



YOUR GUIDE TO

# BERNY-RIVIÈRE

**Close to Paris (and Disneyland Paris) this parc's mix of lively days and family entertainment makes it the perfect base to explore and enjoy both.**

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**With so much to see and do, we've rounded up our five favourite adventures to get you started... but dive into the rest of our guide and you'll discover: there's lots more where this came from.**

### **Have it large at Parc Astérix**

France's second most visited theme park, Parc Astérix celebrates the Gallic hero in style. If you're after thrilling rollercoasters more than meet and greets with Mickey, this is the place to head.

### **Stroll around Soissons**

We love quietly confident Soissons - a town overflowing with history (once the capital of France, no less). You'll love wandering around its dignified old town, complete with fine churches, chapels and merchants' villas.

### **Fall under Pierrefonds' spell**

For something a little mythical, Pierrefonds, the setting of the BBC series Merlin, is a must. The classic medieval château dominates the surrounding landscape and has been restored from ruins into an imperial residence with turrets, towers and a moat.



### **Enjoy the magic at Disneyland Paris**

The Disneyland Park and Walt Disney Studios Park offer more than enough fun for a couple of days, with terrific rides, restaurants, parades and shows. Get here early, and plan your day, as there's a lot to take in and chances are you can't do it all.

### **Find your Paris**

An easy train ride, or coach excursion away from your parc, Paris is a must. Don't worry about seeing it all. Choose an area - foodie Marais, cultural St-Germain or the romantic streets of Montmartre - and really get under its skin. You'll thank us for it!





# CULTURE FIX



## Soissons

Soissons is a quiet town with a big history, hence its array of abbeys, chapels and a very Notre-Dame-like Cathedral (deliberately so - the building was based on the Paris version). The nave's interior is acclaimed for the purity of its symmetry.

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## The Armistice Clearing, Compiègne

A short drive away – or a longer bike trip – is the Armistice Clearing where Germany surrendered in the first World War. Hitler later insisted that the very same location was used when France signed its surrender to Germany in 1940.

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## Champagne

You're very close to Champagne country so head north and take a tour of one of the vineyards. There are many champagne houses in Epernay, Château-Thierry and the countryside surrounding Reims. Tours reveal the fascinating history of the world's best bubbles.

# GET ACTIVE

## **Parc Canopée, Ambleny**

Wonderful tree-top adventure course for all ages (from three years and over), with safety paramount. Climb, scramble, zip, traverse and swing your way through the canopy at this enjoyable outdoor park.

## **Horsing around in Chantilly**

If you're a fan of horses you can do worse than visit the Living Museum of the Horse (Musée Vivant du Cheval); it has dozens of breeds, vast stables and race courses. Rides are available for the kids.

## **Marais d'Isle, Saint-Quentin**

Kids will love the Parc d'Isle Jacques Braconnier for its farmhouse and playgrounds; not to mention the swimming, pedalos, table tennis and mini-golf at Isle Pond beach. There's a fitness trail for those with energy to burn, too.

## **Parc de Coupaville, Soissons**

The Parc de Coupaville is fun for younger children, with its inflatables, maze, paintball and zorbing and laser adventures. Lots of healthy active fun to get the whole family off their sunbeds. Great fun!

## **Corn maze, Le Hérie-la-Viéville**

Get lost in the 'Labyrinthe de Mais' – a corn maze covering 40,000 square metres with three separate trails. Children must be four years of age and opening times are usually restricted to late summer periods (early July to the end of August).

## **Compiègne cycling**

Wrapped around with trees - Forêt de Compiègne is a huge forest ideal for cycling and hiking expeditions - this stately town is worth a look. The Palace of Compiègne was a favourite of Louis XVI, and the town's 16th century town hall is a riot of gothic excess.





# KIDS WILL LOVE



## Château de Pierrefonds

Not all of France's elaborate and romantic châteaux are strung out along the Loire. Take a trip to fairy tale Château de Pierrefonds, and be whisked back in time. This huge and hauntingly beautiful château dates to the 14th Century.



## Disneyland Paris

The Disneyland Park and Walt Disney Studios Park offer more than 50 attractions, shows and parades every day. There's a wide range of restaurants, entertainment and shopping - so there's something for everyone. But mainly for kids - and big kids.

## Parc Astérix, Plailly

France's second most visited theme park, Parc Astérix brings the thrills, with twisting and turning rollercoasters, water rides and even a bobsled rollercoaster. It's about an hour from your parc.



## Sea Life Paris

Right next to Disneyland Paris is this large aquarium that covers the various underwater habitats of the world, with displays of freshwater and seawater creatures. An impressive 360-degree enclosed walk-through tunnel and touch tanks will thrill little ones.

## Château Vic-Sur-Aisne

At the centre of charming Vic-Sur-Aisne is the town's château, complete with moat and keep, and boasting beautiful formal gardens full of statues and follies. There are puppet shows throughout the castle, which younger children will enjoy.





# DAY TRIPS



## Amiens

Stunning Amiens is dominated by its 13th Century Gothic cathedral, the largest in France. Look out for the Weeping Angel statue, Jules Verne's house and the floating gardens of Amiens, a network of canals, earning Amiens the moniker the Little Venice of the North. At night the Amiens Cathedral is lit up to replicate the building's original vivid paintwork. The show takes place nightly in summer, accompanied by stirring music.

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## Paris and Versailles

A good 120km from the parc, but with a wealth of attractions. World-class shopping and all bustle and culture of one of the world's best capitals. Consider getting a day pass if you're to soak up the city's galleries and museums, as it works out so much cheaper (and you don't have to queue). Also consider the Versailles Palace and Gardens - take in the gardens and visit the Hall of Mirrors, where the Treaty of Versailles was signed.





# WHEN THE SUN SETS

If you're looking for food in Vic-Sur-Aisne, you'll find a couple of child-friendly, welcoming and pleasingly easy-going restaurants in the pretty village's centre. Booking is recommended during high season, when demand usually outstrips supply. This isn't a riotously busy corner of France. So don't expect long, or particularly lively nights. For a touch more in the way of after-dark activities your best bet is Soissons. Here you'll find pubs and even a couple of show bars with live music and dancing.



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## FIND OUT MORE

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