

THE HISTORIC SITE

Located within the marshy Dives Valley, Crèvecœur Castle was, during the Middle Ages, a rural seigniorium aimed at controlling the road linking the towns of Lisieux and Caen. The site's fortification dates back to the first half of the 12th century. The castle was occupied during the Hundred Years' War, at the end of which the half-timbered buildings were added. The keep was destroyed in the 18th century and the moat filled in the 19th century. The entire estate was restored from 1970 to 1973, with due attention to preserving its rural character. The site's medieval organisation, with an upper and lower courtyard, was recreated.

If you would like to learn more about the castle's history, download our free audio guide via izi.TRAVEL.



THE GATEHOUSE

The 16th-century gatehouse is flanked by two circular turrets with candel-snuffer roofs.

Accessed via a carriage gate, the ground floor is built in brick and stone checkerwork. The upper floor is made of half-timbering comprising crossed and fern-shaped braces. Moved and rebuilt in 1973 outside the medieval site, the gatehouse comes from the former Château de Beuvillers, 20km away, near Lisieux.



THE LOWER COURTYARD

It can be accessed via one single bridge. In the 11th and 12th centuries, it was surrounded by a moat and an embankment upon which stood a wooden palisade.

It offered a safe haven to the villagers in the case of an attack and was home to the castle peasants who cultivated the lord's land and tended to his livestock. Since Crèvecœur is located within a marshy zone, this made farming difficult, hence its name, 'Crèvecœur', meaning the land was, literally, a 'heartbreak' to work on.



THE FARM

The part of the farm round the fireplace was originally used to house the farmer. The other part housed the stables, above which, a vast attic was used to store fodder.

Comprising a porch, offering the only access point to the lower courtyard, the building stands on a stone foundation wall. The upper floors are made of half-timbering with oblique braces. The stocky stone fireplace is an integral part of the gable wall. The farm's agricultural vocation was perpetuated up to the 1970s.



THE PEASANT'S ROOM

In the Middle Ages, peasant homes often comprised one single room, used to eat, sleep, etc.

The hearth was the heart of the home. The table was placed on trestles and set only at mealtimes. The peasant's bed could consist of a simple mat placed directly on the floor or a mattress stuffed with straw placed inside a wooden bed frame.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

OPENING HOURS

April, May, June and September: every day from 11am to 6pm

July and August: every day from 11am to 7pm

October: exclusively on Sundays from 2pm to 6pm

Autumn school break: every day from 2pm to 6pm

All year: by prior appointment for groups

CATERING FACILITIES

On site:

Refreshments on sale at the boutique

Picnics are possible by the car park (on the green areas)

Medieval cuisine from mid-July to mid-August

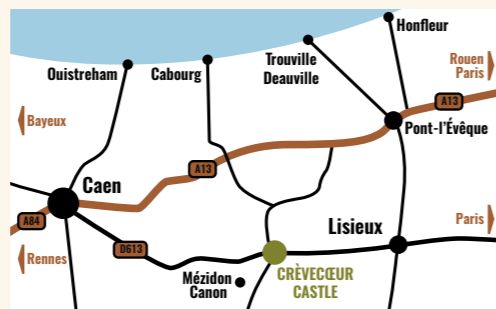
Nearby:

Crèvecœur-en-Auge (300m)

Carrefour-Saint-Jean (3km)

Saint Laurent-du-Mont (3.5km)

Cambremer (5km)



THE CURSED FILM SHOOT

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Welcome leaflet available in Italian, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, German, Dutch, French, English, Chinese and Russian.

Accessible to physically impaired visitors.

Dogs are welcome if held on a leash.

For further information, please refer to our website or ask at reception.

www.chateaudcrevecoeur.com



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CHÂTEAU DE
CRÈVECŒUR
— NORMANDIE —



WELCOME TO THE
CASTLE MUSEUM

www.chateaudcrevecoeur.com



SCHLUMBERGER MUSEUM



A FAMILY BUSINESS

The Schlumberger Museum Foundation, a state-approved museum, opened its doors in 1973 to present the scientific and technical accomplishments of Conrad and Marcel Schlumberger.

These two brothers from Alsace developed a revolutionary mining and oil prospecting technique.

The technique was first tested in 1912, in their family home in Val Richer, located 10km from Crèvecœur-en-Auge.

Due to its geographical location, and also their love of Normandy's historic heritage, Conrad and Marcel's family chose Crèvecœur Castle to found the Schlumberger Museum.

AN INTERACTIVE MUSEUM

To present the story of the Schlumberger brothers and their company, a tour trail entitled, My life as an engineer, was created in 2021. An immersive trail through which visitors take the leading role in a story that plunges them into the life of an engineer, from 1911 to the present day.

From recruitment to operations out in the field, they discover, thanks to reproduced sets, the unique objects that form the museum's collection, and also thanks to interactive tablets, all the technological innovations that have revolutionised scientific and technical research.



BOOK YOUR TOUR TIMESLOT AT THE RECEPTION DESK
AND COLLECT YOUR RFID BADGE.

These badges launch multimedia devices and unlock certain features (access doors and showcases). They also enable certain multimedia devices to be reset.

LOOK FOR THE PICTOGRAMS TO START THE INTERACTIVE FEATURES.

Some are not so easy to locate... Please use all equipment with due care.



THE BEEHIVE

In the Middle Ages, European dark bees (*Apis mellifera mellifera*), a species originating from Western Europe, were bred here. The majority of peasants owned beehives.

Placed in the vicinity of homes for the purposes of surveillance, hives were often placed on a flight table or a large stone, with a small awning placed above to protect from the damp. Honey was extensively used to produce medication and food. Beeswax was in turn used to make candles.



THE DOVECOTE

Dovecotes were symbols of feudal power and wealth, and their construction was reserved to fief owners. The interior comprises 1,500 pigeonholes, each one able to welcome a pair of pigeons. The dovecote was an excellent source of nourishment for the lordly table. Built of vertical half-timbering and adorned with side tiling and a lantern flight hole, it is the site's most elaborate building. Its original square construction is untypical of dovecotes, which were generally circular or hexagonal.



THE BARN

Destroyed in the late 19th century, the original building was used as a barn, cowshed and cider press. The area behind the far right-angled corner housed the heavy beam press. The present-day building was built on a high stone foundation wall surmounted with entirely vertical half-timbering.



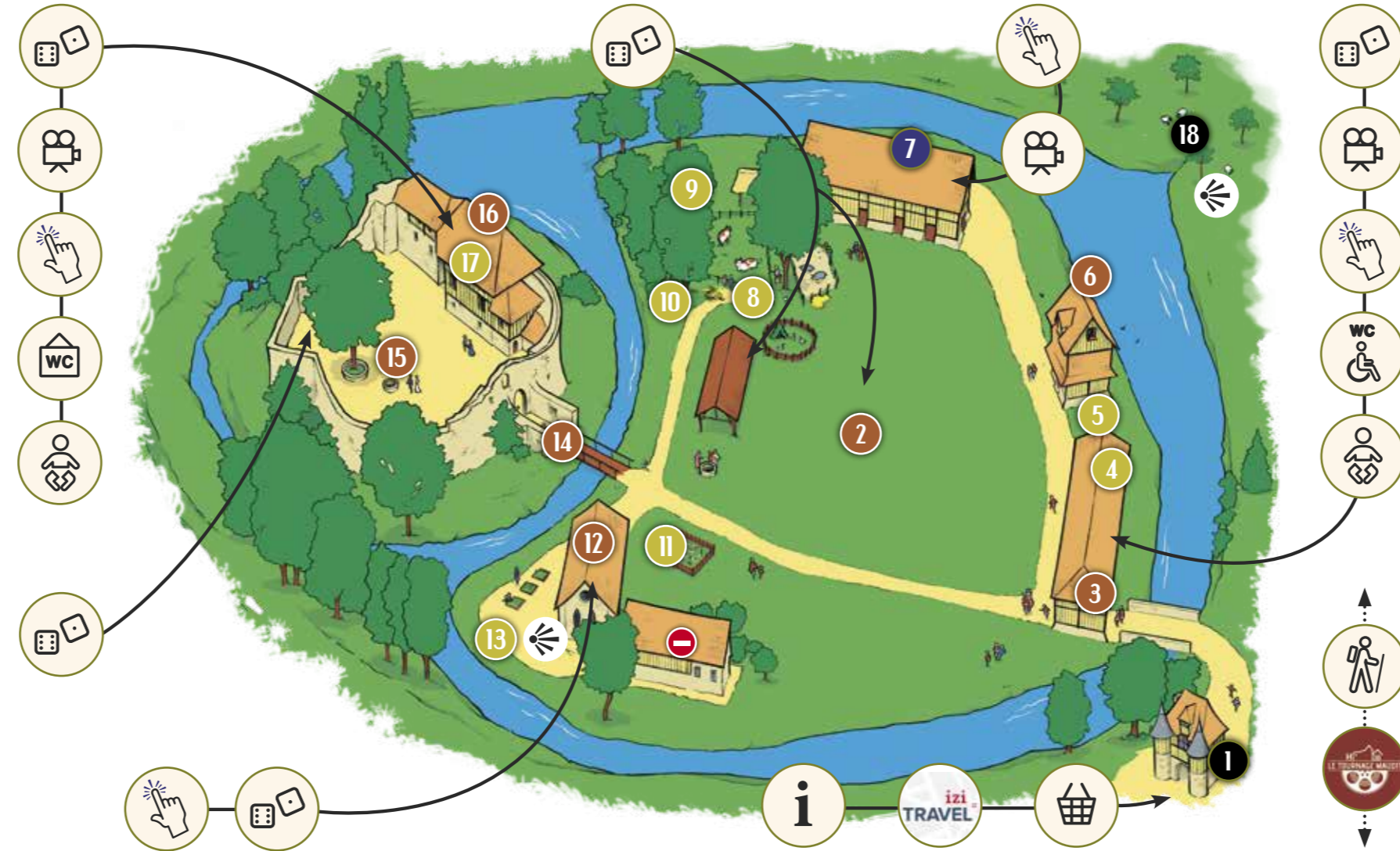
THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

In the Middle Ages, vegetable plots were common, both in town and country. Peasants essentially ate cereals, but also many vegetables and leguminous plants, such as peas and lentils. Vegetables were eaten cooked, with the exception of lettuce. In France 'porée', a sort of minced green vegetable puree, was particularly popular. In the late Middle Ages, the most frequently consumed vegetables were cabbage and leeks.



THE CHAPEL

The lord's chapel, which was usually located in the upper courtyard, is in Crèvecoeur's lower courtyard. Its architecture boasts a few Romanesque features: thick walls adorned with the vestiges of mural paintings. The chapel was deconsecrated in the 1930s.



- 1 Gatehouse (16th century)
- 2 Lower courtyard
- 3 Farm (15th century)
- 4 Peasant's room
- 5 Beehive
- 6 Dovecote (15th century)
- 7 Barn (16th century)

- 8 Enclosures, sheepfold and henhouse
- 9 Bread kiln
- 10 Potter's kiln
- 11 Vegetable garden
- 12 Chapel (12th century)
- 13 Simples' Garden
- 14 Moat and drawbridge

- 15 Upper courtyard/walls (12th century)
- 16 Lodge (15th century)
- 17 Seigniorial hall
- 18 Orchard

! Children are under the responsibility of accompanying adults. Please do not approach the moat (the water ditch around the site).

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Adults (10 languages - numbered map) / children (several routes are available)



Ask at reception for information on our tour itineraries for families and tour tools to suit physically impaired visitors.

- Middle Ages
- Science
- Living history
- Rebuilt constructions



THE SIMPLES' GARDEN

The Simples' Garden is behind the chapel and comprises 6 square plots with medicinal plants to treat: mild headache, fever, general hygiene, in times of war, women and animals.



THE UPPER COURTYARD

The upper courtyard, standing on a natural or artificial mound, is surrounded by a moat and a 12th-century wall measuring around 10 metres in height. The wall has loopholes and is topped with a wall-walk designed to keep watch over the surrounding area. The wall-walk was accessed via a stair located to the right of the entrance gate. Of the original buildings that once stood against the wall, only the lodge remains. Over the centuries, its walls have been considerably modified.



THE LODGE

Built against the wall, the residential lodge is at the heart of the seigniorial and the castle's fortification system. It was rebuilt in the mid 15th century after the end of the Hundred Years' War. Initially, an outside staircase led directly to the first floor. The seigniorial lodge comprises three levels:

- On the ground floor: a service area with kitchens
- On the first floor: a reception area with grand hall
- On the second floor: a private area with bedrooms



THE SEIGNIORIAL HALL

The seigniorial hall is adorned with furnishings and objects - copies produced based on original models from museum collections or archaeological excavations. The table, which was only set at mealtimes, comprises a simple plank of wood placed on two trestles. Behind the table, there is an ingenious piece of furniture, called a strycsitten. Placed in front of the fireplace, which no longer exists, this bench was used to warm up either facing or back to the fire, by turning the back. The large piece of oak furniture with the crockery is called a dresser.



THE ORCHARD

Planted with sixty eating apple trees, this orchard, covering a surface of around 1 hectare, boasts 27 different apple tree species, such as rambault, reinette, calvie rouge and claque-pépin. Apples are harvested from August to October. Wood from the apple trees was used for heating and for making furniture.