



Planetarium, Frenak+Jullien © Damien Maurin

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

In Strasbourg, there's always something going on. Exciting spots, major events, new hotels or restaurants... Strasbourg will surprise you!
Overview of what's new...

Reach for the stars!

In the *Neustadt* district, at the heart of the historical campus, a **new, futuristic Planetarium** has opened its doors. It is **the only university planetarium in France**, directly involved in scientific research.

In this cone-shaped building forming a spectacular architectural ensemble, visitors can explore planets, nebulae and galaxies, thanks to a dome display measuring 15 metres in diameter, a 360° projection and an astronomic simulator.

A safe and affordable trip through the universe that's guaranteed to delight!

① <https://jardin-sciences.unistra.fr/>

Ten-year anniversary of the Château Vodou Museum

From 17 February 2024 to 2 January 2025

Located in an old water tower, the Château Vodou holds **the largest collection of West African vodou artefacts in the world**, and to celebrate its ten-year anniversary, it is offering an exceptional exhibition that brings together **a selection of its most fascinating pieces**.

Belonging to the intangible, inviolable domain of the sacred, these artefacts conceal vibratory powers, providing a flow of communication between humanity, nature and deities. Their magical power goes beyond simple beauty, and yet they captivate onlookers at a first glance.

Under the heading ***Vodou Treasure. Displaying works at the heart of the sacred African arts***, the exhibition pays tribute to the stunning and surprising aesthetics of these objects. This exhibition offers an intense sensory and emotional experience.

① chateau-vodou.com

A second life for the Strasbourg Tobacco Factory

Once the jewel of local industry until its recent closure, the Strasbourg Tobacco Factory is a wonderful example of 19th century industrial architecture and it has finally been reconverted. Listed among France's historic monuments, the building is now home to various economic, scientific and artistic facilities as well as an excellent youth hostel.

The cooperative **Kooma**, which has just opened its doors, has joined the ecosystem and contributes to making the factory a site that welcomes the city. The cooperative contains a shop selling goods from local producers, a 100% organic grocery and various dining options. These different activities are offered as part of a complementary, short-circuit supply and distribution approach that helps to create a genuine circular economy (local producers and the grocery supply the restaurants with ingredients and produce).

With its future performance hall, the Factory will no doubt become a new animated venue in the Krutenau neighbourhood offering a range of events in the city centre!

> 7 rue de la Krutenau **i** kooma-strasbourg.fr



Brewing treasures

With its centuries-old brewing tradition, Strasbourg is truly the land of brewers. Today, the region is undergoing dramatic change with the development of numerous artisanal microbreweries and many different tours and events that provide insight into this expertise.

Perle... since 1882

Founded in 1882, the brand is one of the flagship Alsatian breweries and continues to develop, particularly since it was taken over in 2009 by Christian Artzner, the founder's great-great-grandson. A new chapter has just been written for this craft brewery with the opening of its new 1,500-square-metre site. It houses the production facilities and also welcomes the general public with a bierstud and biergarten, the perfect place to grab a table on a sunny day. Guided tours with a beer tasting are offered every Saturday and upon request.

i www.biere-perle.com

A brewpub on a historic industrial site

On the historic site of the old Kronenbourg brewery, the 3 Brasseurs opened a brewpub that is also used as a space for brewing experimentation. On an 800-square-metre space, the iconic brand of craft beer offers beers brewed on site, a small restaurant as well as a genuine consumer experience with events, beer tastings and other brewing adventures.

i restaurants.3brasseurs.com/fr/labbb-explorations-brassicoles

New restaurants: gastronomy and reinvented Alsatian cuisine

A new gastronomic restaurant in the centre of the Petite France district

Ondine is a small, unique and intimate restaurant with just fifteen covers that offers a complete gastronomic experience with products sourced from the market, creative dishes with refined presentation and a dining room decorated in French and Nordic style.

i ondine-strasbourg.fr

A tapas bar... with Alsatian flair!

This new bar/restaurant pays tribute to the region's traditional cuisine, offering classics from Alsatian gastronomy (tarte flam-bée in particular) as well as original tapas, revamping local cuisine.

i les-luschtig.fr



THE EVENT OF THE YEAR: STRASBOURG WORLD BOOK CAPITAL

2024 is an exceptional year for Strasbourg. The city has just received the UNESCO “World Book Capital” label. The label is awarded each year to a city that is committed to promoting books and reading in all its forms, and this is the first time that a French city has earned it.

Over the course of an entire year starting on 23 April, Strasbourg will pay tribute to books and reading through a wide range of events and activities under the title “reading our world”.

This award is also the result of Strasbourg’s long history with books, which started with the invention of the movable-type printing press in the 15th century.

A bit of history...

Since the Middle Ages, Strasbourg has been in a central cultural, artistic, economic, scientific and literary influence. As the birthplace of printing (Gutenberg fine-tuned his invention in Strasbourg) and a crossroads for ideas, Strasbourg has always had a powerful connection to books. The city has been a source of inspiration for numerous major writers, captivated by its medieval charm and picturesque character, and has preserved invaluable book treasures, the fruit of its unique history...

An exceptional place in the history of printing

While living in Strasbourg between 1434 and 1444, Gutenberg developed the invention that would revolutionise printing and enable the widespread diffusion of books: the movable-type printing press.

Even though the first printed Bible, the result of his innovation, was published in Mainz, in its wake Strasbourg nevertheless became a major printing centre in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

The second printer in the world, Jean Mentelin, was from Strasbourg. The first Bible in German came from his presses. Through his efforts, Strasbourg was the second city in Europe to have a printing workshop in the fifteenth century. Less than a century later, Strasbourg had no less than 25 printing workshops and became one of the biggest printing centres in Europe. In the sixteenth century, its presses produced nearly 5,000 books. The Strasbourg workshops were famous far outside of Alsace and even beyond the borders of Europe. (Afterwards, with writers from Voltaire to Rilke, all of Europe would rush to Strasbourg in search of printers.)

In the wake of these printers, major illustrators like Hans Baldung Grien, thinkers and famous writers like Sebastian Brant, author of the first best seller *The Ship of Fools*, came to Strasbourg.

Strasbourg was at the centre of this extraordinary intellectual upheaval that marked the end of the Middle Ages. The diffusion of books enabled the diffusion of new ideas, particularly humanism and Protestantism, which found in this free city of the empire a fertile base and an extraordinary springboard for their ideas.

Strasbourg is also the cradle of print journalism. The oldest newspaper currently recognised in the world, *Relation*, was founded in Strasbourg in 1605 by the printer Johan Carolus. With this newspaper, the Strasbourg and European press was born.

Strasbourg book treasures

As a city bubbling with intellectual energy, Strasbourg has stored genuine treasures throughout the centuries.

While valuable writings were lost in a fire in the town library during the Franco-Prussian War (400,000 books, thousands of manuscripts, one of the most magnificent collections in the world of incunabula and books from the 16th century, etc.), the city still holds numerous treasures in its many public and heritage libraries (it has at least 59 of them).

Having been centre stage during the Reformation, Strasbourg has an enormous number of sixteenth-century religious books kept in a secure place on its shelves, beside older manuscripts and incunabula, safely preserved up to the current day.

As a university town for nearly five centuries, Strasbourg also has abundant scientific collections, expanded throughout the centuries. The National University Library of Strasbourg deserves particular mention as the only national library outside of Paris, holding more than three million documents, invaluable Egyptology and papyrology collections and important series of Oriental manuscripts.

Strasbourg, source of inspiration for major writers and illustrators

Over the centuries, a host of thinkers, writers and artists spent time in Strasbourg. Its political, economic and cultural influence as well as its unique charm are the reasons why the city attracted so many prestigious guests.

Among its distinguished visitors: Erasme, Calvin, Voltaire, Rousseau, Stendhal, Musset, Dumas, Balzac, Gautier, Daudet, Saint-Exupéry, and Hemingway to mention just a few.

In the 19th century, visiting Strasbourg was a must.

The city was a crossroads of French and Germanic cultures and drew visitors with its exoticism and medieval atmosphere that stimulated the imagination. Many of the Strasbourg's great admirers such as Goethe, Gérard de Nerval and Victor Hugo wrote lovely passages about the city and its astounding cathedral and drew inspiration from it.

...and many great events!

Exhibitions in the museums

Strasbourg 1560-1600. Art revival.

Oeuvre Notre-Dame Museum

From 2 February to 19 May 2024



In the late 16th century, Strasbourg had an eminent, vibrant art scene, owing largely to its privileged geographic position at the centre of Europe. The exhibition will examine this last, underexplored stage of the Renaissance, marked by the dissemination throughout all of the art forms of the new ornamental vocabulary inspired by the aesthetic principles of Antiquity, and its adoption by artists and craftsmen of all specialities.

The exhibition will also provide a more general reframing of the period, in order to examine the era's literary output and the vibrancy of the educational and scientific realms, as well as publishing.

The most significant contribution is that of two prominent artists, who were illustrators, engravers and mural painters, and who brought the ornamental motifs of **mannerism** to Strasbourg. **Tobias Stimmer** (1539-1584), a prolific engraver, also painted the decorations on the monumental astronomical clock at the cathedral. His grisaille oil on canvas sketches for the clock sculptures (circa 1571), recently restored, are being presented to the public for the first time.

In a more fantasy-filled realm, the plates of the three volumes of *Architectura* by **Wendel Dietterlin** (1551-1599), also known for the production of many murals, are amazing for their energy, verve and decorative extravagance, remaining influential until the Baroque period.

A remarkable and not-to-be-missed exhibition.

. The constellation Gustave Doré. A journey through illustrated books in the 19th century.

Palais Rohan, Galerie Heitz

From 25 April to 15 July



Born in Strasbourg, Gustave Doré is one of the main contributors to illustrated books in the 19th century and thoroughly refreshed their different genres and practices.

Working with the biggest publishers and printmakers of the time, he created bold books with ambitious formats and subjects, placing himself in the centre of publishing's structure and placing his name in the literary canon (the Bible, Rabelais, Perrault, La Fontaine, Milton, Poe, etc.).

This exhibition takes visitors on a journey through the teeming graphic world of the artist, drawing from sources of popular legends, woodland settings and the architectural backdrop of his childhood in Alsace.

. Illustrated Youth. Alsace and the early stages of the first illustrations for young readers, 19th to 20th century

Tomi Ungerer Museum

From 8 November 2024 to 17 February 2025



Charles Emile Matthis, épreuve d'état de la planche *Fée vérité* - Hector le Fanfaron, 1869, (coll. Bibliothèque Alsatique du Crédit Mutuel)

This exhibition **presents for the first time the singular place of Alsace and Strasbourg in particular in the creation of books intended for a young audience starting in the 19th century.** From this period on, illustrators, publishers and printers from the region contributed to a major publishing endeavour that was to help develop a new market aimed at building a young readership while entertaining them. The energy and visionary talent of artists like Gustave Doré and Théophile Schuler greatly contributed to its success.

. Illustrated Youth. The anti-pedagogy of Tomi Ungerer and contemporary illustrations for young readers

Tomi Ungerer Museum

From 8 November 2024 to 17 February 2025

The exhibition displays the book illustrations for children and adolescents from the second half of the 20th century up to the current day. It starts with the work of Tomi Ungerer and his anti-pedagogic approach to children's books and then branches out to show current illustrations from the vibrant scene found in Strasbourg and the Grand Est region.

Tours with the Tourist Office

The Tourist Office is naturally involved with the "Reading our world" programme so as to better illustrate the close connection between Strasbourg and books.

Starting this spring, the Tourist Office will offer an **"open book" self-guided tour** that retraces the major steps of Strasbourg's history of books with a walking route through the city. The tour covers the cathedral, which itself is a massive stone book, the invention of printing, humanism, the Reformation, major writers, prestigious libraries and more.

It is a passionate tour that everyone should download the moment it comes out!

Available from May on the Tourist Office website.

Find the complete "Strasbourg, World Book Capital" programme at lirenotremonde.strasbourg.eu

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