



Discovery Tour
Alençon



Treasure Cover - The reconstruction of the Porte de la Barre and the Maison d'Ozé - Cover Discovery Tour - Maison d'Ozé

Alençon Treasure Trail

Discover the town of Alençon and its secrets along a trail strewn with enigmas. Alone or in company, all your senses need to be on the alert to pick up the clues and crack the mysteries facing you in the course of this two-hour stroll.

Tick the right answers.

1 Exit the Tourist Office and go to the bottom of the garden opposite. On the left you will see the Conservatory orchard with its fruit trees. Normandy is known for the production of apples, the basic ingredient of three drinks. Which ones?
 Cider, calva, perry
 Cider, pommeau, calva
 Cider, pineau, calva

2 Follow the steps up and walk along the wall until you reach a vantage point from which to view the Maison d'Ozé. This monument that goes back to the middle of the XVth century, was built opposite the ramparts on which you are standing. What is the origin of this building that now houses the Tourist Office?
 The Lord d'Ozé
 The wizard of Oz
 The war cry « osez donc franchir ces remparts »

3 Carry on along this wall, go back down the steps and along the wall to your left then stop in front of the imposing stone window. It is said to have a link with King Henri IV who visited Alençon several times and stayed at the Saint-Paterne Château nearby. This window has been moved. According to the legend it gave on to the bedroom...
 where the daughter of Henri IV was born
 where Henri IV fell down
 of a lady who received the honours of Henri IV

4 Now pass beneath the porch of the Maison d'Ozé, turn to your right into the Rue Étoupée then to the left into the Passage de la Levrette. What might be the origin of this name?
 In this street women practised the world's oldest profession
 The name comes from a tool used by stone-cutters
 In this street there was a shop sign representing a greyhound

5 Once you get to the end of this passage, turn to the right and walk up the Grande-Rue. At the crossroads, continue on your left along cours Clemenceau. Further along on the right you will see the Halle aux Toiles. What plant was used to make the cloth manufactured in this building?
 Cotton Hemp Flax



Weaver



The inside of the Library

6 Take the street of the Halle-aux-Toiles to the end. On the right you will see the facade of the Hôtel des Postes. At the top of this building there is a sculptural representation of a crowned woman. When it was built in 1909, what services did this office provide?
 Mail, insurance, telephone
 Mail, banking, telephone
 Mail, telegrams, telephone

7 Now cross the street of the Halle-aux-Toiles and, passing by the Post Office, go along Rue du Jeudi. At N°26, you will see two stone spheres. These stone buffers which used to provide protection from passing vehicles are made up of what kind of stone?
 Smooth marble
 Porous limestone
 Rough granite

8 Carry on along Rue du Jeudi to the Place à l'Avoine where you will find a waterpoint. Which ironmaster forged this polygonal fountain?
 J. J. Ducl J. T. Oucel T. T. Ducl

9 Go on to the Rue du College, pass in front of the library and go through the gateway. Once inside the courtyard, go over to the globe, which is actually a sundial. What is the time if you place the mobile pointer between the words "ocean" and "mer"?
 10 o'clock 11 o'clock 12 o'clock

10 Now go through the porch and place yourself in the centre of the courtyard cour Carrée de la Dentelle. From here you can see a book depicted on...
 the north facade
 a chimney
 a weathercock

11 Go back the way you came and exit the garden on the right. On the way out on the left, there is a book open on lacemaking. Of the 7 stages of lace making, which is the fourth stage?
 The filling (le rempli)
 The network (le réseau)
 The trace (la trace)



Lacemaker at work on the « Point d'Alençon »

12 Carry on down the Rue Charles-Aveline and cross the Rue de Bretagne to get to Place Foch. As you approach the facade of the Town Hall, you will see, on either side of the clock, a coat of arms showing an eagle with two heads. This eagle, known as "double-headed", symbolises...
 the union of two political parties
 knowledge, since two heads are better than one
 the town of Alençon

13 Now walk up the Rue de Bretagne and take a left into the Rue Marguerite-de-Navarre. This duchess of Alençon who lived from 1492 to 1549 was of royal blood because she was...
 the sister of François 1^{er}
 the cousin of Anne de Bretagne
 the daughter of Elizabeth II of Great Britain

14 At the end of Rue Marguerite-de-Navarre enter the Parc des Promenades and carry straight on to the Rose Garden. How many kinds of rose are grown in this garden?
 About ten
 About thirty
 About fifty

15 Leave the Rose Garden, go towards the fountain and stand with your back to it facing the central path. How far do you think you are from the main gate?
 79 m 126 m 172 m

16 Go back to Place Foch via Rue Alexandre 1^{er}. You will cross the Briante river. Several branches of the river were dug out to supply the moat around the Château des Ducs. Since leaving the Tourist Office, how many times have you crossed the river?
 1 2 3

17 Cross Place Foch towards the Halle au Blé and take Rue Matignon. When you get to Place Masson, stand back a little to get a better view of the Halle au Blé. As of 1865, the locals gave this monument a nickname. What do you think it was?
 The Grand Palais d'Alençon, because of the similarity to the Grand Palais in Paris with its immense glass roof
 The Alençon "Tholos", since this Greek term refers to a circular construction
 The Alençon crinoline, because it resembles the hoop structure designed to make skirts look fuller

You are now halfway round the trail. Why not take a break before moving on!

18 Still on Place Masson, turn towards the Ecole Maternelle. Next to it, you will see a curious building covered with wooden planks opening on to the Briante river. What was it for?
 A washing place A tannery A mill

19 Go on to Rue des Filles-de-Sainte-Claire. At the end of the street on the right, there is the Château des Ducs. The two towers you can see belonged to the...
 keep chapel fortress

20 Now go down the Rue du Val-Noble. Several locations in the town inspired Balzac's novels. The Hotel Brossin-de-Fontenay at N°21 was where one of his characters lived. But from which book?
 Le Père Goriot
 Le Cabinet des Antiques
 La Vieille Fille

21 Move on, taking a right on to Rue de l'Ancienne Mairie and continue down Rue Bonette. At numbers 21, 23 and 25 there is a half-timbered house. In the Middle Ages, fires frequently occurred. What method was used as a protection against fires?
 A stone wall separated the dwellings
 Each street had a fire pump
 There was a space between the houses

22 At the end of this street lies the Saint-Leonard's church. There are sculpted designs on the facade. Around the windows you will find animals bearing coats of arms. Which ones?
 A toad and a dove
 A bat and a bird
 A dog and a cat

23 Go down the Rue des Marais. Turn round between N°1 and N°30. A half-timbered section sticks out above a wall to your right. What materials feature in this section?
 Brick, timber, slate, ceramic
 Brick, timber, tile, ceramic
 Brick, timber, tile, marble

24 Keep going along the Rue des Marais, turn into Rue de Sarthe as far as N°19 and go into the courtyard named after Jacques-René Hébert. This character, a revolutionary, founded the newspaper Le Père Duchesne and took part in the trial of...
 Marie-Antoinette
 Louis XVI
 Robespierre

25 Go back out along the Rue de Sarthe and go into Grande-Rue on the right. At N°137 go into the Cochon-de-Vaubougon courtyard. An exotic animal is to be found there. Which family does it belong to?
 Feline
 Reptile
 Bird

26 Exit the courtyard opposite, take the Rue de la Juiverie and get back to the Rue de Sarthe. Stand on the Sarthe bridge. Which couple, united for ever, met on this bridge?
 Louis XI and his future wife Marguerite d'Écosse
 Zélie and Louis Martin, the parents of Saint Thérèse
 Monsieur Poulet and Madame Malassis, the parents of Auguste Poulet-Malassis

27 Take the Rue des Poulies. At the end on the right, you will see the Saint-Pierre-de-Montsort's church which marks the centre of this special neighbourhood that borders the Orne and Sarthe counties. It is to highlight this feature that Montsort, like Montmartre in Paris, since 1957 a member of the Association of the...
 Independent Quarters of France
 Autonomous Suburbs of France
 Free Communes of France



Tanners at work on the river Briante

28 At the end of the street, cross the road and take the Rue du Pont-Neuf on the left. Above the door of N° 26 there is the sculpture of a "rémouleur". What is a "rémouleur"?
 A miller
 A grinder
 A sculptor who uses moulds

29 Cross the street and go over the Pont Neuf. On the left, in a grassy setting, stands the Henri II pavilion. This Renaissance building, which once embellished a garden, shows brick motifs. On what other monument in the region can you also find this type of decoration?
 The château at Carrouges
 The château at Médavy
 The château at Domfront

30 Go back the way you came and cross Rue Marechal-de-Lattre-de-Tassigny. At the end of World War II, Alençon was liberated by the troops of General Leclerc who set up his command post at N° 33 Rue du Pont-Neuf and it is in his honour that a monument was erected here. What date was the town liberated?
 12th August 1945
 12th August 1944
 13th August 1944

31 Carry on along the Rue du Pont-Neuf. Then turn right along Grande-Rue as far as the entrance of the Notre-Dame Basilica. Stand facing the porch. Above the porch a sculpted figure has it back turned. Who is it?
 John Moses Jesus Christ

You are now back to where you started. If you wish, go to the Tourist Office to check your answers and pick up your reward!

Download the answers to the Treasure Trail on www.paysdalencontourisme.com