FONTAINEBLEAU LIVE · WALKING GUIDE · ON FOOT · NO. 1

Fontainebleau on foot

A family walk through the heart of the imperial town

FontainebleauLive.fr



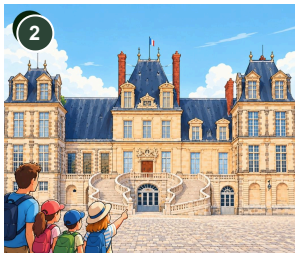
START
Château car park

DURATION
3 h

DISTANCE
≈ 3–4 km

LEVEL
Easy, in town

FOR
All the family





The route at a glance

1	Start: mural & rue de Ferrare	10 min
2	Château: courtyards & Carp Pond	30 min
3	Park & Grand Parterre	40 min
4	Place Napoléon-Bonaparte	10 min
5	Municipal theatre	5 min
6	Rue de Ferrare & rue des Sablons	30 min
7	Place de la République	20 min
8	Saint-Louis church	15 min
9	Town hall & ice cream	20 min
	Approximate total	**3 h**

Before you go

- **Château:** the courtyards and the park are free to enter.
- **Short version (2 h):** skip the English garden, cross the parterre in a straight line and cut through the Diane garden.
- **Pushchairs:** gravel paths in the park.
- **Break:** a small playground on place de la République.
- The château park's opening hours change with the season.

Why this walk?

I have lived in Fontainebleau for several years, and I love showing our gem to everyone who comes to visit. In 3 hours, this walk takes in the finest monuments of Fontainebleau. The children's favourite moment is hide-and-seek in the little box-hedge mazes of the French formal garden. **– Hugues, a Fontainebleau local**

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The 9 stops, step by step

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1 The start

Château car park (Interparking) · 10 min

- From the Château car park, take rue de Ferrare.
- Admire the large mural of Napoleon, then the doorway of the Hôtel du Grand Ferrare.
- Cross place du Général-de-Gaulle to the château's main entrance.

2 The Château de Fontainebleau

Cour d'honneur / White Horse Courtyard · 30 min

- Enter through the main courtyard and admire the famous horseshoe staircase.
- Walk on to the Fountain Courtyard and watch the fish in the Carp Pond (Étang des Carpes).
- Carry on to the English garden (or skip it if you are in a hurry).

WC: inside the château grounds, main courtyard.

3 The château park

Grand Parterre · 40 min

- Stroll through the French formal gardens and their parterres designed by André Le Nôtre.
- Leave through the Diane garden (jardin de Diane).

Long option: explore all three gardens (≈ +60 min).

Tip: hide-and-seek in the little box-hedge mazes.

4 Place Napoléon-Bonaparte

The carousel · 10 min

- Discover the square and its carousel, a favourite with children.
- Admire the Hôtel de l'Aigle Noir, a 16th-century residence (formerly the Hôtel de Retz), renamed "the Black Eagle" under the Empire.

5 The municipal theatre

6 rue Dénecourt · 5 min

- Walk on to the municipal theatre: begun in 1905 and opened in 1912, in Louis XIII style, brick and stone.

6 The shopping streets

Rue de Ferrare & rue des Sablons · 30 min

- From the theatre, take rue Richelieu up to rue de Ferrare, then turn right into rue des Sablons.
- Wander up it to place de la République, past the Théâtre de l'Âne Vert.
- Admire the shopfronts: butchers, florists, fishmonger…

7 Place de la République

Town centre · 20 min

- On Tuesday, Friday and Sunday mornings it is market day (7 am – 1 pm).
- Browse the bookshops on the square: books about the town.
- Pop into the tourist office (entrance on the square).

Tip: a small playground awaits the youngest.

8 Saint-Louis church

Rue de la Paroisse · 15 min

- Walk down rue de la Paroisse to Saint-Louis church, a 17th-century gem built under Louis XIII.

WC: 2 rue de la Paroisse, between place de la République and the church.

9 Town hall & treats

44 rue Grande · 20 min

- Take rue Grande towards the château and pass the town hall, rebuilt under the Second Empire in 1864.
- Near place de l'Étape, find the secret passage!
- Back to the Château car park along rue de France, then rue de Ferrare.

Tip: a little passage climbs from rue Grande to rue du Conventionnel-Geoffroy and rue des Trois-Maillets… where excellent ice cream awaits.

The little explorers' challenge

Tick off each treasure you spot along the way. Found them all? You've earned your ice cream!

- ☐ Napoleon's mural
- ☐ The horseshoe staircase
- ☐ A carp in the pond
- ☐ A box-hedge maze
- ☐ The carousel
- ☐ The municipal theatre
- ☐ The Théâtre de l'Âne Vert
- ☐ A market stall
- ☐ A book about the château
- ☐ Saint-Louis's stained glass
- ☐ The town hall flag
- ☐ The secret passage

Street art: Invader's mosaics

- ☐ Lamp with a lampshade (rue Dénecourt)
- ☐ Napoleon in his bicorne (place de la République)
- ☐ Red alien with a book (rue du Conventionnel-Geoffroy)
- ☐ Blue alien with glasses (rue des Trois-Maillets)

Fancy the forest? 3 two-hour walks from town

1. Faisanderie & Mont Aigu
Start: Faisanderie car park.

2. Croix du Calvaire & Tour Dénecourt
Start: Fontainebleau-Avon station.

3. Mont Ussy & the Route Tournante on the Hauteurs de la Solle
Start: Mont Ussy car park.

Forest access: some areas may be closed (2026 fires). Check onf.fr before setting off.