends, as you explore the royal lodgings of the Fortress.

🕒 50 minutes.

👤 Up to 50 people. (2 groups)

### • Christmas tree

- Christmas-themed tour 1-hour package without snack.

- Christmas-themed tour 2-hour package with snack  
- 3-hour package (1/2 day from 1:30 to 4:30 pm) with snack and Monument game, a Christmas exhibition tour, and snack

🕒 Between 1h and 1/2 day depending on the package

👤 15 to 45 people

## PRICES

### Entrance fee

• Full price: €12.50

• Reduced price: €10.50

> Groups of 15 or more people (excluding tourism professionals)

> Young people aged 7-18, students, large families, disabled visitors and one disabled carer

• Tourism professional price: €9.50

• Free:

> Coach drivers and accompanying guides for groups of 15 paying visitors

> Children under 7

### INDIVIDUALS

• Self-guided and immersive visit with HistoPad©: site entrance fee

• Guided visit (fixed time): site entrance fee

• Activity: €13.50 / €11.50 (entrance fee included)

• Workshop: €15 / €13 (entrance fee included)

• Children's trail: no additional charge

• Monument Game: €24, reduced rate: €20

## GROUPS

• Self-guided and immersive visit with HistoPad©: site entrance fee

• Guided visit or themed guided visit: entrance fee per person + flat fee of €90

• Activity visit: site entrance fee + flat fee of €150

• Exclusive visit: €40, reduced rate: €35, professional rate: €32 per person

• Monument Game: €24, reduced rate: €20, professional rate: €19 (entrance fee included)

• Christmas Tree event:

1-hour package: entrance fee + flat fee of €90

2-hour package: entrance fee + flat fee of €200

(up to 15 people) / €290 (from 15 people)

3-hour package: €35 per child / €40 per adult

## SCHOOL GROUPS

• School fees: €1.50 / student

• Guided or themed tours: €4 / student entrance fee included

• Workshop: €4 to €8 / student depending on duration, entrance fee included



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## Venue Hire and Event Spaces

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**Attic Room in the Royal Lodgings**  
Capacity: 19 people

**Yves Dauge Room – in the reception building**  
Capacity: 15 to 80 people

**Fortress Esplanade (outdoor area)**  
Capacity: 500 people  
Prices on request.



## Useful information

### Opening times and periods

Open every day, all year round  
(except January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 25<sup>th</sup>) subject to  
change without prior notice.

- Jan., Feb., Nov. and Dec.: 9.30 am - 5 pm.
- March, April, Sept. and Oct. : 9.30 am - 6 pm.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>: 9.30 am - 7 pm.

Last ticket sold 30 minutes before site closes.

Visit the website:

[www.forteressechinon.fr](http://www.forteressechinon.fr)

### Prepare your stay:

[www.azay-chinon-valde Loire.com](http://www.azay-chinon-valde Loire.com)

[www.touraineloirevalley.com](http://www.touraineloirevalley.com)

### Nearby (-30 minutes)

Château of Azay-le-Rideau.

Balzac Museum - Château de Saché.

Château of Villandry.

Château of Langeais.

Rabelais Museum - La Devinière.

Château du Rivau.

Royal Abbey of Fontevraud.

Chinon AOC winegrowers, and more.

### Buy tickets online

To buy tickets

> Log in to the monument's website

***www.forteressechinon.fr: create your professional account and place your order.***

Tickets valid for 1 year.

No minimum purchase.

Online payment by credit card.

***Vouchers are no longer accepted for individual leisure visitors.***

### Services

- Visitor capacity for up to 50 people. For larger groups, tours can be split into two groups.
- For everyone's comfort, the Fortress provides folding seat canes.
- Many restaurants and accommodation options near the Fortress.
- Free coach parking available nearby.
- Cyclist-friendly welcome: located less than 5 km from a cycling route and offering cyclist facilities, including a secure bicycle shelter and a repair kit.
- Free for Coach drivers and accompanying guides (for groups of 15 paying visitors).

### Access

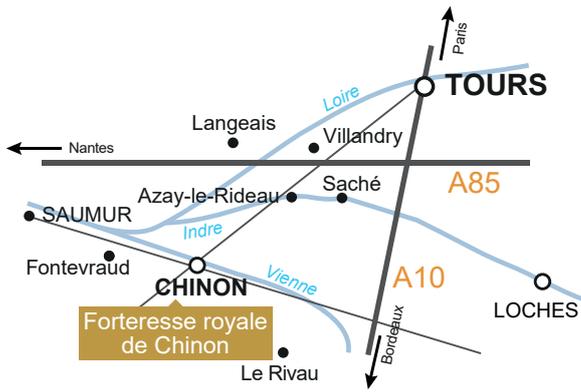
Chinon	km			
Nantes	178	2h	2h15	YES
Paris	288	3h5	3h35	YES
Bordeaux	341	4h10	3h35	
Lille	502	4h55	6h	
Lyon	516	5h30	4h50	
Brussels	600	5h15	7h15	
Lausanne	671	7h35	6h35	
London	728	5h45	7h55	TOURS
Frankfurt	871	8h15	8h20	
Milan	918	11h20	9h13	
Madrid	1,032	17h	10h	

### Follow us on social networks

@forteressechinon



MONUMENT HISTORIQUE



 Cycling Stop on the Loire à Vélo Route.

## COMMERCIAL CONTACT

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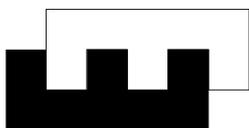
## RESERVATION

Royal Fortress of Chinon

37500 Chinon

Phone no. **+33 (0)2 47 93 13 45**

*resaforteressechinon@departement-touraine.fr*



**FORTERESSE ROYALE DE CHINON** [www.forteressechinon.fr](http://www.forteressechinon.fr)