

from Alençon
to Lisieux

Follow Thérèse in Normandy

Créateur
d'Émotions


Pays d'Alençon


L'ORNE
en Normandie

Thérèse



Thérèse MARTIN was born in Alençon at 50 rue Saint Blaise on January 2nd 1873. She was baptised at Notre-Dame Church when she was two days old. Thérèse spent her early years in Alençon, with her parents Louis and Zélie MARTIN and her four sisters. In 1877, after the death of Madame Martin, the family left Alençon, moving to Les Buissonnets in Lisieux. Thérèse lived there for ten years before joining the Carmelites in 1888 where she died of tuberculosis nine years later. Thérèse wrote her memoirs at the request of her mother superior. They were published a year after her death, with the title 'The Story of a Soul' (English trans. 'Autobiography of a Saint'). Through this story of an ordinary life, the whole world discovered the great qualities of her character and the mystery of her inner life with God.

Beatified in 1923, Thérèse was canonised in 1925 by Pope Pius XI and two years later she was proclaimed Patron saint of the Missions. In 1944, St Thérèse was made a secondary patron saint of France. Her autobiography has been translated into over sixty languages. In 1997, to mark the centenary of her death, Pope John Paul II declared St Teresa of the Child Jesus a Doctor of the Church.

Zélie and Louis MARTIN



Zélie GUERIN was born in 1831 at Gandelain in the Orne department, near St Denis-sur-Sarthon, where she was baptised. On completing her studies, she contemplated becoming a nun but the Mother Superior at the hospital advised her against it. So the girl threw herself into making Alençon point lace.

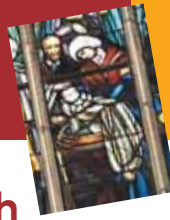
At the age of 26, Zélie GUERIN bumped into Louis MARTIN on the St-Léonard bridge in Alençon and felt divinely inspired to say : 'he is the one I have prepared for you'.

Louis MARTIN was born in 1823 at Bordeaux where his Norman father, a career officer, was garrisoned. On completing his studies, he entered the watchmaker's trade. At the age of about 22, he had thoughts of entering a monastery, but did not speak enough Latin to become a monk. So he opened a jeweller's and watchmaker's shop in the Rue du Pont-Neuf at Alençon. They were married on July 13th 1858. In 1871, the MARTIN family moved to the house in the Rue St-Blaise where Louis was a useful helping hand for his wife's lace-making business. This time-consuming occupation never sidetracked them from their family duties; their marriage produced nine children, four of whom died very young.

With extraordinary energy, Zélie saw her task through to the end; after being diagnosed with cancer, she died in 1877. After his wife's death, for his daughters' well-being, Louis agreed to move to Lisieux where his brother-in-law ran a chemist's shop.



Alençon



Follow Thérèse
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July 13th
1858

Marriage of
Zélie GUÉRIN
and
Louis MARTIN

Notre-Dame Church

Located in the heart of the old town pedestrian precinct, the church of Notre-Dame amazes visitors by its proportions, the elegance of its Gothic Flamboyant nave and by the delicacy of its porch structures.

Zélie GUERIN and Louis MARTIN celebrated their nuptials at Notre-Dame church on July 13th. 1858. Two days after her birth, on January 4th 1873, Thérèse received the sacrament of baptism in a chapel on the north aisle. Worth seeing: the baptistery, and Thérèse's christening dress. The ceremony is depicted in a contemporary stained-glass window by Barillet.



Looking up, the visitor will discover a magnificent set of 16th century stained-glass windows.

Place de la Magdeleine – 61000 ALENÇON

Open daily from 8.30-12.00 and 14-17.30

No guided tours available, but visitors are welcome to explore on their own.

Mass :

Church of Notre-Dame at 9 and 18.30; Saturdays at 18.00; Sundays at 10 / Church of Saint Léonard Sundays at 11 (except the second Sunday in the month) / Church of Saint Pierre, Montsori the second Sunday at 11 / St Teresa's birthplace Wednesdays at 8.30 and Fridays at 12.

Mme MARTIN
was
a lacemaker
by trade

Alençon Point lacemaking

Since the 17th c., Alençon has based its reputation on that most delicate of arts, needle-point lace, developed under the name of Point d'Alençon.

Mme MARTIN was a lacemaker. So quickly did she become proficient in making Alençon lace, an extremely meticulous task based on unique knowhow now handed down by about a dozen lacemakers, that she decided to set up in business in 1853 at n°36 Rue Saint-Blaise. She employed up to about fifteen workers with help from M. MARTIN, who gave up a jeweller's and watchmaker's shop in the Rue du Pont-Neuf to join his wife's lacemaking business.

Musée des Beaux-Arts et de la Dentelle

Cour Carrée de la Dentelle – 61000 ALENÇON

Tel. 00 33 (0)2 33 32 40 07 /

Fax. 00 33 (0)2 33 26 51 66

Open daily from 10-12.00 and 14-18.00. Closed Mondays.

In July and August, open 7 days a week with demonstrations of Alençon Point.



Alençon



January
2nd 1873
Thérèse is born

The Birthplace

The ninth child of Louis and Zélie MARTIN, Thérèse lived for 4 1/2 years in this house where she was born on January 2nd 1873.

The guided tour shows your furniture and objects reflecting her parents' work. You will also see photographs, family souvenirs, and toys Thérèse played with as a little girl.

The chapel, built on the 1st floor level from 1925 to 1928, opens into the parents' bedroom where Thérèse was born and also where her mother died.



At the back of the house lies the garden surrounded by walls of granite stones which little Thérèse would scratch to collect flakes of mica.

The missionary exhibition is a display of items brought back from every continent, as a homage by her compatriots of the Orne to St Teresa, Patron Saint of the Missions.

50, rue Saint Blaise – 61000 ALENCON

Tel. 00 33 (0)2 33 26 09 87 / Fax. 00 33 (0)2 33 26 08 60

From October 1st to May 31st, open from 9.30-12.00 and 14.30-17.00, except Tuesdays. Closed in January. From June 1st to September 30th, open daily from 9-12.00 and 14-18.00. Visit lasts: 1hr.

Mass : on Wednesdays at 8.30 and Fridays at 12, and by request of pilgrim priests.

March
1873

Semallé Farm

When she was two months old, Thérèse fell ill. Her parents had to entrust her to a foster mother, Rose Taillé, who lived on the farm at Semallé. Rose Taillé was a wet-nurse to little Thérèse from March 1873 until April 1874.

Farm located at Semallé "Le Carrouge" (7 km from Alençon). Road to ESSAY (D31).

Building not open to visitors. Explore the outside only.

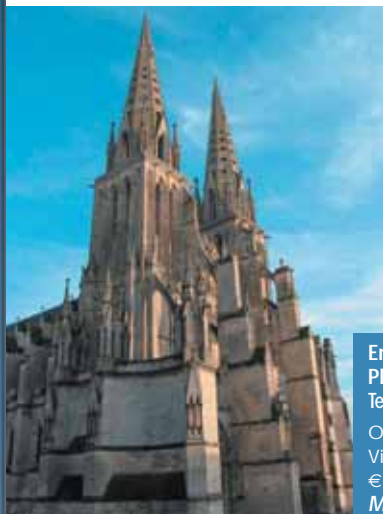


Sées



Follow Thérèse
in Normandy

Located in the heart of the Orne department, Sées has been an episcopal see since the 5th century.



SEES Cathedral

It seems unlikely that M. and Mme MARTIN would have gone to the church of the Immaculate Conception with one or other of their daughters without calling at the Cathedral in devotion to Our Lady of Sées.

Sées Cathedral is one of the finest Norman Gothic buildings from the 13-14th centuries. Its 70 m tall spires can be seen from over 10km in all directions.

Enquiries to the Pays de Sées Tourist Office
Place du Général de Gaulle – 61500 SÉES
Tel. 00 33 (0)2 33 28 74 79 / Fax. 00 33 (0)2 33 28 18 13

Open all year round from 9-19.00.
Visitors welcome, guided tours also available (min 5 people),
€2 per pers
Mass : on Sundays at 11.

Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at SEES

Built by subscription, the basilica had its foundation stone laid on March 26th 1855 by the abbot of Solesmes, Don Guéranger. It was consecrated on May 7th 1872 by Monsignor Rousselet, bishop of Sées, before a huge crowd.

M. and Mme MARTIN made several pilgrimages to Sées on the feast day of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated on December 8th.

Place du Général de Gaulle – 61500 SÉES
Open all year round from 9-19.00, unaccompanied visit

Mass :
Monday to Friday at 18.00, Saturdays at 10 and Sundays at 11.



Lisieux

Follow Thérèse
in Normandy

In the heart of the Pays d'Auge

- **Lisieux**, the capital of the Pays d'Auge, is a charming little town with a very long history. From its rich past, the town has managed to preserve and enhance its outstanding heritage. The Hôtel du Haut Doyenné, Saint Pierre Cathedral, the pedestrian precinct, the Bishop's gardens are all places to visit when you come to stay here. In the surrounding area, there are fine country seats and castles and also leisure activities for you to discover and enjoy.



While out walking, take this opportunity to try some of the regional produce to which the Pays d'Auge owes its reputation. After tasting our Pommeau and Calvados, you will love this region where nature is preserved and has its charms for all seasons.



Discover and pray to St Teresa

- Guided tours, Basilica, Carmel, Les Buissonnets, Cathedral (in several languages): groups (all year round) and individuals (in summer)
- Films, slides, teaching and talks at the Pastoral Reception Centre (C.A.P.I)
- Permanent and temporary exhibitions
- Masses, prayers, vigils at Carmel, at the Basilica, in the Crypt and in the Adoration chapel.

Contact (pilgrimage) :

Pèlerinage Sainte Thérèse de Lisieux
33 rue du Carmel - B.P 62095
14102 LISIEUX Cedex
Tel. 00 33 (0)2 31 48 55 08
Fax. 00 33 (0)2 31 48 55 26
www.therese-de-lisieux.com
info@therese-de-lisieux.com

Contact :

Special activities for groups of children
or young people :
Service Jeunes - B.P 62095
14102 LISIEUX Cedex
Tel. / Fax. 00 33 (0)2 31 48 55 09
service-jeunes@therese-de-lisieux.com

ACCOMMODATION

For all enquiries regarding accommodation (hotel, gîte, B&B...) contact Lisieux Pays d'Auge Tourist Office

Tel. 00 33 (0)2 31 48 18 10 www.Lisieux-tourisme.com

Alençon - Sées



► **Alençon**, Prefecture of the Orne on the edge of Normandy, and **Sées**, a cathedral town since the 5th century, have in common the charm of towns on which history has bestowed a rich heritage. A town upon excellence, Alençon has built up its reputation and prestige on that most delicate of arts, needle-point lace, with the famous Point d'Alençon. From the top of the steeples of Notre-Dame de Sées Cathedral, Sées overlook you Ecouves and Bourse Forests which are well worth taking a walk in when you come to stay in the Alençon area.



• **Guided tour
'In St Teresa's
footsteps' -
ALENCON**

For individuals, tour proposed by the Tourist Office during the summer period.

Tel. 00 33 (0)2.33.80.66.33

For groups, tour offered all year round by the Musée des Beaux-Arts et de la Dentelle, booking required.

Tel. 00 33 (0)2.33.32.40.07

• **Musée Départemental d'Art religieux de SÉES**



In the heart of the cathedral quarter, this religious art museum presents a selection of sacred art treasures reflecting the wealth and diversity of the religious heritage in the Orne. It houses collections of paintings, sculpture, gold work and liturgical vestments dating from the Middle Ages to the present day. The chronological presentation of the display rooms lets you follow the evolution of religious feeling through the diversity of its artistic expressions, from a Romanesque Virgin and Child in polychrome wood to the plaster statue of St Teresa ...

Open from July to September, daily except Tuesdays from 10-18.00.

Off season, group visits by appointment.

Tel. 00 33 (0)2.33.81.23.00 / Fax 00 33 (0)2.33.81.23.01

Discover and pray to St Teresa

➔ Masses, prayers, vigils at St Teresa's birthplace or at Notre-Dame church

Contact (pilgrimages) :
Direction des Pèlerinages de Sées-Alençon
29 rue Conté - B.P 25
61500 SEES
Tel. 00 33 (0)2 33 81 15 06
Fax. 00 33 (0)2 33 81 15 06
www.diocesedeseez.org
pelerinage@diocesedeseez.org

Contact (Notre-Dame parish) :
Paroisse Notre-Dame au Pays d'Alençon
27 rue du Bercaill
61 000 Alençon
Tel. 00 33 (0)2 33 26 20 89
Fax. 00 33 (0)2 33 32 06 04
notre.dame.alencon@free.fr

ACCOMMODATION

For all enquiries regarding accommodation (hotel, gîte, B&B...) contact Pays d'Alençon Tourist Office

Tel. 00 33 (0)2 33 80 66 33 www.paysdalencontourisme.com

Lisieux

15 November
1877
Settles
in Lisieux

Les Buissonnets

In November 1877, Thérèse's family moved to Lisieux, capital of the Pays d'Auge. Mme MARTIN's brother, 'Uncle GUERIN', ran a chemist's shop there. They lived in a house called Les Buissonnets, 'the soft nest of my childhood', as Thérèse later described it.

The house, which has been a place of pilgrimage since 1913, has kept some of her furniture and personal belongings. The audio commentary recalls the major events in the years Thérèse spent in this house: the smile of the Virgin during her strange illness and her transformation towards maturity, on Christmas night in 1886.

Chemin des Buissonnets – 14100 LISIEUX

Opening hours: From Palm Sunday to Oct. 1st : 9-12.00 and 14-18.00 - Oct. Feb., Mar.: 10-12.00 and 14-17.00 - Nov. Dec. Jan.: 10-12.00 and 14-16.00
Except from 15 Dec. to 15 Jan. : enquiries to the Reception Service on 00 33 (0)2 31 48 55 08



Saint Pierre Cathedral



Saint Pierre Cathedral lies in the town centre. It is highly representative of the 12th and 13th century Norman ogival style.

The Cathedral was Thérèse's parish church. In the south ambulatory, a statue marks the spot where she would hear Mass with her family and where she had the first intuition of her vocation.

In a chapel near the entrance, Thérèse made her first confession.

The high altar was donated by M. MARTIN.

Place François Mitterrand – 14100 LISIEUX

Opening hours: 9-18.30 weekdays, 10-18.00 Sundays and feastdays.

The Normandy countryside

Thérèse loved nature. She visited the Normandy countryside, its churches and timber-framed houses. She would go fishing with her father and holiday down on the farm. She saw the sea during holidays at Deauville and Trouville.

9 April
1888
She enters
Carmel

Carmel

The Carmelite order is devoted to prayer in a climate of silence and solitude for God, within a community. Thérèse was 15 years old when she entered the convent at LISIEUX, founded in 1838. She lived there for nine years until her death; her writings left her clear, simple message :

**“ My Way is nothing but trust
and love ”**

The reliquary containing Thérèse's remains is in the present-day chapel. Outside, to the left, the visitor can explore a room with Thérèse memorabilia.

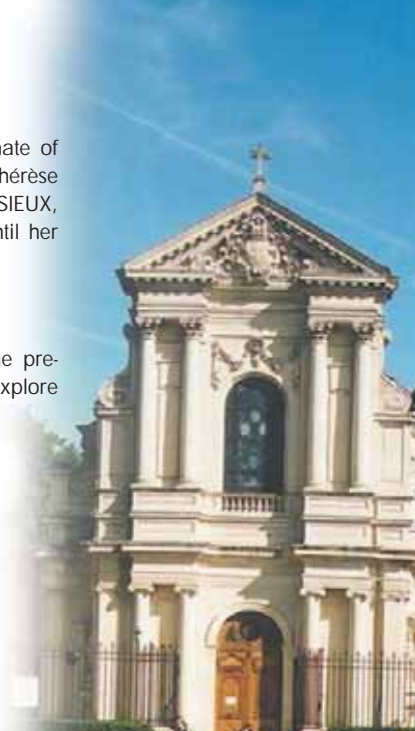


30 September
1897
Thérèse dies

The Cemetery

Thérèse died at the age of 24, after contracting tuberculosis. She was buried in the town cemetery and was later transferred to the Carmel chapel.

The visitor can locate the spot where she was first buried, and the graves of certain family members.



Rue du Carmel – 14100 LISIEUX

Opening hours:

High season : 7-19.00 / Off season : 7-18.30

Mass : 8, 9 and 11.30.

Carmelites' prayers : 7.15 and 13.45

Vespers : 18.00 weekdays, 17.00 Sun and feastdays

Pilgrims' prayers : 20.30 weekdays, July & August



Lisieux



1923

Thérèse is
beatified

1925

Thérèse is
canonised

1927

Thérèse
is named
Patron
Saint
of Missions

1944

Thérèse is
proclaimed a
Secondary
Patron Saint
of France

1997

Thérèse is
made
a Doctor
of the Church
by John Paul II



The Basilica at Lisieux

Thanks to the fervour of the faithful the world over, one of the largest 20th century churches was built in Lisieux in honour of St Teresa.

Building work on the Basilica began in 1929. It was consecrated on 11th July 1954. Pope John Paul II came on a pilgrimage on June 2nd 1980.

Its walls and those of the crypt are covered with mosaics depicting St Teresa's message drawn from the Gospel. Inside, there is a reliquary containing the Saint's right arm bones.

Thérèse's parents, the Venerable Louis and Zélie MARTIN, are buried behind the Basilica, at the foot of the Way of the Cross.

Avenue Jean XXIII– 14100 LISIEUX

Opening hours:

High season : 9h-20h

Off season : 9h-17h30

Mass : 10.30 (Sun and feastdays) 11 weekdays May to Sept.



Suggested Tour

2 days from Alençon to Lisieux

“ In the footsteps of St Teresa”

DAY 1 : ALENCON

- 10.30 Discover the Fine Art and Lace Museum. **St Teresa's** mother, **Zélie MARTIN**, was a lace-maker. You will be amazed by the quality and variety of the Point d'Alençon lace collections.
- Lunch in the town centre
- 14.30 Guided tour of **Alençon old town**. On the banks of the River Sarthe, this old ducal city has held onto its former glory, as can be seen from its monuments and private mansions. Visit to **St Teresa's birthplace and Notre-Dame church**, where she was baptised. Free time to explore.
- Dinner and accommodation at **ALENCON** or **LISIEUX**, whichever is preferred.

DAY 2 : LISIEUX

- Start out after breakfast, stopping at **SEES**, where you may visit the Cathedral or the Religious Art Museum of this area.
- Arrive at **LISIEUX** for lunch
- 14.30 Visit the **Carmel** nunnery with St Teresa's shrine, in which her relics have been laid to rest. Standing majestically on a hilltop, the **Basilica**, begun in 1929, consecrated in 1954, is dedicated to St Teresa. With a surface area of 4 500 m², it is one of the largest religious edifices built in the 20th century. The superb crypt with three naves is entirely decorated with mosaics depicting the life of St Teresa.
- Free time to explore. This marks the end of our tour.

PRICES : from **€110** per person, full board, on the basis of a double room in a 2-star hotel. Minimum 20 people. Transport not included. (2006 rates)

Vikings voyages

33 avenue Victor Hugo
14 100 LISIEUX
Tel. 0033 (0)2 31 48 58 58
Fax. 0033 (0)2 31 48 58 50
email : resavik@wanadoo.fr
www.vikings-voyages.net

Escap'Orne / Loisirs Accueil Orne

2 rue de la Halle aux Toiles
61 000 ALENCON
Tel. 0033 (0)2 33 82 82 94
Fax . 0033 (0)2 33 32 10 16
email : escaporne@alencon.cci.fr
www.escaporne.com



Office de Tourisme de Lisieux Pays d'Auge

11, rue d'Alençon – BP 26020
14106 LISIEUX Cedex

Tél. 00 33 (0)2 31 48 18 10

Fax. 00 33 (0)2 31 48 18 11

www.lisieux-tourisme.com
tourisme@cclisieuxpaysdauge.fr



Office de Tourisme du Pays d'Alençon

Place de la Magdeleine
Maison d'Ozé - 61000 ALENÇON

Tél. 00 33 (0)2 33 80 66 33

Fax. 00 33 (0)2 33 80 66 32

www.paysdalencontourisme.com
alencon.tourisme@wanadoo.fr



Office de Tourisme du Pays de Sées

Place du Général de Gaulle
61 500 SEES

Tél. 00 33 (0)2 33 28 74 79

Fax. 00 33 (0)2 33 28 18 13

www.paysdalencontourisme.com
sees.tourisme@wanadoo.fr

