

Le Havre



> Lifestyle

Le Havre, prepare to be charmed!

Breathe

The sea, the beach

Seaside resort

Le Havre was granted the title of "Seaside Resort" on the 12 August 1999. At the heart of the city: a 2 kilometres long beach (sand and pebble) and a 4 kilometres promenade along the beach, designed by the talented landscape architect, Alexandre Chemetoff.

From April to September, the "Bains Maritimes" provide various services including: locker rooms, showers, toilets, bike parking lot, loans of special equipment to people with special needs so they can have access to the sea; lots of bars and restaurants offer quality gastronomy from the simplest to the most unusual or cosmopolitan of meals.

The resort allows the practice of several leisure activities: skateboarding track, the largest free open air skate park in France, volley-ball courts, children playground, boules fields, cycle lanes.

> Summer festival: *Les Z'estivales*. On the beach promenade every week-end from July until mid-August: itinerant shows, street arts...

Blue flag

Sea bathing lovers will be happy to know that the Blue flag, certifying the quality of water, was once again granted to the city in 2007.

Watersports resort

On 4 December 1999, the label "watersports resort" was officially granted to Le Havre from the association *France Station Nautique* at the *Salon de Paris*.

Le Havre enjoys a quality beach; it offers many watersports activities for beginners and experts; during the high season, it is the scene of various famous events.

The marina holds 1150 berths and many assets: located close to the city centre, and only 200 kilometres away from Paris; accessible 24 hours a day.

> Jacques Vabre transatlantic race: that race including monohulls and multihulls departs every two years from Le Havre.

Green areas

With 38m² of greenery per inhabitant, Le Havre is one of the greenest cities in France.

Le Havre



- *Forêt de Montgeon*: 200 hectares of beech and oak trees at the heart of the city
- *Parc de Rouelles*: situated on the east side of the city, it offers 20 kilometres of walk paths on nearly 150 hectares of meadows, thickets, woods, ponds and marshlands. The little Norman mansion of the 16th century and its dovecote of the 17th century give to the landscape a typical regional touch. A pretty landscaped garden adds up perfectly to the scenery.
- Japanese garden: a precious haven of 2.200m² given as a gift from the port of Osaka to its twin, the port of Le Havre, in 1992 (booking mandatory for guided tour)
- The gardens of the Priory of Gravelle
- City hall gardens
- *Saint-Roch* public square
- The gardens of the beach

Spring 2008: opening of the Hanging Gardens. On the cliff, overlooking the *Baie de Seine*, the Fort of Sainte-Adresse, monument of the mid 19th century, will soon start a second life. The buildings, turned into "hanging gardens" will be dedicated to nature and the environment. The place will shelter an arboretum and the municipal greenhouses. This is going to be a perfect place to go for a pleasant stroll since it provides one of the best panoramas on the sea.

Move

A city on the move

80 sports counted from the most classical to the trendiest.

Le Havre, watersports resort, allows the practice of all the sports related to the sea. Le Havre is a hot spot in France, very fashionable thanks to the south and north-west prevailing winds which are perfect if you wish to practise kite boarding and windsurfing.

Many types of equipment: courts, gyms, cycling lanes.

And coming soon:

"Les bains des Docks"

Designed by the architect Jean Nouvel, this aquatic complex situated in the southern neighbourhoods of the city should open at the beginning of 2008 and will offer, among other things:

- a playground area (inside: beaches, lagoons, paddling pools, spas and waterslides / Outside: beaches and solariums)
- an open-air sports area with an Olympic-size pool and a beach
- altogether about ten pools will be available to the public along with a balneo-therapy area.

Le Havre



Sport events not to be missed:

- **Le Havre 10 kilometres race**
- **international meeting of young swimmers**
- **the local companies' quadrathlon**
- **the board sports festival**
- **semi-marathon of Normandy** between the *Pont de Normandie* and Le Havre and a **mini-marathon 9 November 2008**
- **Jacques Vabre transatlantic race** - Every 2 years. Coming next in 2009.

► **Le Havre rollerblade round tours**, from April to November. Leaving from the car park on the beach, every last Sunday of the month at 10am and every second Friday of the month at 9pm.

Shopping

Several shopping areas in the city:

· **Coty neighbourhood and "Centre commercial Coty"**

The Coty shopping centre gathers 80 shops on three floors, including franchised outlets and national brands, but also restaurants, cafés and bakeries, a pharmacy, a post office and a supermarket. Around the area: department stores, retailers, and "brasseries", traditional market in the open air on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

· **"Halles centrales" neighbourhood**

The pedestrian area of the "*Halles*" is a lively neighbourhood where delicatessens flirt with restaurants, cafés' terraces and clothing, housing and decoration shops. This shopping centre is linked to the port area by the famous *rue de Paris*, whose arches shelter some varied and original shops. The covered market of the "*Halles centrales*" has been renovated in 2002 and offers quality food products.

· **Saint-Vincent neighbourhood**

This neighbourhood is located between *Saint-Roch* public square and the beach, it is a kind of "village within the city". Nice boutiques: delicatessen and refined products, clothes, jewellery, decoration, household linen; and also, art galleries, antiques, famous florists...

Coming soon

Docks neighbourhood - "Saint-Nicolas Urban Centre"

In the neighbourhood of the oldest Docks in France, in the southern part of the city, a commercial, cultural and leisure centre will open soon:

→ the "*Bains des Docks*" and the "*Sea and sustainable development centre*", designed by the famous architect Jean Nouvel will be open to the public in 2008 and 2011.

Le Havre



→ famous commercial brands, a 10,000m² garden centre, cinemas, bowling alley, restaurants, bars -among other things- will set there as soon as the end of 2008.

Le Havre by night

Be charmed by Le Havre, cosmopolitan and friendly!

Having dinner or just a drink, dancing and having fun...

Everyone will find what they are looking for. Most of the neighbourhoods in Le Havre offer lively places to go out, either in a trendy, latino or a quiet atmosphere.

A new and essential place to go out: the multi-leisure complex of the casino "Pasino".

This complex offers an area with slot machines and gaming tables; 3 restaurants, one of which is gastronomic; several bars; a show lounge, seminars and reception rooms along with a 4 stars hotel with Spa and beauty salon (open to everyone)