FONTAINEBLEAU LIVE · DRIVING GUIDE · BY CAR · NO. 3

Fontainebleau by car

2 family loops: painters' villages and the Loing valley

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LOOPS	DISTANCES	TIME	ON THE WAY	FOR
North-west · South	≈ 30–45 km	Half a day to a day	Easy walks	All the family

The 2 loops at a glance

	Loop	Distance	Driving	With visits
1	**North-west loop: Arbonne, Courances & Barbizon**	≈ 30 km (45 km with Courances)	45 min	Half a day
2	**South loop: the Loing valley, from Moret to Grez**	≈ 45 km	1 h 15	1 day

Before you go

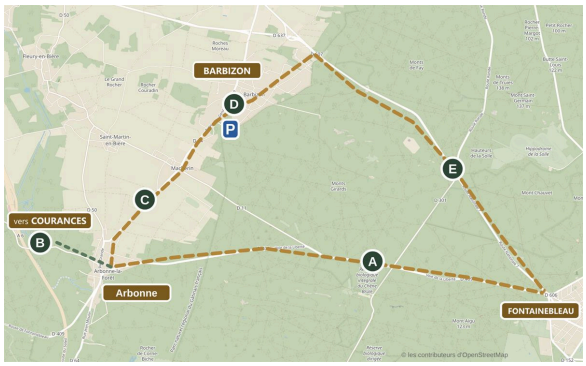
- **Opening hours:** check the châteaux' opening days (Courances: April to early November, afternoons).
- **In the boot:** a picnic for the banks of the Loing.
- **Forest:** some areas may be closed (2026 fires), check onf.fr.

Why these routes?

To get away from Fontainebleau, here are my two favourite drives. A beautiful loop to the north through Barbizon, and a breath of fresh air to the south, along the Loing, for a picnic by the water. Nature and culture all the way. **– Hugues, a Fontainebleau local**

1 North-west loop: Arbonne, Courances & Barbizon

Start: Fontainebleau · ≈ 30 km (≈ 45 km with Courances) · half a day · painters' villages and châteaux



A	From Fontainebleau, take the D409 through the forest to Arbonne-la-Forêt.	≈ 12 km	20 min
B	Recommended detour: from the centre of Arbonne, the little forest road to Courances leads to the Château de Courances.	+ 15 km return	2 h
C	From Arbonne, head for Macherin, then Barbizon. Park on place Marc-Jacquet.	≈ 9 km	15 min
D	On foot, walk up the Grande Rue to the forest: painters' houses, studios, galleries.	on foot	1 h
E	From the car park, back to Fontainebleau along the D607 (avenue de Fontainebleau).	≈ 10 km	15 min
	Driving total (without detour)	**≈ 30 km**	**45 min**

Don't miss: the Château de Courances, its park and its water mirrors. Allow 2 h with the visit.

Tip: at the end of the Grande Rue, look for the medallion of Millet and Rousseau; walk on to the Elephant rock (45 min on foot).

Mini-game · The painting hunter

- ☐ An "Arbonne-la-Forêt" sign
- ☐ A mosaic of a painting on a wall
- ☐ The two painters' medallion
- ☐ A water mirror at Courances
- ☐ An old inn sign
- ☐ The elephant-shaped rock

The riddle

The medallion honours Jean-François M _ _ _ _ _ and Théodore R _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
At the end of the Grande Rue.

Who painted "The Angelus"? Find the mosaic!
Clue: the same as above.

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The Loing valley, step by step

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2 South loop: the Loing valley, from Moret to Grez

Start: Obélisque roundabout · ≈ 45 km · 1 day · medieval towns, canal and riverbanks



A	From the Obélisque roundabout, the D606 leads to Moret-sur-Loing. Park near the porte de Samois.	≈ 10 km	15 min
B	On foot: the rue Grande, the so-called house of François I (town hall courtyard), the porte de Bourgogne, the bridge and the riverbanks; picnic on the pré Margaron (left bank, via rue de la Pêcherie).	on foot	1 h 30
C	Back in the car: the D104 towards Montigny, right onto the route de Sorques, across the Loing canal to Episy.	≈ 8 km	15 min
D	The D40 leads to La Genevraye (Romanesque church of Saint-Martin on the left), then Moncourt-Fromonville; at the roundabout, right towards Grez-sur-Loing.	≈ 10 km	15 min
E	Park after the campsite (chemin des Prés). On foot: old bridge, tour de Ganne, Saint-Laurent church, wash house. Back along the D104, then the N7 due north.	≈ 15 km	1 h
	Driving total	**≈ 45 km**	**1 h 15**

Tip: in Moret, don't miss the Renaissance gallery of the maison Chabouillé, then cross the bridge and follow the banks along the chemin des Impressionnistes.

Tip: in Episy, a 30 to 40 min walk along the canal or through the marshes.

Mini-game · Secrets of the Loing

- ☐ Moret's two fortified gates
- ☐ A mill by the water
- ☐ A barge
- ☐ A ruined tower
- ☐ A carved Renaissance façade
- ☐ A lock on the canal
- ☐ A Romanesque bell tower
- ☐ A wash house

The riddle

The painter Alfred S _ _ _ _ _ _ painted Moret hundreds of times.
An English Impressionist.

Moret has two gates: the porte de Samois and the porte de B _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
You walk through it.

If you have time… to the north

The Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte

Further away; allow half a day for the visit.

If you have time… to the south

Larchant and its forest

Allow half a day for a walk in the forest.

Answers for the grown-ups, read upside down:

Loop 1: Millet · Rousseau · Millet (The Angelus) **Loop 2:** Sisley · Bourgogne