# PLAINE COMMUNE, A REGION



ÉPINAY-SÜR-SEINE
LA CQURNEUVE
L'ÎLE-SAINT-DENIS
PIERREFITTE-SÜR-SEINE
SAINT-DENIS
SAINT-QUEN-SÜR-SEINE
STAINS
VILLETANEUSE

VILLES PAYE SART 8



Next to world famous sites like the
Basilica of Saint-Denis, tomb of the
kings of France, the flea and Antiques
market in Saint-Ouen and the Stade de
France, we invite you to discover its other
incredible treasures such as the Art and
History Museum Paul Éluard or the Maison
d'éducation de la Légion d'honneur in
Saint-Denis.

Discover the major themes which make this territory and its 9 cities unique: from its agriculture and market gardening history to the street art and urban cultures, via its industrial heritage, its fluvial heritage, its artisan expertise and its archaeological treasures... Whether you're simply curious, avid to explore or passionate about architecture and history, Plaine Commune will surprise you!

Let yourself be seduced by its ambitious artistic and cultural offerings, with lots of creative spaces, shows, festivals, places to learn the Arts and converted industrial sites...

Recognised as "Territoire de la culture et de la création" in the "Grand Paris", Plaine Commune is a place where art and culture dedicate themselves to future projects, a tool which allows the residents to participate in the fabric of the city.

Plaine Commune is also a region which hosts big events: the 2023 Rugby World Cup and the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

You can now visit the construction sites for these future facilities.

Incredible discoveries for everyone!



# PLAINE COMMUNE, A REGION



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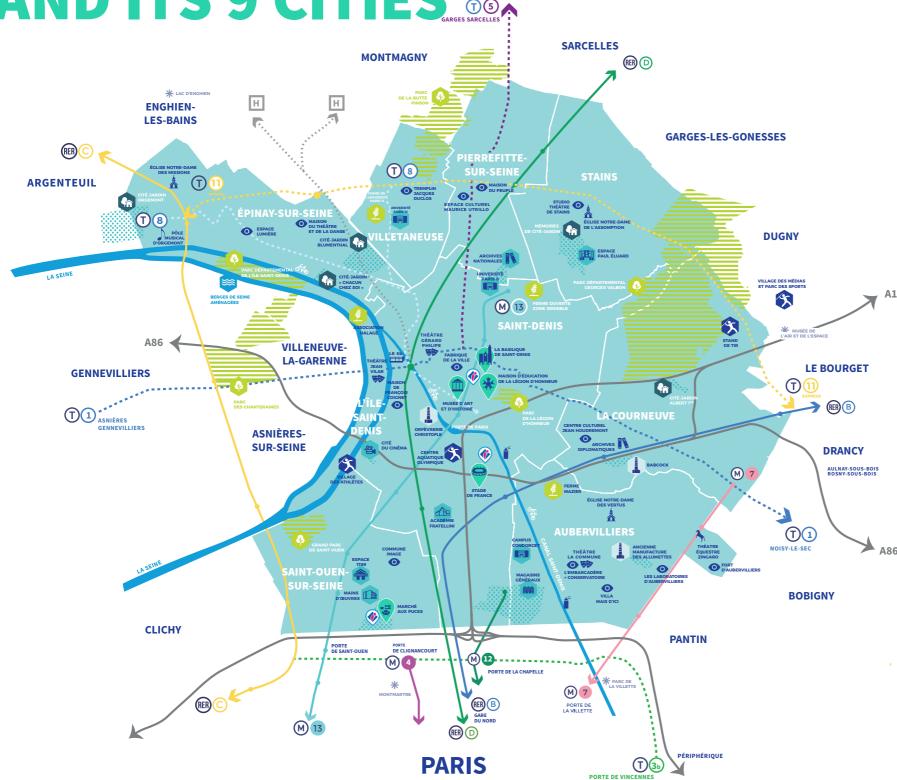
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#### FOCUS ON 5 ESSENTIAL TOURIST

THE SAINT-DENIS BASILICA **CATHEDRAL** 



THE FLEA MARKET **IN SAINT-OUEN** 



THE STADE DE FRANCE



THE PAUL ÉLUARD MUSEUM OF **ART AND HISTORY** 



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**Olympic and Paralympic sites** 



**Industrial heritage** 

















#### **FOCUS ON 5 ESSENTIAL TOURIST SITES**

# THE SALWIXDEMIS BASILICA CATHEDWAL

#### AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF ITS SPIRE

ONE OF THE FIRST GOTHIC ART **MASTERPIECES IN EUROPE, DESIGNED** IN THE 12TH CENTURY BY ABBOT SUGER, AN ADVISOR TO THE KINGS OF FRANCE.

Work was continued, by amongst others, by Pierre de Montreuil, one of the future project supervisors of Notre-Dame de Paris.

Built upon the tomb of Saint-Denis, the missionary bishop who died around 250 A.D., it was subsequently enlarged over the course of the centuries. In the Middle Ages, the basilica was a major place of pilgrimage within an imposing Benedictine abbey, linked to the fate of the French royalty. It became a royal necropolis from the 6<sup>th</sup> century and was the burial place of French Kings and Queens until 1824 and the death of Louis XVIII. Today, it has a collection, unique in Europe of more than 70 recumbent statues and sculpted royal tombs (Dagobert, Pépin le Bref, François Ier, Catherine de Médicis...).

This is the most significant set of funerary sculpture from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16th century, which you can discover in the coloured light of the stainedglass windows dating from the 12th and 19th centuries.

The basilica has survived over the centuries up until our times, where a new major project awaits – specifically the reconstruction of the spire.

Reaching its peak at a height of 90 metres, it was damaged by lightning in 1837 and was dismantled in 1847, under the management of Viollet-le-Duc.

The basilica remained without its spire and north tower for more than one and a half centuries. Its future reconstruction, which will take some 10 years, is envisaged as a real "field school" bringing together medievalists, archaeologists, craftsmen and local actors, able to articulate both the past and the present.

Scaffolding will allow discovery of the site and to finish at its top with a 360-degree view. Depending on the season stonemason and blacksmith demonstrations are offered nearby - just as in the days of cathedrals!



#### > TO FIND OUT MORE

1 rue de la Légion d'Honneur 93200 Saint-Denis

www.saint-denis-basilique.fr www.suivezlafleche.com

#### Access

Metro: line 13, station basilique de Saint-Denis; **RER B**, stop La Plaine Stade de France (then bus 239); **Bus:** 153, 239, 253 et 255, stops basilique de Saint-Denis, Porte de Paris or Marché de Saint-Denis ; Tramways: T1, T5 and T8, stations Marché République or Basilique de Saint-Denis -Hôtel de ville

#### **Tourist Information point**

1 rue de la République 93200 Saint-Denis www.tourisme-plainecommune-paris.com

#### **FOCUS ON 5 ESSENTIAL TOURIST SITES**

# THE FLEA MANWET IN SAINT. OXEN



#### **WITH THEIR 1.700 MERCHANTS SPREAD OUT OVER 7 HECTARES, THE PARIS SAINT-OUEN FLEA MARKETS WAS THE** FIRST ANCIENT MARKET IN THE WORLD.

Furniture, art and decorative objects, books, records, toys, jewellery, vintage clothing and many other wonders can be found in this bargain hunters paradise! From antiquity to industrial design via art deco, all eras and styles are represented.

Window shoppers will enjoy the charms of the streets of the flea market and the unique atmosphere of each of the 14 markets: Vernaison, Biron, Dauphine, Malassis, Paul Bert, Serpette... They can also enjoy the pleasures of a manouche jazz concert in one of the many neighbourhood cafés. It is also possible to discover the Flea Market through guided tours offered by the Tourist Office or its authorised partners.

Exclusively held in small groups, these can be general or thematic in nature – such as on the history of the market, its hidden secret corners or the know-how of its merchants.



#### > TO FIND OUT MORE

93400 Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine

www.marcheauxpuces-saintouen.com

**Opening** afternoon, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays

**Access** by la rue des Rosiers, la rue Lecuyer, la rue Paul Bert, la rue Jules Vallès Metro: line 13, station Garibaldi or line 4, station Porte de Clignancourt **Bus:** 85, 255 stops Marché aux puces or Michelet-Rosiers, 341, 166, 56 stop Porte de Clignancourt-Croisset, 137 stops Gérard de Nerval or Kléber **Tramway:** T3b station Porte de Clignancourt

#### **Tourist Information point**

124 rue des Rosiers (in the flea market) www.tourisme-plainecommune-paris.com



#### **FOCUS ON 5 ESSENTIAL TOURIST SITES**

# STADE DE FWAMCE



**THE MYTHICAL VENUE FOR THE 1998 WORLD CUP, THE STADE DE FRANCE** HAS ALSO HOSTED THE RUGBY WORLD **CUP IN 2007, EURO 2016, THE SIX NATIONS TOURNAMENT AND ATHLETIC** 

**MEETINGS...** Today it is preparing for the France 2023 Rugby World Cup and the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games: the athletics events will take place in its prestigious interior.

The Stade de France is adaptable and can host up to 80,000 spectators for both sporting and cultural events. Since 1998 it has hosted more than 350 events and welcomed some 30 million spectators. With a guided tour, you can learn about its innovative architecture and its potential for hosting events (athletics, team sports, motor sport, shows...etc.). You will be struck by the magic of the changing room and can imagine the players

arriving through the entrance tunnel!

Visiting the museum will allow you to admire, among other things, signed guitars and jerseys (Bono, Bruce Springsteen...) and performance costumes (Carmen, Turandot). Below, the "Stade de France Boulevard" has immortalised the hand prints of the greatest athletes and artists: find them in this walk through the world of celebrity!

#### > TO FIND OUT MORE

93200 Saint-Denis

www.stadefrance.com

**Access** by rues Jules Rimet, Henri Delaunay and Ahmed Boughera El Ouafi Metro: line 13, station Saint-Denis Porte de Paris

**RER B** station La Plaine Stade de France – **RER D** station Stade de France Saint-Denis

**Bus:** 353, 255, 239, 153 stops Pont du canal or Delaunay-Rimet or Jesse Owens

#### **Tourist Information point**

19 avenue Jules Rimet (opposite gate E) www.tourisme-plainecommune-paris.com





#### **FOCUS ON 5 ESSENTIAL TOURIST SITES**

# THE PAWE ELWAND ANT AND HISTORY NWSEWN



HOSTED IN THE FORMER SAINT-DENIS
COUVENT DE CARMÉLITES (17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY),
THE MUSEUM BRINGS TOGETHER
A RANGE OF COLLECTIONS COVERING
THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN FROM
THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE PRESENT DAY.

Distributed around the cloister, the museum rooms offer a permanent exhibition in a setting that has preserved the spirituality of the location: stripped-back cells with more than 170 mystical sentences painted on the walls...

The permanent exhibition displays objects found during excavations in Saint-Denis, illustrating the archaeological richness of the town and its links with the basilica. Visitors will also be fascinated by the beauty of the apothicairerie for the former Hôtel-Dieu and contributions from Paul Éluard (donations by the poet to his home town). The rooms dedicated to the Commune de Paris constitute one of the largest French collections on this theme. The museum regularly organises temporary exhibitions as well as guide tours and "slow tours" in the presence of a sophrologist as well as numerous workshops for children, an escape game, conferences, concerts and readings... The Carmelite cloister and the various gardens are havens of peace - conducive to meditation. With regard to the Jardin des 5 sens. They can touch, feel, taste and listen to themselves – as much as they can see themselves.





22 bis rue Gabriel Péri 93200 Saint-Denis

www.musee-saint-denis.com

Metro: line 13,

station Saint-Denis Porte de Paris **RER D** station gare de Saint-Denis

**Bus:** 154 stop Marché de Saint-Denis, 153, 170, 239, 253, 254, 255 stop

Porte de Paris

**Tramways :** T1 station Basilique de Saint-Denis, T5 station Marché de Saint-Denis, T8 station Porte de Paris

#### **FOCUS ON 5 ESSENTIAL TOURIST SITES**

# THE MASON D'EDMATON DE LA LEGON D'HONNEMAN



THE MAISON D'ÉDUCATION DE
LA LÉGION D'HONNEUR HAS BEEN
LOCATED IN SAINT-DENIS, ANCIENT
ABBEY. FROM THE MIDDLE AGES,
A COMMUNITY SET ITSELF UP CLOSE
TO THE SAINT'S TOMB TO LOOK AFTER
AND WELCOME PILGRIMS. Thanks to
influential abbots and protection from the
kings of France, the spiritual fame of the
abbey would transcend the borders of the
kingdom.

Completely rebuilt during the reign of Louis XV up until the 18th century, since 1809 the abbey has housed a boarding school for young girls founded by Napoleon 1st attached to the Grand Chancellery of the Order of the Legion of Honor. Today, this public high school welcomes nearly 500 students, daughters or granddaughters of people honoured by the highest French decoration. Its old abbey buildings, its music pavilion, its chapel and its refectory but also its new school facilities in the middle of a 24-hectare wooded park make it a school transcending time in the heart of the bustling town.

Guided tours of the *Maison d'éducation de la Légion d'honneur* are organised several times a year by the Office de Tourisme Plaine Commune Grand Paris.



#### > TO FIND OUT MORE

5 rue de la Légion d'Honneur 93200 Saint-Denis

#### www.legiondhonneur.fr

(tab : les Maisons d'éducation de la Légion d'honneur)

**Metro:** line 13 stop Basilique de Saint-Denis

**Bus** 153, 253, 239 stops Légion d'honneur or Médiathèque

**Tramway :** T1 station Basilique de Saint-Denis

**Reservation** required for guided visits www.tourisme-plainecommune-paris.com 01 55 870 870





# AMCHAELOGICAL TWEASIMES

THE EXCAVATIONS UNDERTAKEN AT PLAINE COMMUNE HAVE BROUGHT TO THE FORE THE PREVIOUS HUMAN OCCUPATION OF THE LAND, LEADING TO THE DISCOVERY OF PRECIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTEFACTS. TODAY, THESE COLLECTIONS ARE PRESERVED AND ARE PARTLY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

Among the major excavations were those carried out by the archaeology unit of Saint-Denis between 1974 and 1992 in the district located north of the basilica. They brought to light vestiges that allow for a better understanding of the stages of urban development from the end of the Antiquity.

More than 600 medieval archaeological objects in ceramic, glass, leather, wood, bone, ivory and textiles are on display at the Paul Éluard Museum of Art and History. They bear witness to everyday life, craftmanship...

In Saint-Denis, archaeology can also be found above ground! La Fabrique de la ville is a strange house-scaffold topped with an astonishing "mushroom", which offers a reading of thirteen centuries of the town's history: showcasing its major architectural, town planning, social and economic transformations.

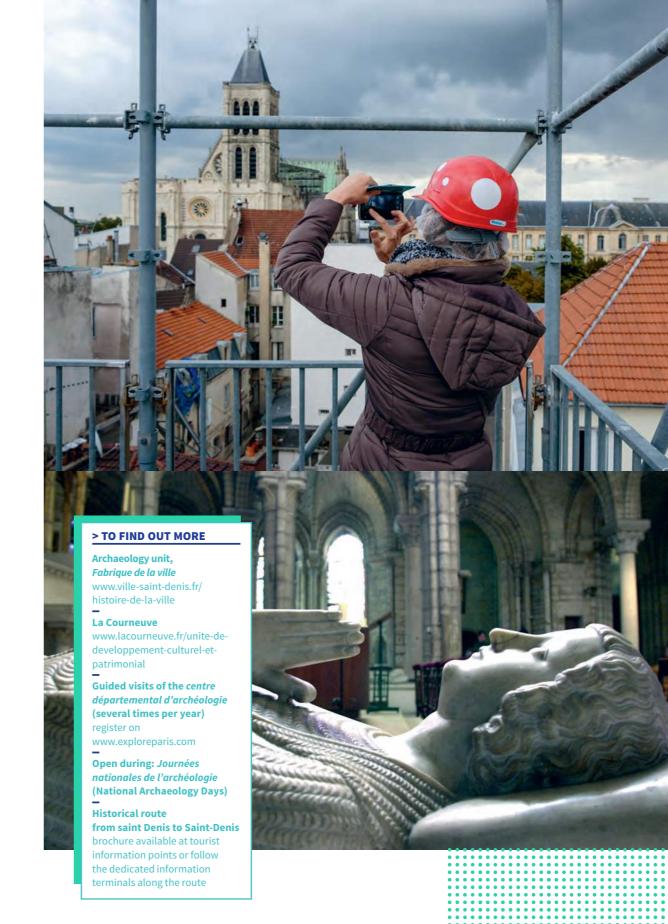
#### The Crypt of the Saint-Denis basilica

hosts tens of sarcophagi, where one rested the remains of Queen Arégonde, King Dagobert and many high-ranking people – all buried as close as possible to the tomb of Saint-Denis (see pages 6-7).

The town of La Courneuve also has archaeological collections resulting from fortuitous discoveries and excavations organised back in the 1970s. These have revealed traces of occupation of the site during the Bronze Age, at the end of Antiquity and during the Merovingian period. The town has kept plaster sarcophagi in a crypt, which is open to the public during certain events. The remainder of the collections is deposited at the centre départemental d'archéologie in Épinay-sur-Seine.

#### **Opposite:**

La Fabrique de la ville, Saint-Denis Recumbent statues of the Saint-Denis basilica cathedral





IN ADDITION TO THE BANKS OF THE SEINE AND THE CANAL SAINT-DENIS, THERE ARE MANY GREEN SPACES ACCESSIBLE TO ALL TO RELAX, PLAYING SPORT AND OBSERVING NATURE. THEY COME ON FOOT, BY BIKE AND EVEN BY BOAT THROUGHOUT "L'ÉTÉ DU CANAL"!

#### ► The old tow path at Epinay-sur-Seine

has retained its natural character.

New developments allow you to walk
and rest there, whilst admiring the Seine,
the green spaces and built heritage.



#### The banks of the canal Saint-Denis

are developed and accessible to pedestrians and bicycles on the right bank. Against a background of industrial heritage, the landscape is punctuated by the Street Art Avenue and its many open-air works (see pages 24-25).

#### ► The "London Paris"

"La Seine à vélo" cycle-tourist routes allow you to reach Épinay-sur-Seine from the *Parc de la Villette* to Paris (11 km in total) on foot or by bike.

## THERE ARE ALSO NUMEROUS GREEN SPACES WITH MAJOR PARKS. HERE ARE THE 5 BIGGEST:

- A former place for agriculture and artists' reflection the *Parc régional de la Butte Pinson* has retained this spirit, with the presence of the educational farm.

  The *parcours Utrillo* allows you, thanks to the reproduction of 15 paintings, to find where the artist placed their easel.
- ▶ The Parc de la Légion d'honneur off in the heart of Saint-Denis, with its hundred-year old trees, offers magnificent views of the ancient royal abbey and the basilica.

#### Opposite:

Grand Parc, Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine Parc Georges Valbon, La Courneuve



# A20TH CENTATION LABONATION

DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, THE AREA EXPERIENCED STRONG DEMOGRAPHIC GROWTH AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. CONCERNED BY THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THEIR WORKERS, SOME LARGE BOSSES STARTED BUILDING HOUSING...

This was the case with François Coignet, an industrial chemist, who built the first house made with agglomerated concrete (1855) as well as an apartment building (1867-1870). At La Plaine Saint-Denis, the architect Georges Guyon built the *Cité de la Ruche* (1892-1893), following the first competition held by the French company *Habitations à Bon Marché*...

During the inter-war years, on the urban model of the "garden city", such habitations sprang up. The garden city of Stains is remarkable for its architecture, its landscaping and its social project. In Épinay-sur-Seine, the garden cities bear witness to the evolution of the model over time: the garden cities "Chacun chez soi" and "Blumenthal" offers new services in terms of health, while the Garden city

Orgemont is one of the largest in Ile-de-France, with various equipments.



**Opposite:** Cité de la Maladrerie, Aubervilliers Garden city of Stains



# 

IN THE 18<sup>TH</sup> AND 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, "LA PLAINE" WAS THE LARGEST VEGETABLE AREA IN FRANCE, SUPPLIING THE PARISIAN POPULATION, WHICH WAS EXPANDING AT AN ENORMOUS RATE.

This abundant production was explained by the natural fertility of the soil and the irrigation works initiated by the abbey of Saint-Denis in the Middle Ages. Improvements in irrigation techniques and pressure on land in Paris prompted many market gardeners to settle in the area in the 19th century. In 1960, there were still 90 market gardening farms in the towns of Saint-Denis, Pierrefitte-sur-Seine, Stains and La Courneuve.

This market gardening story has marked the landscape. There are thus many plots of family gardens and shared gardens (55 hectares in total), often heirs to the allotment gardens of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but also parks and green spaces from old market garden plots.

IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY, THE RETURN TO SHORT CIRCUITS AND ORGANIC SECTORS OPEN NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGRICULTURE IN URBAN AREAS. HERE ARE THE MAIN PLACES WHERE YOU CAN DISCOVER THIS AGRICULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE:

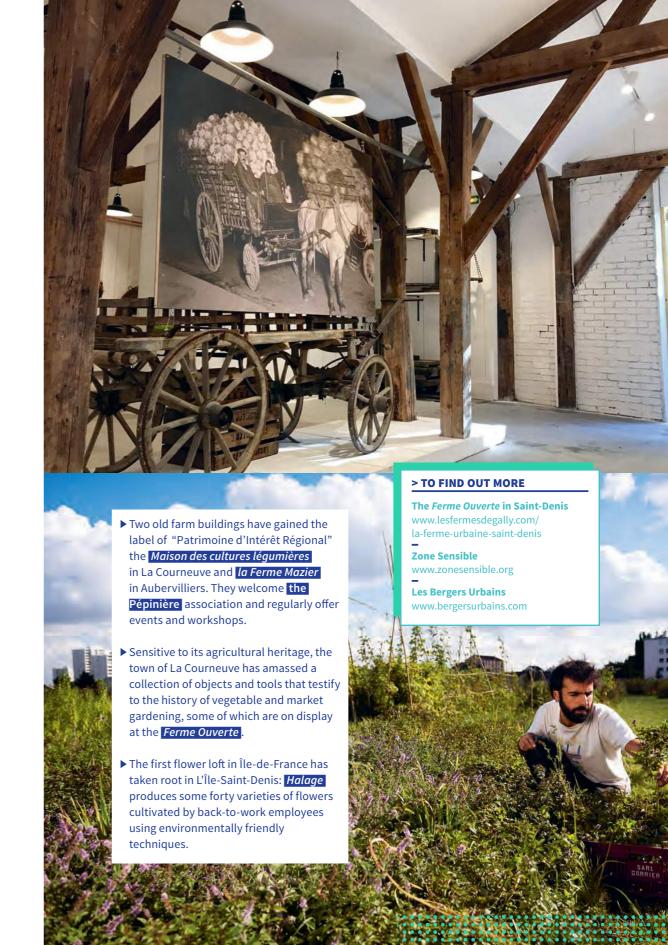
#### ► The Ferme Ouverte in Saint-Denis

offers workshops, activities around animals, farm products and a tour of the exhibition made up of many agricultural tools and machines, photos and videos that retrace local agricultural history. The crops can be visited freely or with a guide.

Aside, the **Zone Sensible** cultivates
130 species of vegetables in permaculture
and offers artistic exhibitions and
workshops centred around beekeeping.

#### Opposite:

Ancient agricultural and outdoor work tools at the Ferme Ouverte,



# AND ECAL HEN AGE

IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY THE PLAINE COMMUNE EXPERIENCED STRONG INDUSTRIALISATION DUE TO ITS PROXIMITY TO PARIS AND GOOD TRANSPORT LINKS (THE SEINE, THE CANAL SAINT-DENIS AND THE RAILWAYS...). AS WELL AS THE AVAILABLE LAND.

A multitude of "chimneys" gradually replaced the old agricultural land. This industrialisation would lead to the arrival of the working population as well as many immigrants. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century "La Plaine" became one of the largest industrial zones in Europe.

The de-industrialisation of the 1970s had a strong impact on the area: some traces of this past such as gasometer have disappeared, but many others are still visible. Nowadays, Plaine Commune is undergoing a transformation towards the research, image (audiovisual and cinema) sectors or even transport.

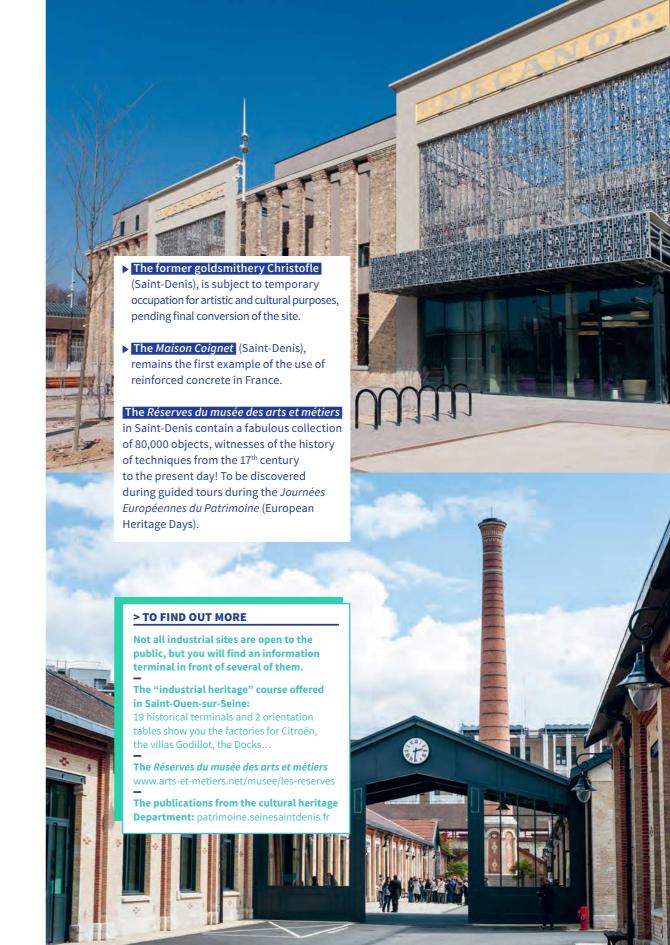


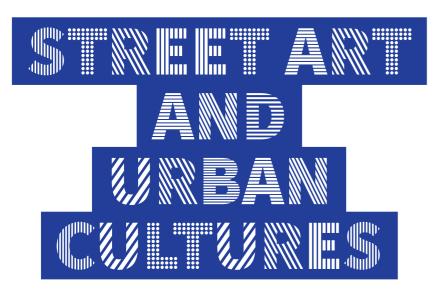
#### MANY FORMER FACTORIES ARE RECONVERTED:

- ► The Former Match Factory
  (Aubervilliers), now houses the *Institut*National du Patrimoine, which trains
  in the professions of conservator and
  restorer.
- ► The General Stores (Aubervilliers and Saint-Denis), created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to store non-perishable foodstuffs, now host tertiary activities, wholesale trade and the audiovisual sector.
- The Aimé Cesaire media library and the administrative center of the town (La Courneuve), settled in the former steel factory Mécano.
- ► The former Babcock and Wilcox factories (La Courneuve), are subject to a rehabilitation project known as the "Fabrique des cultures".
- ► A former power station in Saint-Denis is now invested in by the *Cité du Cinéma*.

#### Opposite

Aimé Césaire media library and administrative centre, La Courneuve; Former Match Factory,





IT WAS IN MANHATTAN, IN THE 1970<sup>S</sup>, THAT THE HIP-HOP AND ITS VISUAL COMPONENT "WRITING" WAS BORN BY TAGGING WALLS WITH YOUR NAME OR THAT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. GRAFFITI WAS TO ARRIVE IN THE 1980<sup>S</sup> IN THE STALINGRAD AREA IN PARIS AND WOULD QUICKLY APPEAR IN PLAINE COMMUNE.

Street art has experienced a new boom since 2016 with the **Street Art** 

Avenue project. This open-air fresco gallery is located along the canal Saint-Denis, between the Porte de La Villette in Paris and the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, via Aubervilliers. On foot or by bike along the canal, you can discover works by recognised or emerging artists: Marko93, Seth, Guate Mao, the Chevalme sisters... Each year, new works enrich this unique journey. There are many artists' collectives in the area. Wall 93 defends urban art for local public utility and invites graffiti artists from here and elsewhere to paint a fresco facing the Halle du marché in Saint-Denis.

#### Opposite

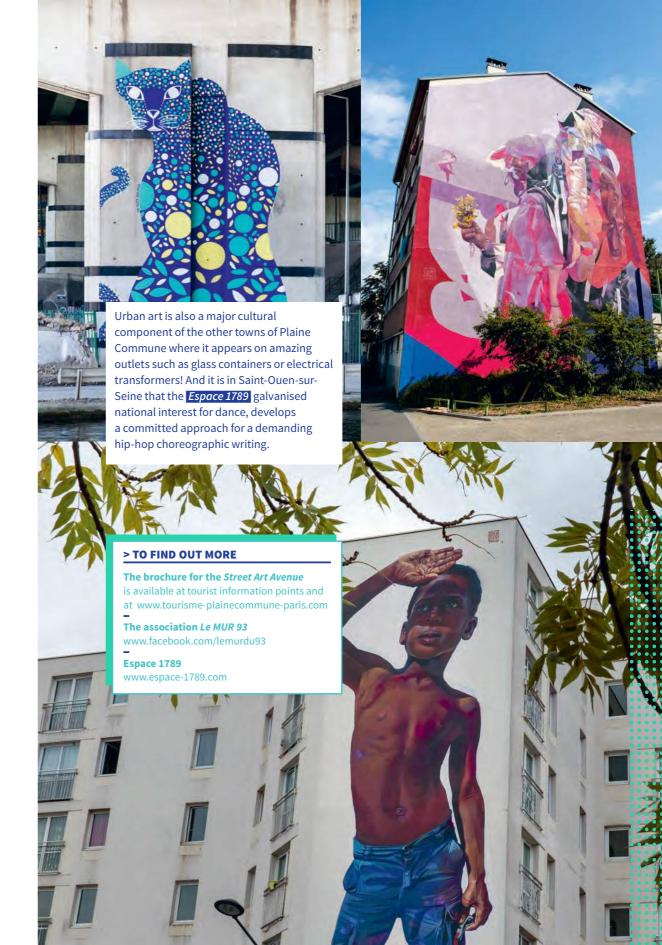
Work by Alexandra Arango on the pillars of the A86, Canal Saint-Denis; Work of the duo Telmo Miel on a façade, Saint-Denis; Work by Maclaim on a facade, Saint-Denis.



Work by Guate Mao on the safe cone in Saint-Denis

All the greatest artists of the hip-hop scene have passed through Saint-Denis; it is the historical cradle of the movement in France. The hip hop festival and urban cultures was created over 30 years ago and is still held at the end of October. The town was also pioneering in organising the first beat box festival.

As for scenes from *Café Culturel* they have contributed to the emergence of new artists from the slam scene such as Grand Corps Malade.



# MACIES SI

BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS WILL BE TOUCHED BY THE SERENITY AND THE GREATNESS THAT EMERGES FROM THE SAINT-DENIS BASILICA (see pages 6 and 7). BUT BEYOND THIS FLAGSHIP MONUMENT, MANY **SACRED PLACES ARE WORTH A VISIT.** 

The history of the ancient Saint-Ouen

church dates back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century, when the chapel contained, as a relic, the finger of Saint Ouen, bishop of Rouen and treasurer of Dagobert. The influx of pilgrims were to be the origin of the birth of the village of Saint-Ouen...

#### The church Notre-Dame-des-Vertus

in Aubervilliers houses the only organ in Île-de-France that dates from the 17th century. In Stains, restoration work on

#### the church Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption

has updated 16th century frescoes. In Épinay-sur-Seine, the church Notre-Damedes-Missions, a former Catholic mission pavilion built for the Colonial Exhibition of 1931, is inspired by the architecture of the five continents: porch evoking a Chinese pagoda, Buddhist, African... The church Saint-Paul de La Plaine in Saint-Denis cements the link between the past and the future. Its architect, Patrick Berger, to whom we also owe the canopy of Les Halles in Paris, has synthesised in the form of a drop of water traditional figures in the history of sacred architecture. In La Courneuve, you can visit the Saint-Yves church, but also the temple of Shiva in which the Tamil Hindu community celebrates to the sound of bells the "pooja",

on a daily basis.

In search of calm, do not hesitate to stroll in the landscaped park at the Joncherolles cemetery and admire the work of the urban architect Robert Auzelle, which emanates an impression of both power and fragility. Many artists are buried in the Parisian cemetery of Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine and its wooded park lends itself to a walk. Finally, the cloister of the Paul Éluard Art and History Museum is also a great place for meditation (see page 10).



For the pilgrims or hiking lovers: a part of the pilgrim route to "Saint Jacques de Compostelle" crosses 4 towns in Plaine Commune: Pierrefitte-sur-Seine, Stains, Saint-Denis and

Aubervilliers. Follow the bronze nails made by a local foundry!

Thank you for respecting these places which are places of religious practice and meditation.

**Opposite:** 

Notre-Dame-des-Missions, Épinay-sur-Seine Notre-Dame-des-Vertus, Aubervilliers



# 

FOR HISTORY AFECIONADOS, CURIOUS TO DISCOVER TRACES
OF THE PAST OR HISTORY THROUGH ITS WRITINGS,
COME AND DISCOVER THE ARCHIVE CENTRES OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC REGULARLY OR DURING EVENTS.

The municipal archives are present in 7 cities of the area (with the exception of L'Île-Saint-Denis and Villetaneuse, as their collection is held in the Seine-Saint-Denis Archives). Their collections are invaluable for reconstructing the history of the area and its population, including: civil status registers, municipal council deliberations, urban development files, agricultural statistics, local press, photographs and postcards ...

The archives of Saint-Denis offer collections on the abbey while the media library in St-Denis centre-ville offers a historical collection of more than 100,000 documents dating between the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> century and an exceptional collection about the *Commune de Paris*.

#### The "magasin des archives régionales"

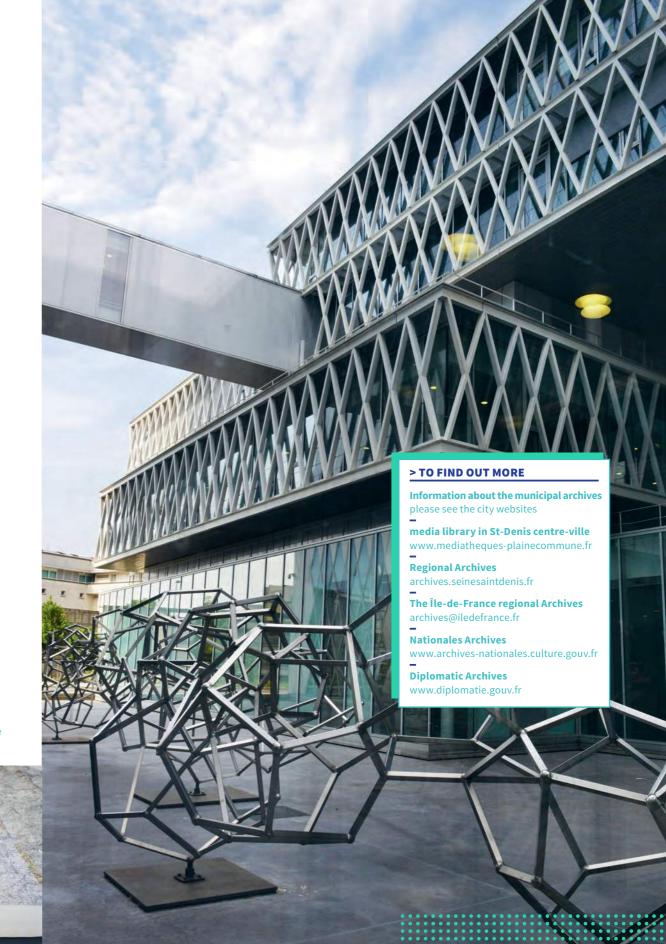
in Ile-de-France held in Saint-Denis contain documents related to the activity of the *Conseil régional*, useful sources for retracing the history of the development of the Ile-de-France region since the 1960<sup>s</sup>. The stores present, in particular, an astonishing collection of models from architectural competitions for the construction of high schools in the region.

The Archives nationales in Pierrefitesur-Seine bring together all the history of France since the Middle Ages, in an imposing building designed by the Italian architect Massimiliano Fuksas. The site offers many mediation actions for the general public, welcomes artists and regularly presents exhibitions.

The Diplomatic Archives at La Courneuve house the collections emanating from the central administration since the origins of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the personal archives of diplomats and statesmen.

Please note that for on-site consultation, an identity document may be requested. Some funds are also available online.

**Opposite:** Archives nationales, Pierrefitte-sur-Seine **Below:** Archive of the media library in St-Denis centre-ville



# MACONION AND

#### THE MARCHÉ DE SAINT-DENIS

As far back as the Middle Ages, the Lendit fair attracted merchants from all over Europe. The tradition continues to this day with the *marché de Saint Denis* - one of the most significant in Île-de-France. Every Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday morning thousands of shoppers' flock to it.

A "Marché du monde", It reflects the diversity of the region's population and offers products from all over the world!

#### **ARTISANS AND ARTISTS**

Very old trades such as that of foundry or boilermaker still exist on La Plaine. They are today represented by the Fonderie d'art de La Plaine and by the atelier Ducros. And with the project to reassemble the spire of the basilica, other trades linked to the construction of cathedrals will revive and some are already the subject of demonstrations during events, such as: stonemasons and blacksmiths...

The restorer of the *Institut National du Patrimoine*,

Aubervilliers

The Paris Saint-Ouen flea market brings together many craftsmen with remarkable skills: cabinet-making, upholstery, varnishing, gilding of paintings, binding, marquetry... (see page 8).

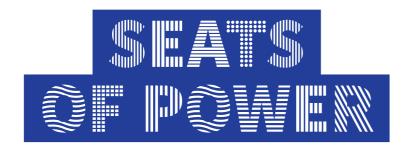
In Aubervilliers, the Institut National du Patrimoine integrated the former Manufacture des allumettes, where future restorers of heritage objects are trained around 7 specialities: fire arts, graphic arts, textile arts, furniture, painting, photography, and sculpture.

In Saint-Denis, the Ateliers d'art des musées nationaux were entrusted with a collection of more than 13,000 engraved plates and a collection of casts, a veritable repertoire of world sculpture. It is here that these masterpieces are reproduced using moulding and chalcography techniques (engraving upon various metal supports).

Finally, many places welcome collectives of craftsmen and artists, such as the 6B, La Briche, l'Orfèvrerie, Le Bateau Lavoirand in Saint-Denis, La Villa Mais d'Ici, Les Poussières, The Laboratories and the "3 Opaz" in Aubervilliers...

**Opposite:**The Saint-Denis market atelier Ducros, Saint-Denis





THE SAINT-DENIS ABBEY, LINKED TO ROYAL POWER, WAS VERY INFLUENCIAL IN THE MIDDLE AGES. NAPOLEON IST TRANSFORMED IT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY INTO THE MAISON D'ÉDUCATION DES FILLES DE LA LÉGION D'HONNEUR WHERE 500 STUDENTS STILL STUDY TODAY (see page 11).

OLD RESIDENCES AND CASTLES HAVE SURVIVED HISTORICAL HAZARDS AND ARE TODAY REINVIGORATED.

It was at the **Château de Boisfranc** that in 1814 Louis XVIII signed the "declaration de Saint-Ouen" Which, while re-establishing the monarchy, recognises the main political and social conquests of the Revolution. Louis XVIII subsequently had a new castle which he offers to his favourite, the Countess of Cayla. The *château de Saint-Ouen* is today one of the rare examples of Restoration style architecture. Home to the Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine music conservatoire, it could be transformed into a Restoration museum.

The old **castle of Épinay-sur-Seine**, built in 1760 was built in a "T" shape to reproduce the initial of its former owner, the Marquis of Terrail and it now houses the town hall.

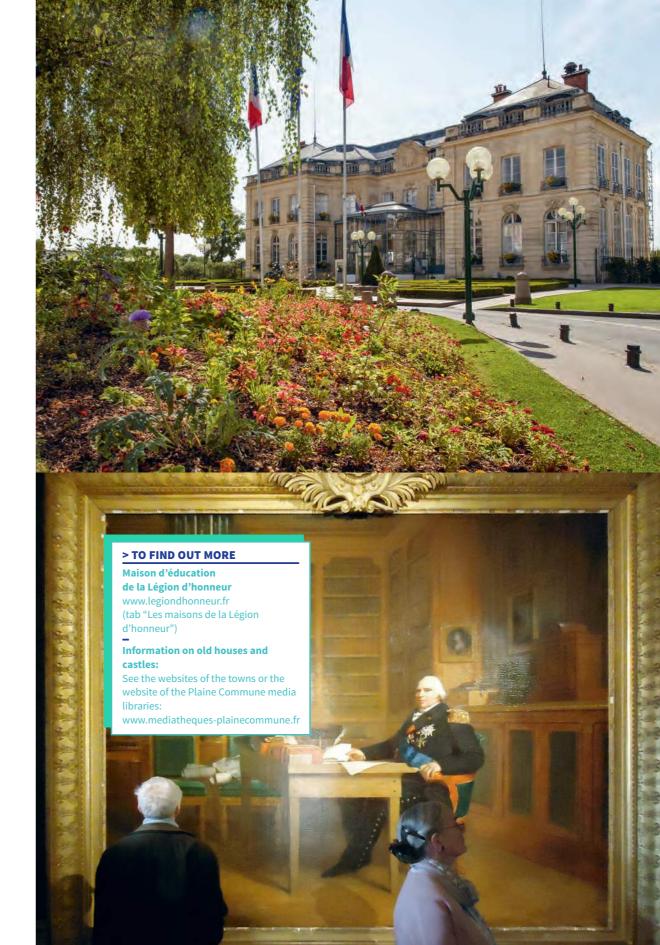


Town Hall, Stains

In Stains, the architecture of the new Aragon media library has preserved the old portal of the *château de la Motte*, while the former stables of another castle that has since disappeared, now houses.

#### Opposite:

Town hall, Épinay-sur-Seine Furniture from the château de Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine



# 

IN 2024, PLAINE COMMUNE WILL BE AT THE HEART
OF THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES WITH THE VILLAGE
DES ATHLÈTES, 3 COMPETITION AND 17 TRAINING SITES.
THE ATHLETES WILL SPREAD ACROSS THE AREA.

The 15,000 athletes and accompanying persons will be accommodated at *Village des athlètes* (Saint-Denis, L'Île-Saint-Denis and Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine) and will relax under the magnificent *Cité du Cinéma* in Saint-Denis, on the banks of the Seine. This Village will be located near 3 competition sites, which will host a third of the events:

The Stade de France will host the athletics competitions and be the beating heart of the Games. Built for the Football World Cup in 1998 and the largest stadium in France, it can be visited both for its architectural quality and for its history (see page 9).

▶ The Olympic Aquatic Center will be built a few hundred meters from the Stade de France to which it will be linked by a pedestrian bridge, which will facilitate the link between the two sites and their neighbourhoods. During the Games, it will host swimming, diving, artistic swimming, para-swimming, this aquatic center composed of a modular 50m pool and a 25m diving pool of will host the general public and international competitions.





events.

During the Olympic and Paralympic Games,

During the Olympic and Paralympic Games, many festive events and activities will take place at the parc des sports Marville in Saint-Denis, La Courneuve and along the Saint-Denis canal to La Villette.

Access to all the Olympic venues will be facilitated with the opening of the first stations for the Grand Paris Express.

La Fabrique du métro, located in Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine, invites you to explore the project: models, videos, interactive multimedia devices, 3D projections, targeted at visitors -especially younger audiences- to better understand this pharaonic site.

www.paris2024.org.fr

Guided tours of the construction sites and walks on sports history and heritage: www.tourisme-plainecommune-paris.com exploreparis.com

La Fabrique du métro

www.societedugrandparis.fr/fabrique



La Fabrique du métro, Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine

# AND EVENTS

PLAINE COMMUNE, AN AREA HOSTING GREAT EVENTS
WITH THE 2023 RUGBY WORLD CUP AND 2024 OLYMPIC
AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ALREADY WELCOMES EVENTS ANS FESTIVALS

#### **APRIL**

### FESTIVAL BANLIEWES BLEWES

(jazz / in several towns) www.banlieuesbleues.org

#### JOURNÉES EUROPÉENNES DES MÉTIERS D'ART

(across several towns) www.journeesmetiersdart.fr

#### **MAY-JUNE**

## PRINTEMPS DES CITÉS-JARDINS

(urban and landscape heritage/ in several towns)

www.citesjardins-idf.fr

#### THE FESTIVAL DE SAINT-DENIS

(classic music, in conjunction with the Métis / Saint-Denis festival) www.festival-saint-denis.com

#### **FESTIVAL MÉTIS**

(world music / in several towns) www.metis-plainecommune.com

#### JOURNÉES NATIONALES DE L'ARCHÉOLOGIE

(archaeological heritage / Saint-Denis, Épinay-sur-Seine) www.journees-archeologie.fr

#### RENCONTRE DES JONGLAGES

(the art of juggling / La Courneuve and several towns) www.festival.maisondesjonglages.fr

#### JULY-AUGUST

#### L'ÉTÉ DU CANAL

(cultural events, relaxation and leisure around the Seine and the Saint-Denis canal /in several towns) www.tourisme93.com

#### **SEPTEMBER**

#### JOURNÉES EUROPÉENNES DU PATRIMOINE

(heritage / across the 9 towns of Plaine Commune) www.plainecommune.fr

#### FÊTE DES PUCES

(flea market festival / Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine) www.marcheauxpuces-saintouen.com

### OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

#### JOURNÉES NATIONALES DE L'ARCHITECTURE

(Architectural Heritage / in several towns)

journeesarchitecture.culture.gouv.fr

#### Opposite:

Concert at the basilica cathedral. Saint-Denis



## CULTURAL PLACES AND

EQUIPENES

PLAINE COMMUNE IS A DEEPLY ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL AREA.
ARTISTS, ASSOCIATIONS, MANUFACTURERS OR CULTURAL ACTORS
ALL CONTRIBUTE TO THE VITALITY OF THE AREA AND FORM A PLACE
OF CULTURE AND CREATION. PLACES OF ARTISTIC CREATION, SHOWS,
OPEN MEETINGS IN THE CITY: EVERYDAY THEIR TEAMS COMMIT
TO MAKE CULTURE PART OF YOURS!

- ► The Plaine Commune media library www.mediatheques-plainecommune.fr
- ► La Commune (Aubervilliers), the National Dramatic Centre www.theatredelacommune.com
- L'embarcadère, l'Espace Renaudie (Aubervilliers), performance halls www.culture.aubervilliers.fr
- ► Theatre equestre Zingaro (Aubervilliers) www.bartabas.fr
- Les Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers www.leslaboratoires.org
- ➤ Conservatoire à rayonnement régional (Aubervilliers / La Courneuve) www.crr93.fr
- ► Maison du Théâtre et de la Danse (Épinay-sur-Seine) www.epinay-sur-seine.fr
- ▶ Pôle Musical d'Orgemont (Épinay-sur-Seine) www.epinay-sur-seine.fr
- ► Houdremont (La Courneuve), juggling stage www.houdremont-la-courneuve.info

- ► Théâtre Jean Vilar (L'Île-Saint-Denis) www.lile-saint-denis.fr
- Maison du peuple
  Maurice Utrillo Cultural Center
  (Pierrefitte-sur-Seine)
  www.mairie-pierrefitte93.fr
- Académie Fratellini (Saint-Denis), circus arts and training center www.academie-fratellini.com
- ► Théâtre Gérard Philipe (Saint-Denis), national drama center www.theatregerardphilipe.com
- The 6b (Saint-Denis) www.le6b.fr
- Theatre La Belle Étoile www.ville-saint-denis.fr
   Compagnie Jolie Môme (Saint-Denis) www.cie-joliemome.org
- ► Espace 1789 (Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine) www.espace-1789.com
- ➤ Studio Theatre de Stains www.studiotheatrestains.fr
- ► Espace Paul Éluard (Stains) www.ville-stains.fr
- ➤ Tremplin Jacques-Duclos (Villetaneuse)
  www.mairie-villetaneuse.fr



#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Plaine Commune has a rich and varied heritage whose quality has been recognised by the State. Several sites are, therefore, subject to registration or classification as historical monuments:

- the cathedral basilica of Saint-Denis, the Maison d'éducation de la Légion d'honneur the Paul-Éluard art and history museum;
- all the heritage linked to François Coignet, the inventor of agglomerated concrete;
- ▶ the former matches factory in Aubervilliers or the site of the Former Christofle factories in Saint-Denis;
- ▶ the *château de Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine* the town hall of Épinay-sur-Seine or the old portal of the *château de la Motte* in Stains;
- ▶ the churches of Vieux Saint-Ouen, *Notre-Dame des Missions* in Épinay-sur-Seine, *Notre-Dame-des-Vertus* in Aubervilliers, and *Notre-Dame de l'Assomption* in Stains.

In addition, several emblematic 20<sup>th</sup> century heritage sites are labelled "remarkable contemporary architecture" by the Ministry of Culture. This is the case with the Saint-Yves church in La Courneuve, the *cité de la Maladrerie* in Aubervilliers or the cities built by Lurcat in Saint Denis.

Finally, the Ile-de-France region labels sites representative of the diversity of Ile-de-France heritage which contributes to the quality of the landscapes. The *label Patrimoine d'intérêt régional* was thus attributed to the garden city of Stains, *La ruche* in Saint-Denis and the Aubervilliers and La Courneuve farms.

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# COMSISTANTINGER COMSISTS NOT IN SEEKING MEV LANDSCAPES, BUT IN HAVING NEV EYES»

Marcel Proust, À la recherche du temps perdu, 1923

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### OFFICE DE TOURISME PLAINE COMMUNE GRAND PARIS

#### With its 3 info points:

- In Saint-Denis, near the basilica:
  1 rue de la République, 93200 Saint-Denis
- In Saint-Denis, next to the Stade de France: 19 avenue Jules Rimet, 93200 Saint-Denis
- In Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine, in the heart of the Flea Markets: 124 rue des Rosiers, 93400 Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine

You will find information and advice, but also gifts and original creations made by local artisans, exhibitions, ticketing service, free wi-fi...

Do not hesitate to ask for the pass découverte to benefit from reduced rates in many sites and manuments!

www.tourisme-plainecommune-paris.com 01 55 870 870

PLAINE COMMUNE
www.plainecommune.fr
Tab Vieduterritoire/lieuxtouristiques

#### **SEINE-SAINT-DENIS TOURISME**

offers tours and informs you on the tourist and heritage riches across the whole of Seine-Saint-Denis.

For visits: www.exploreparis.com For information: www.tourisme93.com







