

PRESENTATION OF REIMS AS A CHRISTMAS DESTINATION

To the East of the Paris basin, in the heart of Champagne, at the crossroads of the North-South and East-West motorways and served by the recently inaugurated Eastern TGV line, the city of Reims enjoys a favourable position.

As the economic capital of the Champagne-Ardenne region, Reims can count 6 business parks and 9,030 business establishments which are widely diversified across all areas of activity and especially in 4 centres of competence: the agricultural industries, automotive industry, packaging and health and beauty.

Reims is also the largest city in the region, with 191,000 inhabitants.

Reims is an exceptional city for more reasons than one.

A City of Art and History, the "City of Consecrations" is closely connected with French history and brings together a number of monuments and sites whose reputation extends far beyond our boundaries, including 4 UNESCO World Heritage sites: Notre-Dame Cathedral, the Palais du Tau, the Basilica and the museum and abbey of Saint-Remi.

Reims is also a student city with a multi-disciplinary university and a number of other higher educational establishments, and is home to 22,000 students.

*As a cultural, sporting and tourist city, Reims offers more than 300 events throughout the year, and its 60 hotels are an asset to this outstanding tourist destination. The campaign **Christmas Destination Reims** was launched in 2003 by the city of Reims and the Reims Tourist Office, and has brought together all the initiatives around the subject of the Christmas celebrations, giving them a new dimension and creating an attractive product to entice new visitors and new tourists to Reims.*

This is why for several years now Reims has chosen to offer you a new Christmas destination, with a host of festive and cultural offerings between mid-November and mid-January: a Christmas village and markets, various exhibitions, concerts, illuminations etc.

In 2007, the programme of Christmas Destination Reims will be even richer and even more attractive.

From 22 November 2007 to 13 January 2008, the Palais du Tau will host the prestigious exhibition "**Christmas in Italy**" where all the regions of the Italian peninsula will be represented by magnificent Christmas cribs, the smallest being 50 cm and the largest a giant 15 m x 6 m; some of the scenes involve a very large number of figures and are animated.

From 23 November to 5 January the Hôtel de Ville will be home to the works created during the competition "**Christmas in Art**", and from 16 November to 6 January the Tourist Office in Reims will display "**edible cribs**", together with a magnificent ancient crib from Salzburg.

From 23 November to 27 December, Reims will beat to the rhythm of its traditional "**Christmas Village**" with 125 chalets located in place d'Erlon, rue Condorcet and rue Théodore Dubois, and permanent activities throughout this period: parades, tours on the little train, Father Christmas's chalet, workshops etc. And every Wednesday and Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday, the Village will buzz with various mobile shows.

"Choirs of the World": choirs from Champagne, France and elsewhere will appear for around thirty concerts in venues both in Reims itself and in the villages of the Crib Route. This programme will take off with the "**Choral singing encounter**" on Saturday 8 December, and will conclude with the "**Concert of the Kings**" on Sunday 6 January.

The Planetarium of Reims will offer sessions on "**The star of the Magi**" where history and astronomy are closely entwined. Or an original way of discovering local heritage is the "**consecration ramble**" organized by the Reims Municipal Sports Association. You can also "**meet Father Christmas**" during 12 excursions to the villages of the Mountain of Reims. The Lighthouse of Verzenay will tell you the tale "**Once upon a time...at the Lighthouse**" on Wednesdays from 5 to 19 December. The "**Christmas enchantments**" at Bethany from mid-November to the end of December will enable you to immerse yourself in the festive atmosphere of a magnificent exhibition of automated figures. "**Father Christmas's house**"

in its renovated setting at the Natural Park in Sept-Saulx will open its doors from 17 November to 29 December. And every weekend from 25 November to 16 December, you will find local produce and crafts at the "**Christmas markets**" and "**gastronomy markets**" offered by the communities surrounding Reims of Cormontreuil, Prunay, Tinquieux, Trépail, Verzenay and Vrigny.

Our intention with this site "Christmas Destination Reims" is to keep you informed day by day of all the festivities which are taking place in Reims and its surrounding region around the theme of Christmas.

We also wanted to make it a fun site, so you will find a juke-box playing Christmas songs, colouring to do while waiting for Christmas to come and an online competition for children where everyone who enters will win a reward.

*Christmas recipes from the kitchens of Champagne will be available, along with some favourite recipes and festive menus from our greatest chefs.
An Advent calendar will offer your children a new story every day while they are being good and waiting for Christmas.*

And the cherry on the cake, or rather the Yule log, is an Advent calendar just for the grownups, where you can discover some original imaginative tales where Christmas plays a central part. 5 young authors have written these tales for you this year.

And if our website has convinced you to come and spend a few days in Reims and its region over the holidays, then you will have given us our best Christmas present.

Spend the festive season at Reims with passion!

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