

A day out at the Domaine de Chantilly

**ACTIVITY
BOOK**
for families



DOMAINE DE CHANTILLY

A day at the Domaine de Chantilly

Just half an hour from Paris by train,
there is magical place where you can admire
works of art, discover the world of horses AND
go for a walk in a park designed by Le Nôtre.
A timeless family day out.

The Château

houses the second largest collection
of paintings after the Louvre Museum.
You can see masterpieces by Raphael,
Ingres, Delacroix, and more! It is also a
great opportunity for the younger ones to
discover the splendour of the great lords
of the Ancien Régime. The castle is the
setting for a superb library!





The Park




includes a romantic English garden, an Anglo-Chinese garden with a hamlet and games for children, as well as a large French-style flowerbed designed by the famous landscape architect André Le Nôtre.

The Great Stables

include the Museum of the Horse, the dome and the stables where you can go and meet the horses.

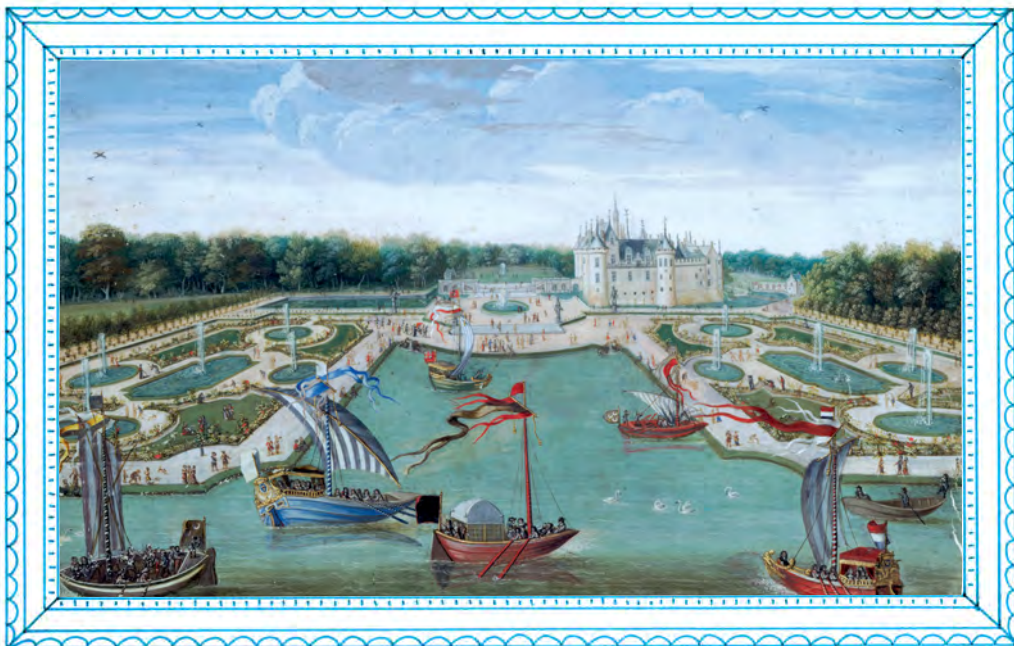


FOLLOW THE GUIDE

-  A detailed map of the estate is available at info points. Allow a full day to see everything.
-  There is a pass available that includes access to the castle, the park and the Great Stables.
-  There are two restaurants on the estate: La Capitainerie, right in the heart of the castle, set up in the old kitchens of the famous major-domo Vatel; and Le Hameau, in the Anglo-Chinese garden, which serves home-made Chantilly whipped cream. Le Café des Ecuries also has a kid's snack menu.



The park can be visited on foot, in a tourist train or golf cart (April to October).



→ Chantilly, circa 1680. Anonymous.

Welcome to the castle!

The Château de Chantilly has had a number of different looks... Initially, it was a medieval fortress, as you can see from the painting above. Then to make it bigger, the « Petit Château » was added next to it. This smaller castle is still standing today and houses the large apartments. During the French Revolution, the « Grand Château », the larger of the two castles, was destroyed. It was not until the 19th century that the last owner, the Duke of Aumale, built the most modern part of the castle in a Renaissance-inspired style, which is where it gets its magical look.

The Duke of Aumale's life was like a novel: he was born rich and handsome, and his father was once the King of France. But he spent much of his life in exile in England, and none of his seven children reached the age of 25. Without an heir, he spent his immense fortune on putting together an impressive collection of art and books, which he then bequeathed to France, so that everyone could enjoy it.

What was the name of the Duke's favourite mare? (If you can't guess, you can find the answer in the Museum of the Horse).

- Pelagia
- Energy
- Allergy

Here you see the Duke of Aumale as a child. His name was Henri. Henri d'Orléans. He was descended from Louis XIV's brother. If you look closely during your visit, you will find his initials «HO» scattered around the place (on door handles, the floor, the ceiling, etc.).

HO

→ Portrait of the Duke of Aumale at the age of nine, by J-N. Robert-Fleury.



Have fun designing a monogram with your own initials.



Don't forget to have a look at the castle library: it contains 19,000 books, some of which are unique, like the *Très Riches Heures du duc de Berry*, which is 650 years old! Take time to contemplate all these beautiful volumes with gilt bindings...

Then complete this list of books with the book you think should come next.

The Apartments

This is where the Princes of Bourbon-Condé would receive their guests in the 17th and 18th centuries to impress them and show how powerful they were. That's the idea behind the beautiful Gallery of Battles you're about to go through, and the incredible Grande Singerie too.

Take your time to appreciate this famous Great Monkey Room. It was painted in 1737 by Christophe Huet, who was famous for his fine representations of monkeys. Through his paintings, the artist was mocking human beings, in the same way La Fontaine did in his Fables. Some compositions depict continents, like Europe or Asia, arts, and sciences, like astronomy.

Which is the odd one out? Out of these six animals, try to find the one that does not appear on the ceiling of the Grande Singerie.



→ *La Grande Singerie*
(detail), by Christophe Huet.

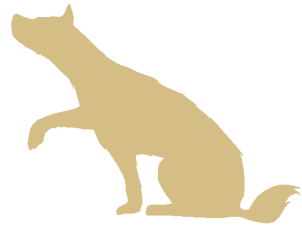


The Gallery of Paintings

This gallery is one of the crowning glories of the castle's art collection. It displays magnificent paintings from a variety of eras in a tightly packed arrangement covering the entire wall, as was the custom in the 19th century. They are still hanging today exactly as they were in the Duke of Aumale's day, just as he requested...

Every painting in this gallery has a double... except one! Which one?

The Clouet room



In this amazing room, you can see 90 portraits of the kings and queens of France in the 16th century, painted by the artist Jean Clouet and his son François.

The portraits are small: that way they could be easily transported (especially as royal courts at the time were mobile). They were used a bit like ID photos, enabling princesses looking for husbands to introduce themselves to their suitors, and vice versa.

In the painting below, the future King Henry II is painted with a puppy. In your opinion, why did the painter choose to get a child to pose with an animal?

- Because he thought the little dog was so cute...
- To distract the young prince and help him to keep still (it took a long time to be painted!).

Find the seven mistakes that have found their way into the portrait on the right.



→ *Henri II enfant* (Henry II as a child), by François Clouet, early 16th century.





The Great Stables

This magnificent building, as beautiful as a palace, was built in the 18th century by Louis-Henri de Bourbon, Prince of Condé, to house his many horses and hunting dogs.

Today, the Great Stables still accommodate 32 horses and 3 ponies. They also host equestrian shows and demonstrations, and house the Museum of the Horse. As you wander through the rooms, you will see the history of the relationship between humans and horses, through objects, paintings and sculptures. Also not to be missed, there are some splendid restored carriages towards the end.

Put the letters in the right order to find out the names of these objects that are essential for horse riding.



S P I T R U R



I B T



D A D S E L



P R U S

Museum of the Horse

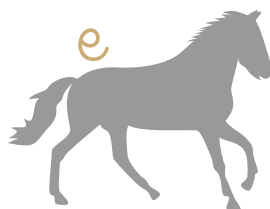
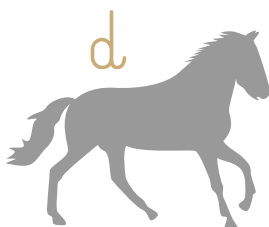
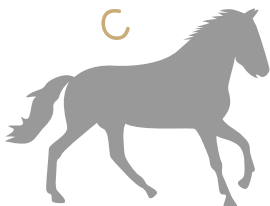
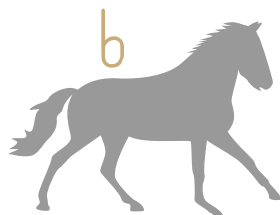
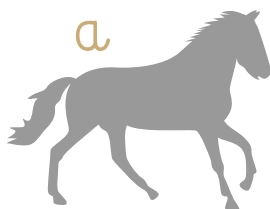


This beautiful painting by Pierre Vernet, *Courses à Chantilly* (1836), hangs in the Museum of the Horse. In it you can see horses galloping flat out... This "flying gallop" (where the horse looks like it's crossing an invisible river) doesn't exist in nature... as you'll be able to see by spinning the zoetrope located in the last room of the museum, which breaks down the various stages of the gallop into still images.

→ *Courses à Chantilly*, (Races at Chantilly), by Pierre Vernet.

In the background on the left, you can see the Great Stables. During the French Revolution, these buildings were converted into barracks, which undoubtedly helped save them from being destroyed.

All these figures are the same except one. Which one?




The Park

Have you heard of Le Nôtre?

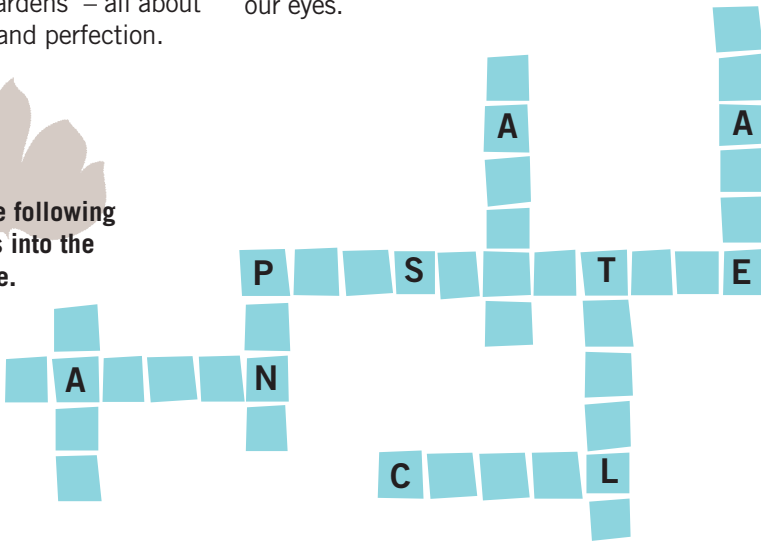
He was the famous landscape architect who designed the gardens of Versailles... He also designed the gardens of Chantilly. His style is easily recognisable – typical of what is known as "French formal gardens" – all about majesty and perfection.

Beneath the apparent simplicity of the lines lies quite an art! Le Nôtre had a genius for perspective. He played with flower beds, walkways, waterways and ponds to trick our perception and delight our eyes.

A little further away is the Hamlet (which inspired Marie-Antoinette for the Queen's Hamlet at Versailles). Enjoy exploring the garden maze!

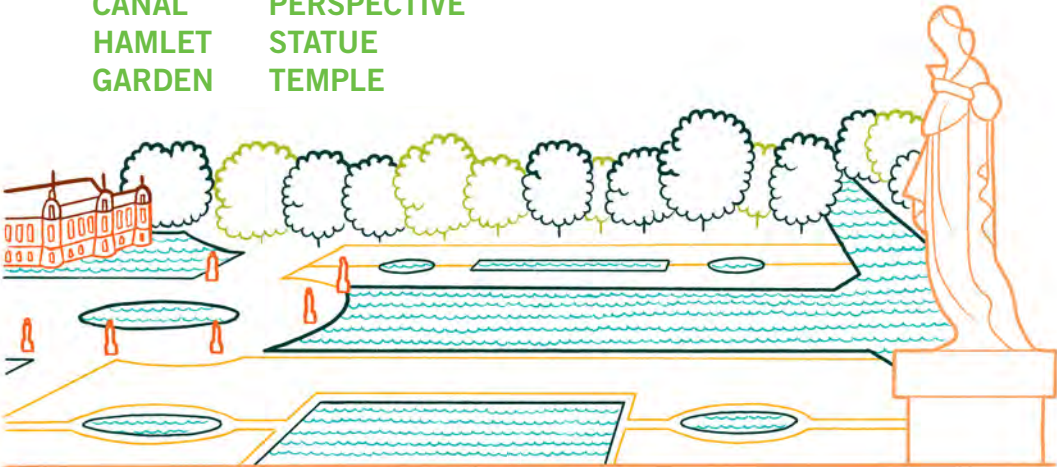


Fit the following words into the puzzle.



POND
CANAL
HAMLET
GARDEN

MAZE
PERSPECTIVE
STATUE
TEMPLE

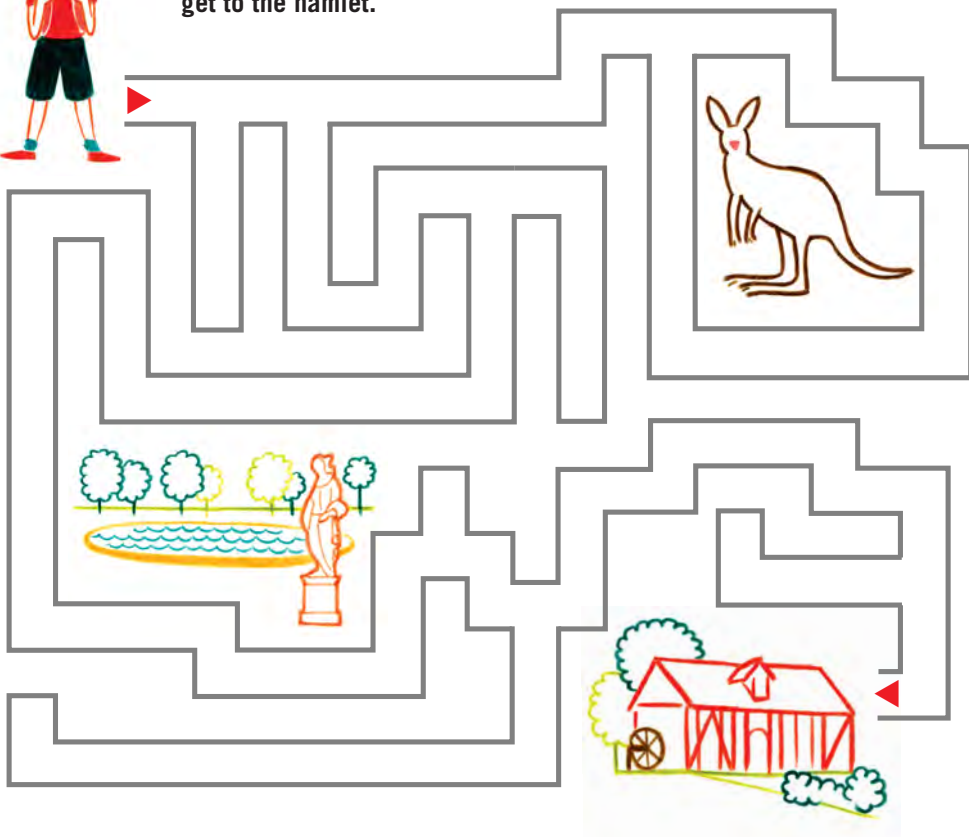


In the park, look out for...

The Domaine de Chantilly parks are a great place to take a lovely walk outdoors, along tree-lined avenues. **If you walk around a bit, you might even see... kangaroos!** These Red-necked or Bennett's wallabies were brought back from Australia, and ever since they seem to like it here. **Keep your eyes peeled** for budgies, deer and Canada geese, which also live in the woods of the castle....



Help this little visitor
to cross the park
to get to the hamlet.



ANSWERS p.4 : Pélagie. p.5 : top, the two red and blue books ; bottom, the green, blue and red books. p.6 : the little monkey. p.7 : top right.
p.8 : To distract the young prince. p.8 : feather, fringe, collar, patterns on the doublet, finger, sleeve colour, sleeve stripe. p.9 : stirrup, bit, saddle, spur.
p.10 : b. p.11 : down : hamlet, maze, flowerbed, pond, statue, canal ; across : garden, perspective, temple.