

Ancient and modern

Immerse yourself in French culture at new attractions taking in a working medieval mill, war stories and contemporary art

LUMA ARLES

A disused SNCF railway yard is being transformed – with the help of architects Frank Gehry and Annabelle Selldorf – into a cutting-edge cultural centre in the Provençal town's new Parc des Ateliers.

The LUMA Arles project combines exhibition and performance spaces with artists' studios, libraries and research areas, as well as a panoramic terrace and a restaurant. LUMA Arles will be completed in 2019, but some display and workshop areas are already open.

Until 1 May, you can see an exhibition devoted to the French architect and furniture designer Jean Prouvé, which features the largest number of

his transportable buildings ever assembled in one place. During May, designers from around the world will work with local products at a series of LUMA Days. luma-arles.org

MUSÉE GUERRE ET PAIX EN ARDENNES

The Ardennes region of eastern France has had its share of strife over the centuries, and this is chronicled in compelling fashion in the newly renovated Musée Guerre et Paix en Ardennes. The multimedia displays focus on the conflicts during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, and the two world wars. The



ABOVE: A World War II display at the Musée Guerre et Paix en Ardennes

collection contains 14,000 objects, from heavy machinery to uniforms and firearms. The museum is in Novion-Porcien, between Reims and Charleville-Mézières. guerreetpaix.fr

CHÂTEAU-FORT DE GUÉDELON

In this land of châteaux and fortresses, Guédelon stands out for being a 'medieval' castle that is being built from scratch using the technology of that era. Set in the forests

of northern Burgundy, the site has recently added a working reproduction of a medieval hydraulic flour mill. Work on the castle began in 1997, and the 2018 programme includes transporting, hoisting and assembling more than 250 hand-hewn beams to form the roof timbers of the chapel tower. If you are curious how the wonders of the Middle Ages were constructed and where the materials originated, this is the place to find out. guedelon.fr