

# Le Havre



## > Le Havre, identity card, Be amazed !

### Identity card

186.700 inhabitants

1<sup>st</sup> city of Normandy

11<sup>th</sup> city of France

1<sup>st</sup> French port for containers transportation

5<sup>th</sup> European port

2 km [1.2 miles] long beach

4km [2.4 miles] promenade by the seaside

35m<sup>2</sup> of greenery per inhabitant

Numerous labels on the city: World Heritage site, seaside resort, nautical resort, "pavillon bleu" (guarantees a good quality of water), city of art and history, ...

2 hours from Paris

In the heart of a region with world-famous sites

### Le Havre, past

*Le Havre de Grâce* was established in 1517 by King Francis I of France after the silting-up of the ports of the Seine estuary, Honfleur and Harfleur. In 1820 and 1852, the city was enlarged, first thanks to the pushing back of the ramparts and later, to their demolition. A war port during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, successful trading with the Isles during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and emigration to America during the 19<sup>th</sup> century; all this contributed to a high demography and a fast development of the city of Le Havre. The industrialisation beginning in the 1920's gives the first place to the city in Normandy thanks to its worldwide coffee and cotton market.

### Le Havre, present

In September 1944, 80% of the city centre was destroyed and the port was completely devastated...It has taken twenty years for Le Havre to find a new lease of life. The lower part of the town is now the largest post-war unitary reconstruction site, with a surface area of 150 hectares. The unusual architecture made of concrete, created by Auguste Perret, offering antique columns and screen walls of oriental inspiration, opens Le Havre up on the sea. The lights of Le Havre skies are highly prized by impressionists and give an impression of wide spaces to the viewer.

# Le Havre



> On the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2005: UNESCO added the city centre of Le Havre, rebuilt by Perret, to its World Heritage List. Perret was a major 20<sup>th</sup> century architect and a true "poet in concrete", both traditionalist and innovative; he successfully rose to the challenge before him, seeking inspiration in architectural tradition and drawing on his own strong desire for modernisation to reinvent a unique, open town centre that is harmonious and resolutely innovative, across an area of 133 hectares. Le Havre city centre is the first European urban complex of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to be included in the World Heritage List.

## A city of art and history

Thanks to this label, awarded in 2001 by the French Ministry of Culture, the city of Le Havre becomes the first city in France to obtain that distinction for a 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural creation.

## Seaside Resort

Le Havre was granted the "Seaside Resort" title on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1999. Facing the heart of the city are a 2 kilometres [1.2 miles] long sandy and pebbly beach and a 4 kilometres [2.4 miles] 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.

## Pavillons Bleus

Two European blue flags, certifying the quality of water, are flying over the marina and the beach since 1998.

## Nautical resort

On the 4<sup>th</sup> December 1999, the label "nautical resort" was officially granted to Le Havre from the association *France Station Nautique* at the *Salon de Paris*; an acknowledgement of 165 years of quality yachting.

Le Havre enjoys a quality beach; it offers many nautical activities and events.

The marina holds 1.300 berths and many assets: located close to the city centre, and only 200 kilometres [125 miles] away from Paris; accessible 24 hours a day.