



Tours

Photo: Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

The bright, lively capital of the Loire Valley region is nestled between two rivers: the Loire and the Cher, with the picturesque Vieux Tours old quarter lying on the long, narrow peninsula. Brilliant modern architecture contrasts against an array of historic buildings, with an added bonus of fine food and wine famed all over France.



racorn/Shutterstock.com



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

Featured



Place Plumereau

Place Plumereau is a bustling Tours city square that comes alive in the even...



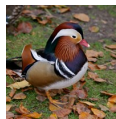
Hotel de Ville

Not at all a hotel, but rather Tours' City Hall, this imposing edifice is a ...



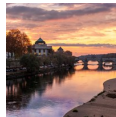
Musée des Beaux Arts

At Musée des Beaux Arts you can find works by Rubens, Rembrandt, Degas and D...



Jardin Botanique de Tours

Except for the greenhouses and lush greenery in the summer months, this Bota...



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Vieux Tours (Old Town)

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Cathedral St Gatien

The beautiful stained glass windows illuminate Cathedral St Gatien. This maj...



Cloister of la Psalette

In these lovely Gothic-Renaissance cloisters, an elaborate open-sided stairc...



Hôtel Gouin / Musée Archéo...

Hôtel Gouin / Musée Archéologique is home of a 15th-century silk merchant an...



Musée du Compagnonnage

This unique museum deals with the history of craft guilds that represented r...

THE CITY



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

Tours (the 's' is silent) lies at the heart of Loire Châteaux Country, a legacy of the centuries when it was the capital of France and the French royal court was based in the Loire Valley. The châteaux of Chenonceau, Blois, Amboise, Cheverny, Azay, Villandry, and Chaumont are all within an hour's drive. Quality, elegance and class are the region's hallmarks, also famous for the vineyards surrounding the city. In the city, stylish streets are adorned by neat lines of white stone and black slate.

South of the Cher and north of the Loire extend the newer business districts. The main attraction though is the historic centre between the rivers. In medieval times, Rue Colbert was the main street. Mainly pedestrianized, it remains a domain of little shops and cafés, as well as the museums and Gothic cathedral, beautifully lit up at night. Today, the main street is the always bustling Rue Nationale, with department stores and dozens of interesting small shops.

DO & SEE



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

Tours, an ideal destination for lovers of historical and natural heritage, is known to many as the "City of art and history". The city offers historical sites like the Old Town, Cathedral St Gatien, and the amazing art of Rembrandt and Rubens, which you can find in the Musée des Beaux Arts. After the obligatory cultural programme, take a romantic walk along the river Loire or head to a wine tasting, where you will be introduced to superb local wines.

Vieux Tours (Old Town)



The half-timbered medieval houses line lanes date from Roman times. At its heart, relaxed Place Plumereau, the centre of Tours' nightlife, is filled to the brim with café tables.

Photo: VANILLA FIRE/Shutterstock.com

Address: Place Plumereau, Tours

More Info: Between pl. des Halles and rue Nationale

Cathedral St Gatien



The beautiful stained glass windows illuminate Cathedral St Gatien. This majestic building includes Romanesque, Gothic, and Renaissance architecture, a real gem for everyone interested in architecture.

Photo: Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Pl. de la Cathédrale, Tours

Cloister of la Psalette



In these lovely Gothic-Renaissance cloisters, an elaborate open-sided staircase spirals up to elegant galleries. The round tower alongside was part of the city's Roman wall.

Photo: wjarek/Shutterstock.com

Address: 7 rue de la Psalette, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 47 05 19

Hôtel Goüin / Musée Archéologique



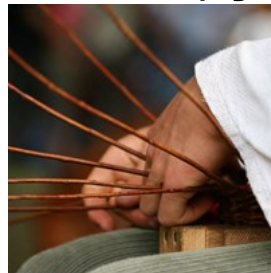
Hôtel Goüin / Musée Archéologique is home of a 15th-century silk merchant and a masterpiece of ornate, lavish Renaissance decoration inside and out. This is Tours' main historical museum.

Photo: julian elliott/Shutterstock.com

Address: 25 rue du Commerce, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 66 22 32

Musée du Compagnonnage



This unique museum deals with the history of craft guilds that represented rope makers, wood turners, clog makers and similar occupations. The museum was created in honour of fine workmanship. Right next to the museum you can find another museum about wine.

Photo: Miroslav Hlavko/Shutterstock.com

Address: 8 rue Nationale, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 61 07 93

Internet: www.museecompaonnage.fr

Riverside walks



If you want to go out for a relaxing walk, the Loire is a great place to head for. You will find walkways alongside the river, perfect for pleasant and quiet walks beside the water.

Photo: Grantibo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Loire, Tours

Musée des Beaux Arts



At Musée des Beaux Arts you can find works by Rubens, Rembrandt, Degas and Delacroix, all gathered here in the old Archbishops' Palace. In the courtyard there is a 200-year-old tree and a 100-year-old stuffed circus elephant.

Photo: Casper Moller(image cropped)

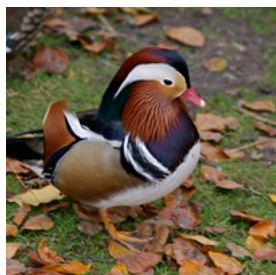
Address: 18 pl. F. Sicard, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 05 68 73

Internet: www.mba.tours.fr

Email: g.lauverjat@ville-tours.fr

Jardin Botanique de Tours



Except for the greenhouses and lush greenery in the summer months, this Botanical Garden also houses a mini-zoo (which will surely delight the little ones), as well as many picnic-perfect areas.

Photo: Daniel Jolivet(image cropped)

Address: 35 Boulevard Tonnelé, Tours

Place Plumereau



Place Plumereau is a bustling Tours city square that comes alive in the evenings, when students flock to it and restaurants start getting filled with people. Dining options abound in and around the area.

Photo: Fabien LE JEUNE(image cropped)

Address: Place Plumereau, Tours

Hotel de Ville



Not at all a hotel, but rather Tours' City Hall, this imposing edifice is a must-see architectural landmark. Lit up by night, the building and the fountain complex next to it make for a somewhat magical sight.

Photo: naipung/Shutterstock.com

Address: 3 rue des Minimes, Tours

DINING



AMatveev/Shutterstock.com

Tours enjoys fine dining and good wines at moderate prices. Tourte Tourangelle (pork-filled pastry), potted pork meats called rillettes, as well as rilette de pigeon and rilette de canard are the main specialities, plus fresh fish from the Loire, and goat cheese produced locally. The best local wines come from nearby Vouvray and Montlouis.

Charles Barrier



Charles Barrier is a leading light in the region's restaurant scene, with top quality seafood, the best local wines and superb desserts. You can find this gem on the Loire's north bank.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: 101 ave de la Tranchée, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 54 20 39

Internet: www.charles-barrier.fr

Le Petit Patrimoine



This is one of the best in an Old Quarter street that is home to many inexpensive eating places with classic menus. The restaurant is very small with a pleasant atmosphere.

Photo: wrangler/Shutterstock.com
Address: 58 rue Colbert, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 66 05 81
Internet: www.lepetitpatrimoine.fr

Le Surya



If an Indian meal takes your fancy, this tandoori restaurant in Vieux Tours is inexpensive and has great food. A warm and welcoming place where you can enjoy your dinner to the soft traditional music played in the background.

Photo: Joe Gough/Shutterstock.com
Address: 65 rue Colbert, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 64 34 04
Internet: www.surya-restaurant-indien-37.fr

Le Roche Le Roy



Le Roche Le Roy is one of the classiest places in town. The restaurant is situated in a handsome 18th-century manor house with pretty gardens. The top chef serves high quality dishes.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com
Address: 55 rue St Avertin, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 27 22 00
Internet: www.rocheleroy.com

La Deuvaliere



La Deuvaliere offers reasonably priced lunch menus. This popular restaurant is situated in an attractive old house. Here you can truly expect good value for money.

Photo: Refat/Shutterstock.com

Address: 18 rue de la Monnair, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 64 01 57
Internet: www.restaurant-ladeuvaliere.com

La Maison des Halles



La Maison des Halles consistently delivers superb innovative French dishes, and is nearly impossible to get seated at without a reservation. Make sure to plan your visit in advance.

Photo: istetiana/Shutterstock.com
Address: 19 place des Halles, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 39 96 90
Internet: www.maisondeshalles.com
Email: restmdg@orange.fr

Nobuki



Nobuki is an excellent Japanese restaurant in the heart of Tours, with pre-set dinner menus available. Make sure to make a reservation in advance.

Photo: Kwangmoozaa/Shutterstock.com
Address: 3 Rue Buffon, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 05 79 79
Internet: nobuki.fr
Email: bonjour@nobuki.fr

Vanne



Vanne is a Korean restaurant that serves authentic Korean cuisine. The staff are very knowledgeable and make sure to introduce visitors to the Korean dining customs, as well as provide detailed information about the dishes on offer.

Photo: Peter Kim/Shutterstock.com

Address: 26 rue Georges Courteline, Tours

Phone: +33 9 65 10 88 81

Internet: www.restaurant-coreen-vanne.blogspot.fr

Email: vanne@gmail.com

Leonard de Vinci



In the heart of the historic center of Tours, you will find this charming, small Italian restaurant where you can enjoy very large pasta

portion accompanied with wine. The food is served by the friendly staff and the price is reasonable.

Photo: stockcreations/Shutterstock.com

Address: 19 Rue Monnaie, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 61 07 88

Internet: www.leonard-de-vinci.info

Email: ecrire@leonard-de-vinci.info

Le Marche Gourmand



Le Marche Gourmand, a popular restaurant that fills up quickly so reservation is helpful. On the menu you will find French specialties which

is served by the attentive staff.

Photo: RBerger/Shutterstock.com

Address: 27, rue du Grand-Marche, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 64 50 38

Internet: www.lemarchegourmand.fr

Email: mail@lemarchegourmand.fr

CAFÉS



Ditty_about_summer/Shutterstock.com

Bars, cafés, and brasseries (bars that serve meals) overlap with no clear distinction. All of them offer the chance to relax, enjoy a drink and a bite to eat, and watch the world go by during the day, and often far into the evening too.

Au Temps des Rois



Au Temps des Rois is one of the most popular bars in Vieux Tours, with good atmosphere and music. Both young and old are welcome to this English decorated venue.

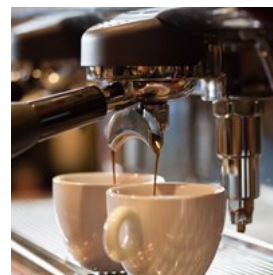
Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: 3 pl Plumereau, Tours

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9am-2am

Phone: +33 2 47 05 04 51

Les Relais d'Alsace



This popular mainstream brasserie is open seven days a week for food, drinks, and a convivial atmosphere. You will find this chain restaurant in city centre of Tour.

Photo: Lostry7/Shutterstock.com

Address: 48 Rue Nationale, Tours

Opening hours: Daily 9am-8:30pm
Phone: +33 2 47 05 66 84
Internet: tours.lesrelaisdalsace.com/en/

L'Annexe de l'Aubrac



L'Annexe is a bar and restaurant that serves “dishes of the day”. The menu also offers salads, grilled fish, and tasty desserts like chocolate

cake and Crème Brûlée. If the day is nice and sunny, you can enjoy your food and drink on the large terrace.

Photo: Foodpictures/Shutterstock.com
Address: 9 Place Jean Jaurès, Tours
Opening hours: Daily 7am-11pm
Phone: +33 2 47 20 62 12

Brunch Et Gout Thé



This small place provides wide selections of teas. You will find all kinds of black teas, green teas and red teas. They also serve coffee and to

accompany your drink there is always something sweet on the menu like cake or pastry.

Photo: B and E Dudzincy/Shutterstock.com
Address: 19 Rue Jules Favre, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 60 98 46

Bagel Corner



Bagel Corner is located in the centre of the town. Here you can enjoy delicious bagels with Parma ham, mozzarella, and other tasty fillings

accompanied with hot beverages. They also serve muffins and donuts if you have a sweet

tooth.

Photo: littleny/Shutterstock.com
Address: 13 Rue du Commerce, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 66 57 37
Internet: www.bagelcorner.fr
Email: contact@bagelsandcoffees.com

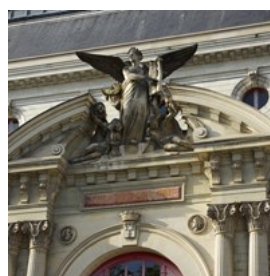
BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Fabien LE JEUNE/Flickr (image cropped)

With 30,000 students living in Tours, there are dozens of late-night bars, dance clubs, and discos. The Centre of the action is Place Plumereau. In addition, there are cabaret shows and other after-dark entertainment plus concerts, classical dance, and theatre.

Grand Théâtre de Tours



If you feel like enjoying a night at the opera you should go to Grand Théâtre de Tours, one of the city's principal venues. Here you can

choose from a full programme throughout the year.

Photo: Duch.seb/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)
Address: 34 rue de la Scellerie, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 60 20 00
Internet: www.operadetours.fr
Email: theatre-billetterie@ville-tours.fr

Cabaret Nello



Cabaret Nello is a dinner show that offers a real good time with glitzy entertainment. This will be an evening full of laughter and a place for you to enjoy dance shows and funny sketches.

Photo: GlebStock/Shutterstock.com
Address: 3 Rue du Dr Herpin, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 39 12 11
Internet: www.cabaretnello.com
Email: cabaretheznello@orange.fr

Petit Fauchoux



Another great venue that lets you enjoy music is the Petit Fauchoux. This celebrated jazz venue hosts performers from around the country in a varied programme.

Photo: Vinogradov Illya/Shutterstock.com
Address: 12 rue Léonard de Vinci, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 38 67 62
Internet: www.petitfauchoux.fr

L'Épée Royale



Located in the lively Plumereau square, this bar is a popular haunt among locals. It is well-equipped for watching live sports and is open late into the night.

Photo: Minerva Studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 13 place Plumereau, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 34 05 79

La Guinguette de Tours sur Loire



La Guinguette is a beautiful riverside venue with a unique ambiance, open-air beer garden, and a stage that is frequented by live musicians.

Photo: Tsuguliev/Shutterstock.com
Address: 111 Rue des Tanneurs, Tours
Opening hours: Daily 11am-12am
Phone: +33 6 20 62 67 17
Email: contact@le-petit-monde.com

Le Gambrinus



With its selection of over 120 varieties of beer, Le Gambrinus is a beer-lovers' paradise and is most certainly worth the detour from the Old Town center.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com
Address: 69 bis rue Blaise Pascal, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 05 17 00
Internet: www.tours-gambrinus.com
Email: contact@tours-gambrinus.com

SHOPPING



Spencer Means (image cropped)

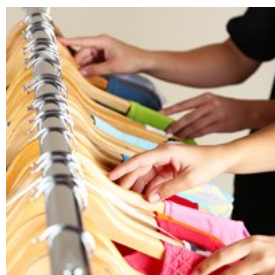
The main shopping street in central Tours is Rue Nationale, with the department store Galeries Lafayette and dozens of interesting smaller

fashion stores.

For local food specialities both sweet and savoury, there is a comprehensive selection at Les Douceurs Tourangelles, 104 rue du Commerce, and at Le Livre Tournois, 6 rue Nationale.

There are several markets in Tours. The main one is at Les Halles, among others are the evening market in place de la Résistance on the first Friday of every month, the twice-weekly flower market on blvd Béranger and the antiquarian bookstalls on blvd Heurteloup every Saturday.

Galerie Nationale



Galerie Nationale is an indoor shopping center located in the heart of the city centre and offers jewelers, perfumes and chic fashions. Here you should look for style, not just bargains.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 72 Rue nationale, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 61 65 65
Internet: www.galerie-nationale.fr
Email: contact@galerie-nationale.fr

Galleries Lafayette



Galleries Lafayette is a celebrated upscale department store that can be found in most bigger cities in France. Anything your heart desires is at an arm's length here.

Photo: Fabien LE JEUNE(image cropped)
Address: 77 Rue nationale, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 31 28 28

Internet: www.galerieslafayette.com

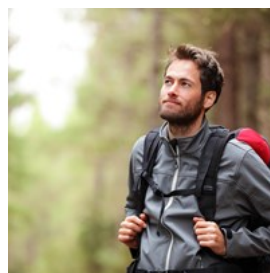
Catimini



Catimini sells super-chic toddler wear and is the place to go if you're looking to find the perfect gift for young parents.

Photo: Andresr/Shutterstock.com
Address: 72 Rue nationale, Tours
Opening hours: Monday - Saturday: 10am- 7 pm, Sunday: closed
Phone: +33 2 47 20 47 00
Internet: www.catimini.com
More Info: Galerie Nationale

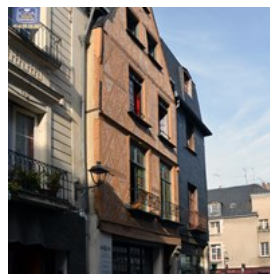
Nature et Découverte



Everything is nature-themed in this unusual boutique that will equip you with outdoor exploration gear as well as nature-themed items (even if you're not exactly planning to head into the wild anytime soon).

Photo: Maridav/Shutterstock.com
Address: 25 Rue nationale, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 70 27 70
Internet: www.natureetdecouvertes.com

Rue Colbert



Cutting across rue Nationale, historic rue Colbert, mainly pedestrianized, has an attractive array of small shops, including many specialist stores. For antiques and artwork, visit parallel rue de la Scellerie.

Photo: Pline(image cropped)

Address: Rue Colbert, Tours

Les Halles Market



all sorts of fresh produce.

There are several markets in Tours. The main one, at Les Halles, the covered market at the edge of Vieux Tours, takes place daily and sells

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com

Address: Place Gaston Paillhou, Tours

Opening hours: Daily 7.30am-12.30pm

Phone: +33 2 47 39 04 89

Internet: www.halles-de-tours.com

Rue Nationale



one of the oldest streets and for sure the busiest shopping street in the city of Tours.

Rue Nationale is the main commercial artery of the city, where most department stores, shops and boutiques are concentrated. It is in fact

Photo: Sylvain Naudin(image cropped)

Address: Rue Nationale, Tours

TOURIST INFORMATION



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

Aéroport de Tours-Val de Loire



The small, modern Aéroport de Tours-Val de Loire is located on the edge of the city, 7 kilometers from the center. If you would like to rent a car you will find several car rental companies here.

There is a shuttle bus running between the airport and the city center. If flying to and from London, by far the easiest and quickest way into town is on the shuttle bus for London passengers. It runs to the railway station in Tours city center.

You can alternatively take a taxi which is available outside the airport terminal.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Aéroport de Tours-Val de Loire, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 49 37 00

Internet: www.tours.aeroport.fr

Public transport



Vieux Tours is small and can easily be discovered by foot. From morning until night, the Fil Blue public buses serve all the main streets in Tours. On

some roads service continues all night. Tickets and cards can be bought from the bus driver or the Fil Blue shop.

Tours has also a modern tram system which allows for easy and inexpensive access to major landmarks. Tickets can be bought from the ticket machine which are located at the tram/bus station.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair
Address: 9 rue Michelet, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 66 70 70
Internet: www.filbleu.fr

Taxi



Taxis display a yellow sign on the roof. They can be hailed, phoned or picked up at cab ranks around town. Fares are metered by distance,

journey time and time of day. Tips are optional.

Taxi Jacques
+33 6 720 242 06

Taxi Plus
+33 2 47 39 51 66

Taxis Tours:

Photo: ArrivalGuides
Phone: +33 2 47 20 30 40
Internet: www.taxis-tours.fr

Post



Look for the yellow and blue sign to find a post office. You can buy stamps from kiosks and newsagents. Main post office:

Photo: Andy Fuchs
Address: 1 bd Béranger, Tours
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8.30 am-6.30 pm. Sat 9 am-5 pm.
Note that opening hours vary depending on the season.
Internet: www.laposte.fr

Pharmacy



On the door of any pharmacy a list shows which pharmacy is on night duty. The list is also available from the police office. Pharmacie du

Grand Marché:

Photo: Gemma Garner
Address: 37 Place du Grand Marché, Tours
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-7.30 pm. Sat 8 am-7 pm
Phone: +33 2 47 38 61 36
Internet: www.pharminfo.fr

Telephone



Country code: +33 Area code: 0247

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity

220/240 V, 50 Hz



Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

Approximately 140,000

Currency

Euro (EUR) €1 = 100 cents

Opening hours

Most shops are open from Tuesdays to Saturdays between 9 am-12 pm and 3-7 pm. Most supermarkets are open Mondays to Saturdays between 8.30 am-12.30 pm and 3-7.30 pm, and have late closing on certain days. Most museums and sights keep similar hours, but are closed one day a week, usually Monday or Tuesday.

Newspapers

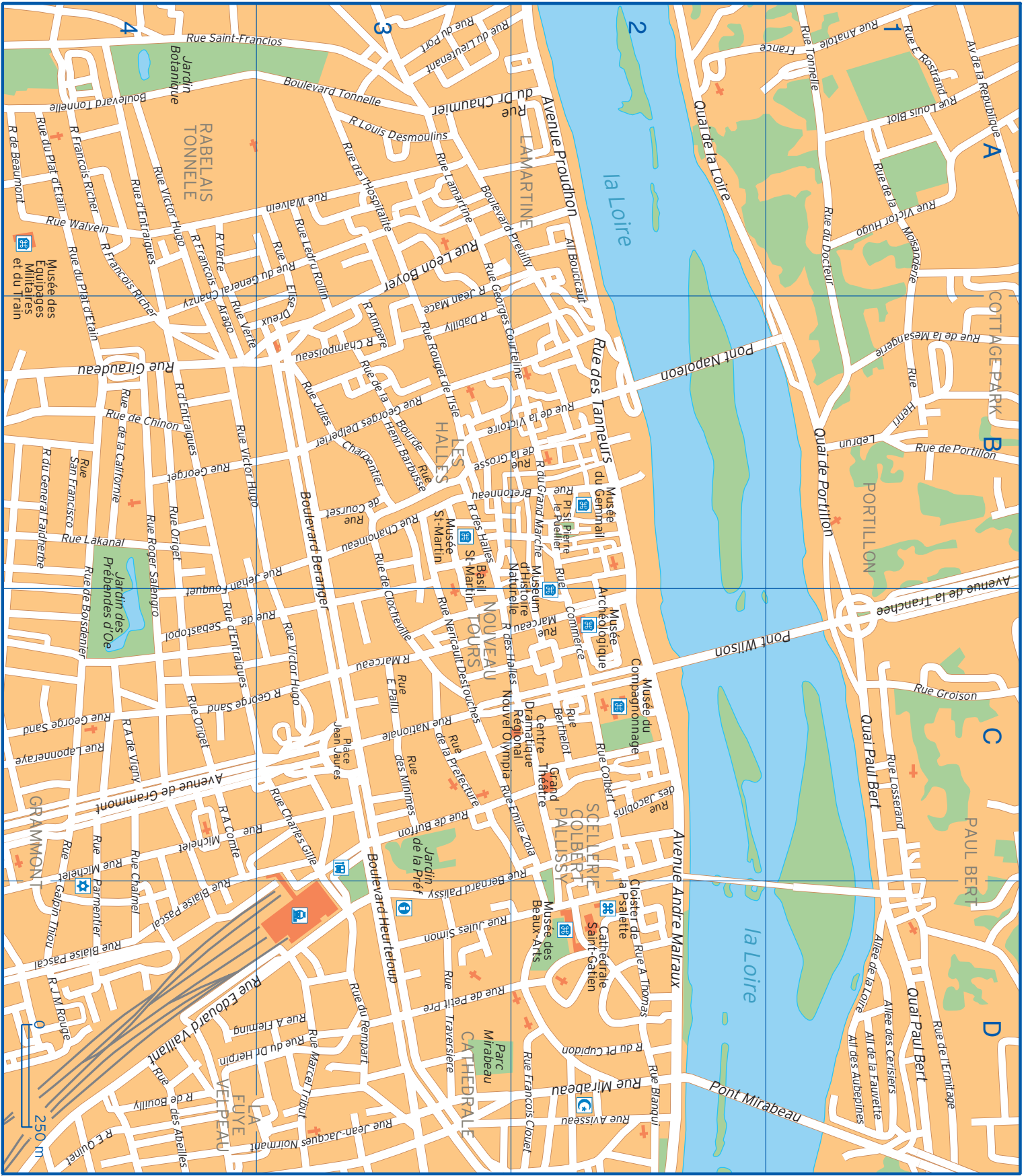
La Nouvelle République
Le Monde (national)

Emergency numbers

Police: 17
Ambulance: 15/112
Fire Brigade: 18

Tourist information

Office De Tourisme De Tours
78-82 rue Bernard Palissy, Tours (near the railway station)
+33 2 47 70 37 37
Opening hours:
April to September: Mon-Sat 8.30 am-7 pm. Sun 10 am-12.30 pm and 2.30-5 pm
October to March: Mon-Sat 9 am-12.30 pm and 1.30-6 pm.
Sun 10 am-1 pm



RABELAIS
TONNELLE

HALLES

NOUVEAU
TOURS

PARC
MIRABEAU
CATHEDRALE

PORTILLON

PAUL BERT

LA
FUVE
VETPEAU

la Loire

la Loire

la Loire

4

3

2

1

A

B

C

D

Musée des
Equipes
Militaires
et du Train

Jardin des
Pèbèdans d'Oe

Jardin
de la Prief

Musée des
Beaux-Arts

Cathédrale
Saint-Gatien

Allée des Cerriers
All de la Fauvette
All des Audepines

250 m