ArrivalGuides
the world's largest network of destination information

Tours

Photo: ell-r-brown

Photo: Paul Arps

The bright, lively capital of the Loire Valley region straddles not one beautiful river, but two – the Loire and the Cher – with the picturesque Vieux Tours old quarter lying on the long narrow peninsula between them. Brilliant modern architecture contrasts with an array of historic buildings, and all over France the city is famed for fine food and wine. There's a sense that this is the place to enjoy the good life. No wonder the writer Honoré de Balzac called it "a smiling city."

Photo: sybarite48

Photo: Brian Scantlebury

New App coming soon

ANDROID APP ON Google play

Available on the App Store

Top 5

Vieux Tours (Old Town)
Half-timbered medieval houses line lanes dating from Roman times. At its heart, relaxed Place Plumereau, centre of Tours' nigh...

Cathedral St Gatien
Beautiful stained glass windows illuminate this majestic building which includes Romanesque, Gothic, and Renaissance architecture.

La Psalette
In these lovely Gothic-Renaissance cloisters, an elaborate open-sided staircase spirals up to elegant galleries. The round tow...

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

Musée du Compagnonnage
This unique museum deals with the history of craft guilds that represented ropemakers, woodturners, clogmakers and similar occ...

ArrivalGuides
the world's largest network of destination information

THE CITY

Photo: Paul Arps

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 hallmark and famous vineyards surround the city. Even the streets look stylish in 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 pedestrianised, 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 busy Rue Nationale, with department stores and dozens of interesting smaller shops. As always in a place like Tours, look for style, not just bargains.

DO & SEE

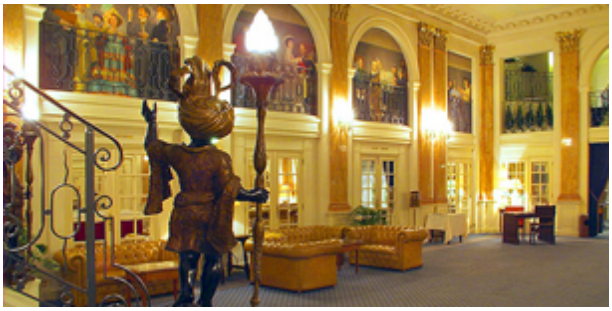


Photo: sybarite48

Tours, an ideal destination for lovers of historical and natural heritage, it is even classified as the "City of art and history". The city offers historical sites like Old Town, Cathedral St Gatien and amazing art from Rembrandt and Rubens which you can find in Musée des Beaux Arts. Or why not take a romantic walk along the river Loire?

Vieux Tours (Old Town)

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

More Info: Between pl. des Halles and rue Nationale

Cathedral St Gatien

Beautiful stained glass windows illuminate this majestic building which includes Romanesque, Gothic, and Renaissance architecture.

Address: pl. de la Cathédrale
Phone: +33 2 47 47 05 19

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.

Address: 7 rue de la Psalette
Phone: +33 2 47 47 05 19

Hôtel Goüin / Musée Archéologique

This home of a 15th-century silk merchant is a masterpiece of ornate, lavish Renaissance decoration

inside and out. It's Tours' main historical museum.

Address: 25 rue du Commerce, F-37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 66 22 32
Internet: www.musee-gouin.fr

Musée du Compagnonnage

This unique museum deals with the history of craft guilds that represented ropemakers, woodturners, clogmakers and similar occupations. Alongside is a museum about wine.

Address: 8 rue Nationale, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 61 07 93
Internet: www.museecompagnonnage.fr

Riverside walks

You will find walkways alongside the Loire, here you can enjoy pleasant and quiet walks beside the water.

Address: Loire

Musée des Beaux Arts

Works by Rubens, Rembrandt, Degas and Delacroix are gathered here in the old Archbishops' Palace. In the courtyard is a 200-year-old tree, and a 100-year-old stuffed circus elephant.

Address: 18 pl. F. Sicard, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 05 68 73

EATING

Photo: Brian Scantlebury

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

Charles Barrier

A leading light in the region's restaurant scene, with top quality seafood, the best local wines and superb desserts. On the Loire's north bank.

Address: 101 ave de la Tranchée, 37100 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's home to many inexpensive eating places with classic menus. The restaurant is very small with a pleasant atmosphere.

Address: 58 rue Colbert
Phone: +33 2 47 66 05 81

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.

Address: 65 r Colbert, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 64 34 04

Internet: www.surya-restaurant-indien-37.fr

Le Roche Le Roy

One of the classiest places in town, with a top chef and located in a handsome 18th-century manor house with pretty gardens.

Address: 55 rte St Avertin, 37200 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 27 22 00
Internet: www.rocheleroy.com

La Touraine

This highly respected restaurant in the luxurious Hotel Univers has been serving traditional, classic menus of a high standard for 150 years.

Address: 5 bd Heurteloup, 37000 Tours
Internet: www.hotel-univers.fr

La Deuvaliere

With reasonably priced lunch menus, this popular restaurant in an attractive old house offers great value for money.

Address: 18 rue de la Monnair, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 64 01 57
Internet: www.restaurant-ladeuvaliere.com

CAFES

Photo: John

Bars, cafés, and brasseries (bars which 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. Most bars in Vieux Tours stay open till 2am or later.

Au Temps des Rois

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.

Address: 3 pl Plumereau, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 05 04 51

La Taverne de Maître Kanter

This popular mainstream brasserie, part of a nationwide chain, is open seven days a week for food, drink and a convivial atmosphere from noon to midnight.

Address: 48 rue Nationale, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 05 66 84

L'Annexe

L'Annexe, a bar and restaurant serving dishes of the day. The menu also offers salads, grilled fish and tasty desserts like chocolate cake and Crème Brûlée. If a sunny day you can enjoy your food and drink on the large terrace.

Address: 9 Place Jean Jaurès, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 20 62 12
Internet: www.lannexe-cafe.fr

Brunch Et Gout The

This small place provides wide selections of teas; you will find all kinds of black tea, green tea and red tea. They also serve coffee and with your drink you can eat something sweet like cake or pastry.

Address: 19 Rue Jules Favre, Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 60 98 46
Internet: www.brunch-et-gout-the.com

Bagels & Coffees

Bagels & Coffees located in the centre of the town. Here you can enjoy delicious bagels with Parma ham, mozzarella and other tasty filling accompanied with hot beverages. They also serve muffins and donuts.

Address: 13 rue du commerce, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 6 76 69 49 26
Internet: www.bagelsandcoffees.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE

Photo: ilovebutter

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

Centre Dramatique Régional

If your French is good, visit the city centre's slickest, newest theatre, for classic drama performances.

Address: Nouvel Olympia, 7 rue de Lucé, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 64 50 50
Internet: www.cdrtours.fr

L´Excalibur

L´Excalibur is located in the heart of Vieux Tours, this disco draws a big crowd with a wide range of dance styles. This is the place where you can dance all night long. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 2300-0400.

Address: 35 rue Briçonnet, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 64 76 78

Grand Théâtre de Tours

Enjoy a night at the opera in the city's principal venue. They offer a full programme throughout the year.

Address: 34 rue de la Scellerie, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 60 20 00
Internet: www.operadetours.fr

Cabaret Nello

Cabaret Nello, a dinner show that offer a really good time with glitzy entertainment. This will be an evening with laughter and where you can enjoy dance show and funny sketches.

Address: 8 rue Auguste Chevallier
Phone: +33 2 47 39 12 11
Internet: www.cabaretnello.com

Petit Faucheux

This celebrated jazz venue hosts performers from around the country in a varied programme.

Address: 12 rue Léonard de Vinci, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 38 29 34
Internet: www.petitfaucheux.fr

Le Pym´s

Le Pym´s is located in the city centre. They offer two rooms with different moods and different music style. This is the leading dance and music club.

Address: 170 av Grammont, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 66 22 22
Internet: www.lepyms.com

SHOPPING

Photo: zoetnet

The main shopping street in central Tours is rue Nationale, with department store Galeries Lafayette and dozens of interesting smaller fashion stores. Catimini, for example, sells super-chic toddler wear, and there's a branch of the unusual Nature et Découverte chain, where everything is on a wildlife theme. Here is also Galerie Nationale, an indoor shopping centre with jewellers, perfumes and chic fashions. Look for style, not just bargains.

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

For local food specialities both sweet and savoury, there's 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, at Les Halles, the covered market at the edge of Vieux Tours, takes place daily 7.30-12.30. 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.

SLEEPING

Photo: Joe Shlabotnik

Here is a quality selection of accommodation to choose from. Budget or luxury - Tours has it all. You might want to book ahead, to make sure you get the hotel of your choice.

Hôtel L'Univers

This four-star hotel located in the heart of the city centre opposite the town hall.
The rooms are decorated in a perfect combination with tradition and modernity.
If you are feeling hungry or thirsty you will find a restaurant and bar inside the hotel.

Address: 5 blvd Heurteloup, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 05 37 12
Internet: www.oceaniahotels.com

Hôtel du Théâtre

A good choice for its small, pleasant rooms. The hotel is located in the city centre between the Cathedral and Place Plumereau.

Address: 57, rue de la Scellerie, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 61 20 78
Internet: www.hotel-du-theatre37.com

Hôtel des Châteaux de la Loire

This family-owned hotel is located near the Old Town and the Town Hall. They offer comfortable and well-kept rooms. Free Wi-Fi access in all rooms and free private parking.

Address: 12 rue Gambetta, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 05 10 05
Internet: www.hoteldeschateaux.fr

Hôtel Castel Fleuri

Hôtel Castel Fleuri, a charming hotel located in a quiet spot across the Loire from the city centre. They provide rooms with all the comfort you will need for a pleasant stay.

Address: 10 Rue Groison 37100 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 54 50 99
Internet: www.castel-fleuri-tours.com

Hotel Du Cygne

Hotel Du Cygne situated in the centre of the old Town close to attractions like the Castle and the Cathedral. This charming place is one of the oldest hotels in Tours (from the 18th century). All rooms offer comfort and free Wi-Fi.

Address: 6 rue du Cygne, 37000 Tours
Phone: +33 2 47 66 66 41
Internet: www.hotel-cygne-tours.com

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Photo: Elliott Brown

Airport

The small, modern Aeroport de Tours-Val de Loire is on the edge of the city, 7km from the centre. If you would like to rent a car you will find several car rental companies here. You can of course always take a taxi which is available outside the airport terminal.

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 centre.

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 6am to 9.30pm, public buses run by the Fil Bleu line are serving all main streets in Tours. On some roads service continues all night.

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.

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

Post

Buy stamps from kiosques and newsagents.

Main post office: 1 bd Béranger

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-7pm, Sat 9-12.

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.

Phone: +33 2 47 60 70 69

Dentist

In emergency call

ArrivalGuides
the world's largest network of destination information

Phone: +33 2 47 05 63 52

Telephone

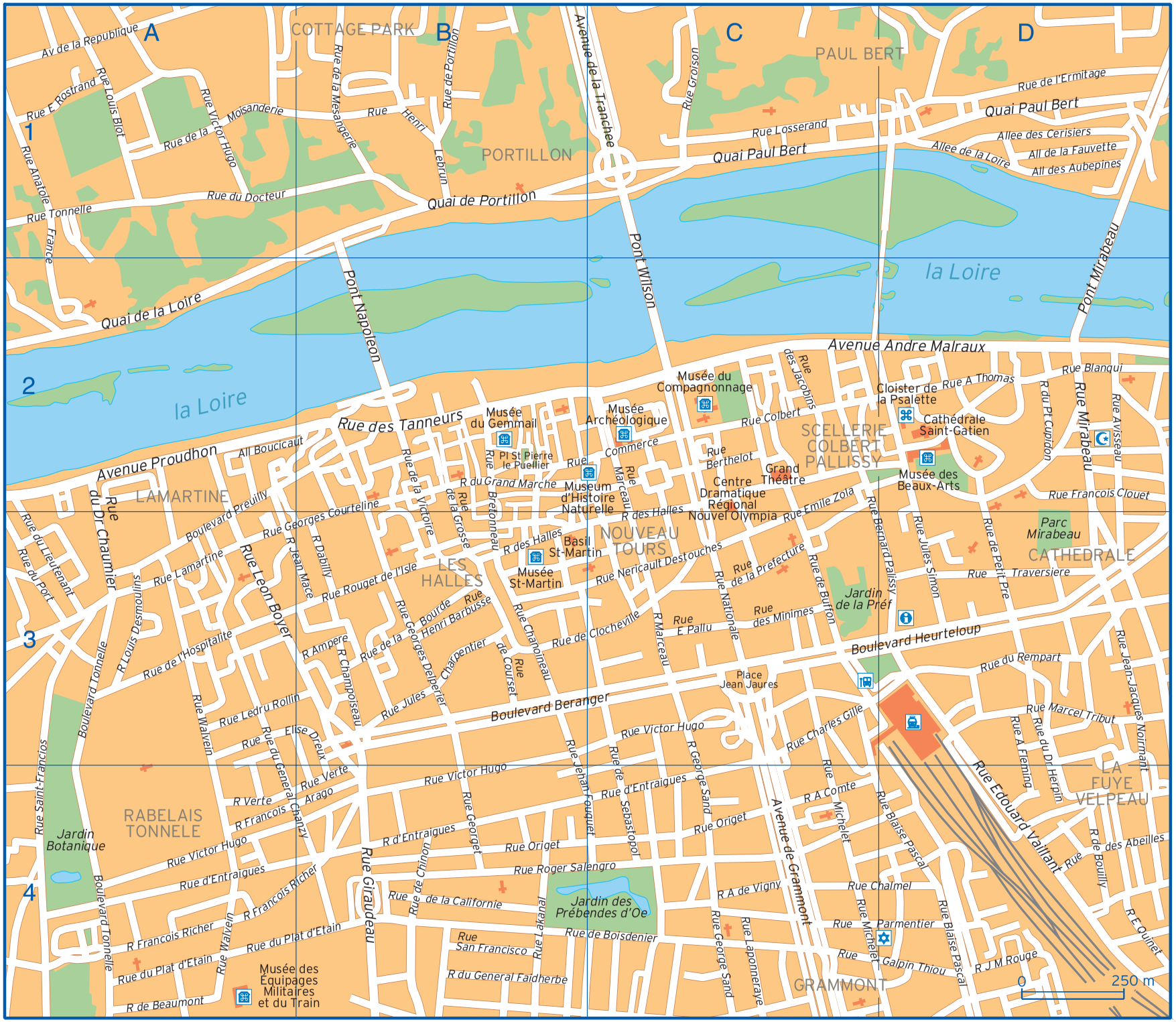
Country code: +33.

Area code: 02 47

Calling from outside France, do not dial initial 0 of the area code.

Electricity

220V



A
B
C
D
1
2
3
4
COTTAGE PARK
PAUL BERT
PORTILLON
la Loire
la Loire
Av de la Republique
Rue E Rostrand
Rue Louis Blot
Rue Victor Hugo
Rue de la Moisanderie
Rue de la Mesangerie
Rue Henri Lebrun
Rue de Portillon
Avenue de la Tranchee
Rue Groison
Rue de l'Ermitage
Quai Paul Bert
Rue Losserand
Allee des Cerisiers
All de la Fauvette
All des Aubepines
Allee de la Loire
Rue Anatole France
Rue du Docteur
Rue Tonnelle
Quai de Portillon
Pont Napoleon
Pont Wilson
Pont Mirabeau
Quai de la Loire
Avenue Andre Malraux
Rue des Jacobins
Rue Blanqui
Rue A Thomas
Musée du Compagnonnage
Cloister de la Psalette
Cathédrale Saint-Gatien
Rue Colbert
Rue des Tanneurs
Musée du Gemmail
Musée Archéologique
Pl St Pierre le Puellier
Rue Commerce
Rue Berthelot
SCELLERIE COLBERT PALLISSY
Grand Théâtre
Centre Dramatique Régional Nouvel Olympia
Musée des Beaux-Arts
Rue du Pt Cupidon
Rue Mirabeau
Rue Avisseau
Avenue Proudhon
All Boucicaut
LAMARTINE
Rue du Dr Chaumier
Boulevard Preuilly
Rue Georges Courteline
R du Grand Marche
Museum d'Histoire Naturelle
Rue Marceau
R des Halles
Rue Emile Zola
Rue Francois Clouet
Parc Mirabeau
CATHEDRALE
Rue du Lieutenant
Rue du Port
Rue Lamartine
Rue Leon Boyer
R Jean Mace
R Dabilly
Rue Rouget de l'Isle
LES HALLES
Basil St-Martin
Musée St-Martin
NOUVEAU TOURS
Rue Nericault Destouches
Rue de la Prefecture
Rue Bernard Palissy
Rue Jules Simon
Rue de Petit Pre
Rue Traversiere
Jardin de la Préf
Rue de Buffon
Rue Nationale
Rue des Minimes
Rue E Pallu
Rue de Clocheville
Rue Chanoineau
Rue de la Victoire
Rue de la Grosse
Rue Bretonneau
Rue Georges Delperier
Rue Charpentier
Rue de Courset
R Ampere
R Champoiseau
Rue de l'Hospitalite
R Louis Desmoulins
Boulevard Tonnelle
Rue Walvein
Rue Ledru Rollin
Rue Elise Dreux
Rue Jules
Boulevard Beranger
Place Jean Jaures
Boulevard Heurteloup
Rue du Rempart
Rue Jean-Jacques Noirmant
Rue Marcel Tribut
Rue Charles Gille
Rue Victor Hugo
Rue du General Chanzy
Rue Verte
R Verte
R Francois Arago
Rue Jehan Fouquet
Rue de Sebastopol
R George Sand
Rue d'Entraigues
Rue Michelet
Rue Blaise Pascal
Rue Edouard Vaillant
Rue A Fleming
Rue du Dr Herpin
LA FUYE VELPEAU
Rue Saint-Francios
Jardin Botanique
RABELAIS TONNELE
Rue Victor Hugo
R d'Entraigues
Rue Georget
Rue Origet
Rue Roger Salengro
Rue Chinon
Rue Giraudeau
Rue de la Californie
Jardin des Prébendes d'Oe
Rue Lakanal
Rue de Boisdenier
Rue San Francisco
R du General Faidherbe
R A de Vigny
Avenue de Grammont
Rue Chalmel
Rue Parmentier
Rue Galpin Thiou
R J M Rouge
R de Bouilly
R E Quinet
R Francois Richer
Rue du Plat d'Etain
Rue Walvein
Rue Boulevard Tonnelle
Musée des Équipages Militaires et du Train
R de Beaumont
GRAMMONT
0
250 m