

Le Havre



> Lights of Le Havre Be amazed!

Le Havre, cradle of impressionism

When the river meets the sea in the *Baie de Seine*, the spectacle of lights is unique. The palette goes from deep green to emerald.

These lights have given birth to impressionism. Technical advances, the fashion of sea bathing and high society have influenced young artists to paint this motif.

Eugène Boudin has been one of the first to come and catch the light of Le Havre's skies, and he introduced Claude Monet to this. Many are those who came and laid their easel on the pebbles, among them were Pissarro and Sisley...

In 1872, Claude Monet, whose uncle and aunt owned two cottages in Sainte-Adresse, painted "*Impression soleil levant*" ["Impression of a sunrise"] at the entrance of the port. In 1874, Nadar allows him to show his work at his house. Visitors have attributed the title of Monet's piece to these "open air painters", since then known as impressionists.

Malraux Museum:

With its major collections from impressionist painters, its permanent collection of Eugène Boudin (about 200 pieces), and the recent Senn-Foulds donation, the **Malraux museum houses the largest collection of impressionist paintings in France after Paris.**

Made of glass and steel, anchored at the entrance of the port, this "ship" is open to the sky and sea. Its roof with an openwork design allows an indirect natural lighting and its plate glass windows offer a really peculiar resonance.

Musée Malraux, 2 bd Clemenceau - Tel: 02 35 19 62 62

Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the week and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays
Closed on Tuesdays

Impressionist itinerary:

9 boards all over the city show some of the works painted in Le Havre and Sainte-Adresse, and this, in the very place where they were originally painted.

This itinerary starts off at the *Bassin du Commerce*, carries on by the seaside and ends up in Sainte-Adresse.

A brochure is available at the Tourist Office of Le Havre.

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Panoramas:

· The cliffs and hundreds of **stairs** all over the city provide magnificent panoramas: the bay, the shores of the regions of *Calvados* and *Cotentin*, the city and the port. A "round tour of the stairs" guide is available at the Tourist Office of Le Havre.

· Discovery from above

Flying over the *Baie de Seine* or the cliffs: from a plane with the company "Aviation Service Normandie", or from a helicopter with "Hélistar".

Not to be missed:

> Special exhibition in 2007 at Malraux Museum: **Emile Othon Friesz (1879-1949), the Baroque Fauvist.**

Within the framework of the hundredth anniversary of the "*cercle de l'Art Moderne*" [Modern Art Society] (1906-1909), the Malraux Museum will dedicate a fresh exhibition to the third artist born in Le Havre who was a founding member of that society: Henri Achille Emile Othon Friesz (born in Le Havre in 1879 - died in Paris in 1949).

It will be the very first large retrospective dedicated to this artist whose work is not very well known by the general public. The exhibition and publication going along with it, will allow a fair reappraisal of the whole work of Friesz, beyond the fauvist years that made his success.

About 170 prestigious pieces are going to be brought together, all of which borrowed from large private, public, French and international collections and rigorously selected. All these pieces will go back over Friesz's artistic career, mentioning his friendships (Braque, Dufy...) and the diversity of his production (painting, drawing, engraving, pottery, decorating...)

The city by night

Owing to the emphasis brought on to the architectural heritage, the city enjoys a unique atmosphere at night.

Strolling around the city at night enables you to discover, among other things, the lighting of *Saint-Joseph Church* and of the *Hôtel de Ville*. If you take *rue de Paris*, the lights on the footbridge of the *Bassin du Commerce*, of the *Monument de la Victoire* and of the *Volcan* catch your eyes. If you keep walking by, you will come across the *cathédrale Notre-Dame* and the front wall of the *Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle* who reveal their true selves, draped in lights.