

PRESS RELEASE

October 4, 2024

The Caen Millennium (1025-2025)

In 2025, Caen will celebrate its millennium with an ambitious, unifying program that will highlight its assets and inspire pride among the people of Caen, as well as being a real lever of attractiveness for the region. The challenge is to make 2025 a pivotal year, drawing on its history and strengths of today to shape a dynamic and promising future for the city and its community.



Photo: Ville de Caen / Michel Dehayé

2025 will be a festive year, packed with events for all: shows, exhibitions, concerts and much more. It's an opportunity to travel through time, where the past meets the present and the future, and pay tribute to this city with a vibrant heart.

THE MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

To celebrate its millennium, the city of Caen has prepared a **diverse calendar of celebrations** throughout 2025. Here are **six not-to-be-missed highlights**:

MARCH 20-22, 2025

Inauguration of the Millennium at Caen Castle

This emblematic site, chosen for its historical importance, **will reopen its doors after two years of renovation**, in its best light, right in the heart of the city. A monumental animated fresco by artist B959 will be projected onto the castle walls, bringing Caen's story to life - its iconic sites, hidden stories, secrets, and historical turning points.

A **pyrotechnic show** will bring the evening to a close.

An immersive show at the castle «a dive into 1000 years of Caen» that will tell the story of the city through 360° projected scenes in the Salle de l'Echiquier (to be seen all year round from March 21)



Photo: Caen la mer Tourisme / Les Conteurs

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**MARCH 21-28, 2025
History Days**

At three of the city’s historic sites: the Château, the Abbaye aux Dames and the University, the week’s program combines demanding scientific standards with interactive and entertaining events: exhibitions, activities, tours, workshops, film screenings, 3D immersion, guided walks, study days, symposia, round tables, etc.

March 22 & 23 at Abbaye aux Dames: reconstruction of a medieval village “Cadomus in 1025”.



Photo: Tempora

**MAY 9, 2025
the Operatic parade**

5 STATIONS, 5 KILOMETRES, 5 HOURS

This parade will consist of a caravan, a series of 4 monumental works and 5 stations. Each monumental work will symbolise a period in history, or an interweaving of key events in the construction of the city and the lives of its inhabitants.

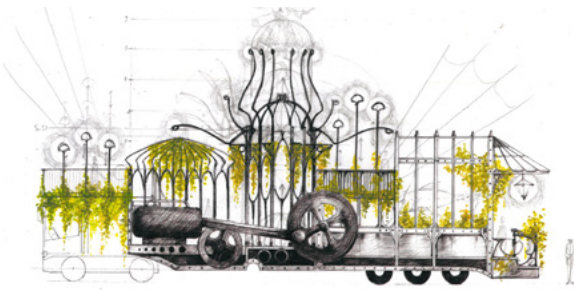






Photo: Le Ballon Vert

**JUNE 27-29, 2025
the Maritime weekend**

From the Presqu’île de Caen to Ouistreham, celebrate the Millennium with a weekend on the water.

The people of Caen are well aware of this, but beyond local borders, many people don’t perceive the area as being in the immediate vicinity of the sea. So, for one weekend, the sea will be in the spotlight in Caen.

-  **3 days** of events, races and demonstrations
-  **3 venues to celebrate water:** Presqu’île de Caen, Bassin Saint-Pierre, Canal de Caen à la mer
-  **48 rigs to represent the 48 communes of Caen la mer, brought together for the 1st time in Caen**
-  **14 kilometers** separating Caen from Ouistreham on the canal will be showcased through free, large-scale events.

Large-scale temporary structures made entirely of cardboard and tape will be created by Olivier Grossetête with the help of local residents: a lighthouse, a Swedish house, a fishing lodge and a floating bridge.



Photo: Caen la mer Tourisme / Les Conteurs



Photo: Jonas Lindqvist

SEPTEMBER 19 TO 21, 2025
Aquanauts, the aquatic show -
Bassin Saint Pierre

From September 19 to 21, 2025, the port of Caen will play host to Aquanauts, a show never seen before in France. Circus artists and synchronised swimmers join forces to offer an aquatic show based on fire, water and air.

Only two cities offered this show, attracting over 120,000 spectators: Prague and Stockholm.

DECEMBER 2025
]Interstice[1000

With UNESCO's "**Creative City for the Digital Arts**" label for 2023, Caen will honor this artistic discipline with **an expanded edition of the]Interstice[festival** which focuses on visual, sound and digital arts, for the Millennium.





In addition to these highlights, concerts, exhibitions, cultural events and symposia **will be held throughout 2025** to celebrate the city's millennium..

An open-air art trail

In the summer of 2025 works of art by international, national and local artists will take up residence in the heart of Caen and Caen la mer's heritage. The entire open-air route will be unveiled in 2025.

In all, almost **66 works** will be installed in emblematic locations, highlighting the city's richness and the 1,000 years of history it represents. **41 of them will be permanent.**

These artists include:

-  **Vincent Leroy**
-  **Olafur Eliasson**
-  **Georges Rousse**
-  **Julien Creuzet**

Find here all the press releases & press kits:

www.millenairecaen2025.fr/en/press-room



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