



## The Porte du Croux

A defensive gate on the city walls at the end of the fourteenth century, this mediaeval edifice was also used for collecting the octroi, an excise duty charged on entering the town. The Porte du Croux was one of the four entrances into the city, and it protected the pottery district. Today, it houses the precious stones of the Nièvre Archaeological Museum.



## The Museum of Earthenware and Fine Arts

The ideal place for those who love to travel back in time. The long, refitted staircase in the remains of this ancient abbey leads to a labyrinthine path: the hidden collections are there to surprise you. The atmosphere becomes even more magical during the Wednesday nocturnal visit. The museum gardens encourage you to daydream during your coffee or tea break.

About opening hours: +33 (0)3 86 68 46 00  
Duration of the visit: approximately 90 minutes

## Today's potters

Almost 500 years of existence and it remains unchanged. Nevers earthenware still looks good with two families of potters continuing the savoir-faire of their craft. If you prefer a floral decoration to the old style, you will find something to please you in the variety of items on display at the Fayencerie d'Art in Nevers. At the Faiencerie Georges, the commitment to a contemporary decor has been a great success.

Fayencerie d'Art de Nevers - 1, Rue Sabatier  
Opening hours: Tue. to Sat. 10 am - 12.30 pm and 3 pm - 7 pm

Faiencerie Georges - 7, quai de Mantoue  
Opening hours: Tue. to Sat. 10 am - 12 pm and 2 pm - 7 pm



## Shopping area

### The N7 road at the heart of the city

The golden age of this iconic road was the 50s and 60s, when children could see a veritable motor show by watching the cars pass through the city centre. Nowadays you can still see this during the «Faites de la N7» which takes place at Pougues-les-Eaux every two years in April. Nostalgia guaranteed.

### Saturday morning means the market in Place Carnot

Small producers set up every Saturday morning in rue Saint-Didier, Place Carnot and in the covered market. For a local aperitive don't forget to try a local beer and a «galette aux griaudes» (a galette with small pieces of grilled bacon inside). It's a winning duo!



## Sainte-Marie Chapel

In 1641, Jeanne de Chantal, founder of the Order of the Visitation, had a shock. The ornately decorated facade of the new chapel was not in keeping with the austere principles of this religious order.

About opening hours: +33 (0)3 86 68 46 00  
Duration of the visit: approx. 20 minutes



## Saint- Pierre Church

This outwardly austere church, built by the Jesuits, contains frescoes in the trompe l'oeil style forming an internal sky. They were created in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Italian painters.

About opening hours: +33 (0)3 86 68 46 00  
Duration of the visit: approx. 20 minutes



## Saint-Etienne Church

Hidden in the shopping area, this Romanesque church and its pure lines was an important stopover during the Middle Ages on the Way of Saint James. Indeed, pilgrims could sleep there, and its interior decoration was quite different with its floor mosaics and walls decorated with pictorials. This church draws on the contours of Cluny Abbey, seat of the the biggest, western monastical order of mediaeval times.

Open: every day 9 am to 6 pm Duration of the visit: approx. 30 minutes

## Private mansions

This area inspired writers such as Georges Simenon, who lived at 7 rue Creuses during the 1920s. At 12 rue Creuse is the Maumigny mansion. If you want to immerse yourself in their history you can stay in a bed and breakfast at the Chasseigne mansion, 5 rue Fonmorigny.



## Saint-Aricle area

The magnificent Baltard pavilion at the Saint-Aricle market was destroyed in 1976, but in this area, you will find independent shopkeepers, real collectors of all sorts of treasures.

## The Négus, king of confectionery

In 1902, a special visitor, Ménélík the Abyssinian emperor, known as Le Négus, passed through Nevers. The Maison Grelier marked the occasion by creating a caramel with a soft chocolate or coffee flavoured centre with a hard sugar topping. The Negus, at 96 rue François Mitterrand is the only shop in Nevers to offer this melt-in-your-mouth sweet.



## Saint-Bernadette Sanctuary

This is a sanctuary open to both believers and non-believers. The former engage in private prayer with Sainte Bernadette in the chapel, while the latter go to the museum to understand a little better the life and message of Bernadette. Walking around the gardens encourages both spirituality and relaxation. Cyclists using the Loire cycle route and who sleep at the sanctuary also appreciate this peaceful break.

Open: every day Duration of the visit: approx. one hour  
For information on opening hours: +33 (0)3 86 71 99 50



## The sheperdess who wanted to be a nurse...

Why did Bernadette Soubirous choose the congregation of the Sisters of La Charité? Bernadette had a dream of becoming a nurse. This religious order was the only one who could give her the necessary training to do so.



## Sainte-Bernadette du Banlay Church

Its rough exterior may leave you indifferent, but once you are inside the appearance of light will amaze you. The architecture of this 20th century parish church was designed to recreate the inside of the grotto at Lourdes.

About opening hours: +33 (0)3 86 68 46 00  
Duration of the visit: approx. 30 minutes



## Secrets d'histoire

HISTORIC & SHOPPING AREA  
GUIDE MAP



Office de tourisme  
**NEVERS**  
et sa région



- |                |                               |                |                |                           |                   |   |
|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Tourist office | Sainte Bernadette's sanctuary | Camping        | Playground     | Electric charging station | Free parking      | Explore the city along the blue line route - approx. 5 kms, allow a minimum of 2 hours (without visiting buildings and monuments) |
| Church         | Earthenware                   | Marché         | Cinema         | Parking for coaches       | Blue zone parking |   |
| Museum         | Canoe rental                  | Public toilets | Bicycle rental | Paid parking              |                   |   |
|                |                               |                |                |                           |                   |   |

Conception graphique de la carte : Renaud Scapin 03 86 69 41 41 - Crédits photos : Magalie Popineau, Gildas Bizeul - Impression : Inore Groupe Impression



### The Palais ducal

Since the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century this castle has seen counts, dukes, magistrates, local councillors, and young married couples pass through it. It owes its name «Palais Ducal» to the fact that it was a court of law for 130 years. This was up until the dramatic move by the mayor Pierre Beregovoy (1983 - 1993), who converted it into a place of cultural and municipal activity.

### A Centre of interpretation of architecture and heritage

A castle is still the ideal place to house a centre of interpretation of architecture and heritage (CIAP). This approach to the city's history is both fun and appeals to the senses. The people of Nevers have also had their say in this presentation which will make it even more alive. This new tool is not without originality; you will understand why when you use it.

About opening hours: +33 (0)3 86 68 46 00  
Duration of the visit: approx. one hour



### The Municipal Theatre

A favourite of the people of Nevers, the «Petit Théâtre» (little theatre) came very near to closing down for good. This jewel of Italian 19<sup>th</sup> century theatre reopened its doors in 2018 after years of meticulous renovation work. Seeing a show here is a thing of joy, so ask for the programme.

Programme: [www.theatrenevers.fr](http://www.theatrenevers.fr)



### Medieval Nevers

The streets named «Casse-cou», «des Belles-lunettes», «des Ratoires», «Grelu», and others take you from the Loire to the top of the hill called 'La Butte'. They are definitely worth getting lost in.



### The medieval houses

Do you dream of sleeping in a medieval house? Rendez-vous in «rue des Ratoires» and «rue de la Parcheminerie». Take a look at the start of this street next to the square. Today it is a medical centre, but it used to be a shop that stocked skins or hides for tanning in its cellar. These were then made into parchment. When the shop was open, the shutters served as stands on which the goods were displayed.

Duration of the visit: approx. one hour



### Open toilets

You are advised to have a good look at what is happening in the «rue des Belles-Lunettes» (Pretty glasses street). Unfortunately, nothing to do with optics! In days gone by this slippery and smelly road was used as a public toilet. Why glasses? It is a reference to the round openings in the private seats, so as not to mention the WC!



### Saint-Cyr-Sainte-Julitte Cathedral

You enter this grand lady by the little door. This is for historical and practical reasons: the cathedral has two choirs, a Romanesque one and a Gothic one. As you can see, this is a cathedral unlike others. Fifteen centuries of history and treasures!

### The most beautiful view of Nevers!

The cathedral's Bohier tower stands out like a town lighthouse. Its facade, dating from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, looks like a pop-up book with carved figures from the Old and New Testaments. The contemporary Alberola stained-glass windows tell their stories from the inside of the cathedral.

For those who have always wanted to touch gargoyles, it is a challenge: 285 steps to climb, 52 metres high, a 360° view, your guide will not give you 3D glasses. There is no need, the view speaks for itself.



Ask at the tourist office for details about visiting the tower.

Open: every day 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Duration of the visit: approximately 45 minutes



[www.nevers-tourisme.com](http://www.nevers-tourisme.com)