



# Tours

Photo: Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

The bright, lively capital of the Loire Valley region is nestled between two rivers: the Loire and the Cher, with the picturesque Vieux Tours old quarter lying on the long, narrow peninsula. Brilliant modern architecture contrasts against an array of historic buildings, with an added bonus of fine food and wine famed all over France.



racorn/Shutterstock.com



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

**QUIZ**  
*What Type of Traveller  
Are You Based on  
Your Travel IQ?*

**TAKE THE QUIZ**

## Top 5



### Vieux Tours (Old Town)

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### Cathedral St Gatien

The beautiful stained glass windows illuminate Cathedral St Gatien. This maj...



### Cloister of la Psalette

In these lovely Gothic-Renaissance cloisters, an elaborate open-sided stairc...



### Hôtel Gouin / Musée Archéo...

Hôtel Gouin / Musée Archéologique is home of a 15th-century silk merchant an...



### Musée du Compagnonnage

This unique museum deals with the history of craft guilds that represented r...





## THE CITY



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

Tours (the 's' is silent) lies at the heart of Loire Châteaux Country, a legacy of the centuries when it was the capital of France and the French royal court was based in the Loire Valley. The châteaux of Chenonceau, Blois, Amboise, Cheverny, Azay, Villandry, and Chaumont are all within an hour's drive. Quality, elegance and class are the region's hallmarks, also famous for the vineyards surrounding the city. In the city, stylish streets are adorned by neat lines of white stone and black slate.

South of the Cher and north of the Loire extend the newer business districts. The main attraction though is the historic centre between the rivers. In medieval times, Rue Colbert was the main street. Mainly pedestrianized, it remains a domain of little shops and cafés, as well as the museums and Gothic cathedral, beautifully lit up at night. Today, the main street is the always bustling Rue Nationale, with department stores and dozens of interesting small shops.

## DO & SEE



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

Tours, an ideal destination for lovers of historical and natural heritage, is known to many as the "City of art and history". The city offers historical sites like the Old Town, Cathedral St Gatien, and the amazing art of Rembrandt and Rubens, which you can find in the Musée des Beaux Arts. After the obligatory cultural programme, take a romantic walk along the river Loire or head to a wine tasting, where you will be introduced to superb local wines.

### Vieux Tours (Old Town)



The half-timbered medieval houses line lanes date from Roman times. At its heart, relaxed Place Plumereau, the centre of Tours' nightlife, is filled to the brim with café tables.

Photo: VANILLA FIRE/Shutterstock.com

Address: Place Plumereau, Tours

More Info: Between pl. des Halles and rue Nationale

### Cathedral St Gatien



The beautiful stained glass windows illuminate Cathedral St Gatien. This majestic building includes Romanesque, Gothic, and Renaissance architecture, a real gem for everyone interested in architecture.

Photo: Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Pl. de la Cathédrale, Tours

### Cloister of la Psalette



In these lovely Gothic-Renaissance cloisters, an elaborate open-sided staircase spirals up to elegant galleries. The round tower alongside was part of the city's Roman wall.

Photo: wjarek/Shutterstock.com

Address: 7 rue de la Psalette, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 47 05 19

### Hôtel Gouin / Musée Archéologique



Hôtel Gouin / Musée Archéologique is home of a 15th-century silk merchant and a masterpiece of ornate, lavish Renaissance decoration inside and out. This is Tours' main historical museum.

Photo: julian elliott/Shutterstock.com

Address: 25 rue du Commerce, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 66 22 32

### Musée du Compagnonnage



This unique museum deals with the history of craft guilds that represented rope makers, wood turners, clog makers and similar occupations. The museum was created in honour of fine workmanship. Right next to the museum you can find another museum about wine.

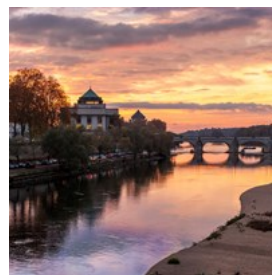
Photo: Miroslav Hlavko/Shutterstock.com

Address: 8 rue Nationale, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 61 07 93

Internet: [www.museecompaonnage.fr](http://www.museecompaonnage.fr)

### Riverside walks



If you want to go out for a relaxing walk, the Loire is a great place to head for. You will find walkways alongside the river, perfect for pleasant and quiet walks beside the water.

Photo: Grantibo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Loire, Tours

### Musée des Beaux Arts



At Musée des Beaux Arts you can find works by Rubens, Rembrandt, Degas and Delacroix, all gathered here in the old Archbishops' Palace. In the courtyard there is a 200-year-old tree and a 100-year-old stuffed circus elephant.

Photo: Casper Moller (image cropped)

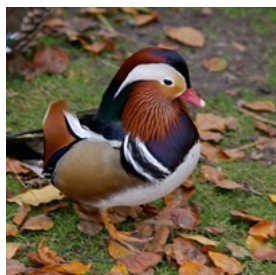
Address: 18 pl. F. Sicard, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 05 68 73

Internet: [www.mba.tours.fr](http://www.mba.tours.fr)

Email: [g.lauverjat@ville-tours.fr](mailto:g.lauverjat@ville-tours.fr)

### Jardin Botanique de Tours



Except for the greenhouses and lush greenery in the summer months, this Botanical Garden also houses a mini-zoo (which will surely delight the little ones), as well as many picnic-perfect areas.

Photo: Daniel Jolivet (image cropped)

Address: 35 Boulevard Tonnelles, Tours

### Place Plumereau



Place Plumereau is a bustling Tours city square that comes alive in the evenings, when students flock to it and restaurants start getting filled with people. Dining options abound in and around the area.

Photo: Fabien LE JEUNE (image cropped)

Address: Place Plumereau, Tours

### Hotel de Ville



Not at all a hotel, but rather Tours' City Hall, this imposing edifice is a must-see architectural landmark. Lit up by night, the building and the fountain complex next to it make for a somewhat magical sight.

Photo: naipung/Shutterstock.com

Address: 3 rue des Minimes, Tours

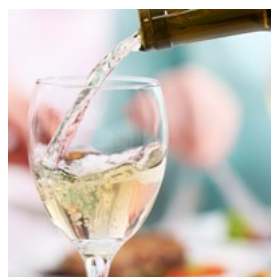
## DINING



AMatveev/Shutterstock.com

Tours enjoys fine dining and good wines at moderate prices. Tourte Tourangelle (pork-filled pastry), potted pork meats called rillettes, as well as rilette de pigeon and rilette de canard are the main specialities, plus fresh fish from the Loire, and goat cheese produced locally. The best local wines come from nearby Vouvray and Montlouis.

### Charles Barrier



Charles Barrier is a leading light in the region's restaurant scene, with top quality seafood, the best local wines and superb desserts. You can find this gem on the Loire's north bank.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: 101 ave de la Tranchée, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 54 20 39

Internet: [www.charles-barrier.fr](http://www.charles-barrier.fr)

### Le Petit Patrimoine



This is one of the best in an Old Quarter street that is home to many inexpensive eating places with classic menus. The restaurant is very small with a pleasant atmosphere.



Photo: wrangler/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 58 rue Colbert, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 66 05 81  
Internet: www.lepetitpatrimoine.fr

### Le Surya



If an Indian meal takes your fancy, this tandoori restaurant in Vieux Tours is inexpensive and has great food. A warm and welcoming place where you can enjoy your dinner to the soft traditional music played in the background.

Photo: Joe Gough/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 65 rue Colbert, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 64 34 04  
Internet: www.surya-restaurant-indien-37.fr

### Le Roche Le Roy



Le Roche Le Roy is one of the classiest places in town. The restaurant is situated in a handsome 18th-century manor house with pretty gardens. The top chef serves high quality dishes.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 55 rue St Avertin, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 27 22 00  
Internet: www.rocheleroy.com

### La Deuvaliere



La Deuvaliere offers reasonably priced lunch menus. This popular restaurant is situated in an attractive old house. Here you can truly expect good value for money.

Photo: Refat/Shutterstock.com

Address: 18 rue de la Monnair, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 64 01 57  
Internet: www.restaurant-ladeuvaliere.com

### La Maison des Halles



La Maison des Halles consistently delivers superb innovative French dishes, and is nearly impossible to get seated at without a reservation. Make sure to plan your visit in advance.

Photo: istetiana/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 19 place des Halles, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 39 96 90  
Internet: www.maisondeshalles.com  
Email: restmdg@orange.fr

### Nobuki



Nobuki is an excellent Japanese restaurant in the heart of Tours, with pre-set dinner menus available. Make sure to make a reservation in advance.

Photo: Kwangmoozaa/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 3 Rue Buffon, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 05 79 79  
Internet: nobuki.fr  
Email: bonjour@nobuki.fr

### Vanne



Vanne is a Korean restaurant that serves authentic Korean cuisine. The staff are very knowledgeable and make sure to introduce visitors to the Korean dining customs, as well as provide detailed information about the dishes on offer.

Photo: Peter Kim/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 26 rue Georges Courteline, Tours  
Phone: +33 9 65 10 88 81  
Internet: [www.restaurant-coreen-vanne.blogspot.fr](http://www.restaurant-coreen-vanne.blogspot.fr)  
Email: [vanne@gmail.com](mailto:vanne@gmail.com)

### Leonard de Vinci



In the heart of the historic center of Tours, you will find this charming, small Italian restaurant where you can enjoy very large pasta portion accompanied with wine. The food is served by the friendly staff and the price is reasonable.

Photo: stockcreations/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 19 Rue Monnaie, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 61 07 88  
Internet: [www.leonard-de-vinci.info](http://www.leonard-de-vinci.info)  
Email: [ecrire@leonard-de-vinci.info](mailto:ecrire@leonard-de-vinci.info)

### Le Marche Gourmand



Le Marche Gourmand, a popular restaurant that fills up quickly so reservation is helpful. On the menu you will find French specialties which is served by the attentive staff.

Photo: RBerger/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 27, rue du Grand-Marche, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 64 50 38  
Internet: [www.lemarchegourmand.fr](http://www.lemarchegourmand.fr)  
Email: [mail@lemarchegourmand.fr](mailto:mail@lemarchegourmand.fr)

## CAFÉS



*Ditty\_about\_summer/Shutterstock.com*

Bars, cafés, and brasseries (bars which serve meals) overlap with no clear distinction. All of them offer the chance to relax, enjoy a drink and a bite to eat, and watch the world go by during the day and often far into the evening too. Most bars in Vieux Tours stay open till 2 am or later.

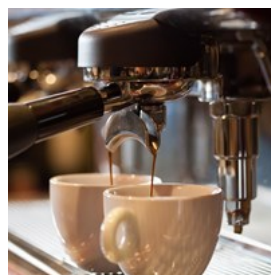
### Au Temps des Rois



Au Temps des Rois is one of the most popular bars in Vieux Tours, with good atmosphere and music. Both young and old are welcome to this English decorated venue.

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 3 pl Plumereau, Tours  
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9am-2am  
Phone: +33 2 47 05 04 51

### Les Relais d'Alsace - Taverne Karlsbrau



This popular mainstream brasserie is open seven days a week for food, drinks and a convivial atmosphere from 9am to midnight. You will find this chain restaurant in city centre of Tour.

Photo: Lostry7/Shutterstock.com

Address: 48 rue Nationale, Tours  
Opening hours: Daily 9am-midnight  
Phone: +33 2 57 54 61 72  
Internet: tours.lesrelaisdalsace.com

### L'Annexe



L'Annexe is a bar and restaurant that serves “dishes of the day”. The menu also offers salads, grilled fish and tasty desserts like chocolate cake and Crème Brûlée. If a sunny day you can enjoy your food and drink on the large terrace.

Photo: Foodpictures/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 9 Place Jean Jaurès, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 20 62 12

### Brunch Et Gout Thé



This small place provides wide selections of teas. You will find all kinds of black teas, green teas and red teas. They also serve coffee and to accompany your drink there is always something sweet on the menu like cake or pastry.

Photo: B and E Dudzinsky/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 19 Rue Jules Favre, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 60 98 46

### Bagels & Coffees



Bagels & Coffees is located in the centre of the town. Here you can enjoy delicious bagels with Parma ham, mozzarella and other tasty fillings accompanied with hot beverages. They also serve muffins and donuts if you have a sweet tooth.

Photo: littleny/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 13 rue du commerce, Tours  
Phone: +33 6 76 69 49 26  
Internet: www.bagelsandcoffees.com  
Email: contact@bagelsandcoffees.com

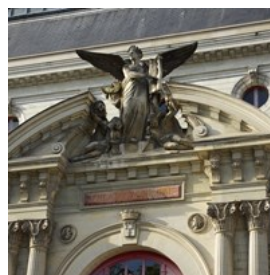
### BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Fabien LE JEUNE (image cropped)

With 30,000 students living in Tours, there are dozens of late-night bars, dance clubs and discos. Centre of the action is place Plumereau. In addition there are cabaret shows and other after-dark entertainment plus concerts, classical dance and theatre.

### Grand Théâtre de Tours



If you feel like enjoying a night at the opera you should go to Grand Théâtre de Tours, one of the city's principal venues. Here you can choose from a full programme throughout the year.

Photo: Duch.seb (image cropped)  
Address: 34 rue de la Scellerie, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 60 20 00  
Internet: www.operadetours.fr  
Email: theatre-billetterie@ville-tours.fr



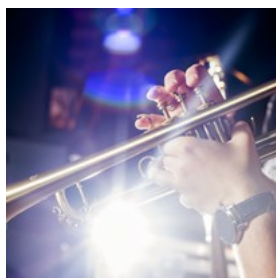
### Cabaret Nello



Cabaret Nello is a dinner show that offers a real good time with glitzy entertainment. This will be an evening full of laughter and a place for you to enjoy dance shows and funny sketches.

Photo: GlebStock/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 8 rue Auguste Chevallier, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 39 12 11  
Internet: [www.cabaretnello.com](http://www.cabaretnello.com)  
Email: [cabaretcheznello@orange.fr](mailto:cabaretcheznello@orange.fr)

### Petit Fauchoux

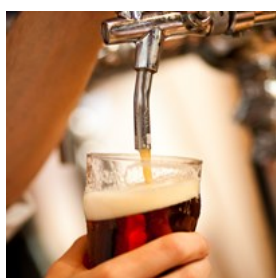


Another great venue that lets you enjoy music is the Petit Fauchoux. This celebrated jazz venue hosts performers from around the country in a

varied programme.

Photo: Vinogradov Illya/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 12 rue Léonard de Vinci, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 38 67 62  
Internet: [www.petitfauchoux.fr](http://www.petitfauchoux.fr)

### L'Epée Royale



Located in the lively Plumereau square, this bar is a popular haunt among locals. It is well-equipped for watching live sports and

is open late into the night.

Photo: Minerva Studio/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 13 place Plumereau, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 34 05 79

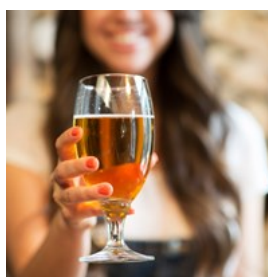
### La Guinguette



La Guinguette is a beautiful riverside venue with a unique ambiance, open-air beer garden and a stage that is frequented by live musicians.

Photo: Tsuguliev/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 1 place Anatole France, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 77 04 88

### Le Gambrinus



With its selection of over 120 varieties of beer, Le Gambrinus is a beer-lovers' paradise and is most certainly worth the detour from the Old

Town center.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 69 bis rue Blaise Pascal, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 05 17 00  
Internet: [www.tours-gambrinus.com](http://www.tours-gambrinus.com)  
Email: [contact@tours-gambrinus.com](mailto:contact@tours-gambrinus.com)

## SHOPPING



Spencer Means (image cropped)

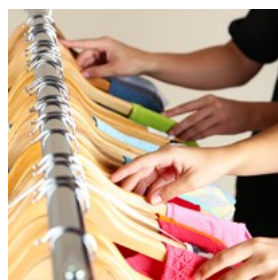
The main shopping street in central Tours is Rue Nationale, with the department store Galeries Lafayette and dozens of interesting smaller fashion stores.



For local food specialities both sweet and savoury, there is a comprehensive selection at Les Douceurs Tourangelles, 104 rue du Commerce, and at Le Livre Tournois, 6 rue Nationale.

There are several markets in Tours. The main one is at Les Halles, among others are the evening market in place de la Résistance on the first Friday of every month, the twice-weekly flower market on blvd Béranger and the antiquarian bookstalls on blvd Heurteloup every Saturday.

### Galerie Nationale



Galerie Nationale is an indoor shopping center located in the heart of the city centre and offers jewelers, perfumes and chic fashions. Here you should look for style, not just bargains.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 72 Rue nationale, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 61 65 65  
Internet: [www.galerie-nationale.fr](http://www.galerie-nationale.fr)  
Email: [contact@galerie-nationale.fr](mailto:contact@galerie-nationale.fr)

### Galleries Lafayette



Galleries Lafayette is a celebrated upscale department store that can be found in most bigger cities in France. Anything your heart desires is at an arm's length here.

Photo: Fabien LE JEUNE (image cropped)  
Address: 77 Rue nationale, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 31 28 28  
Internet: [www.gallerieslafayette.com](http://www.gallerieslafayette.com)

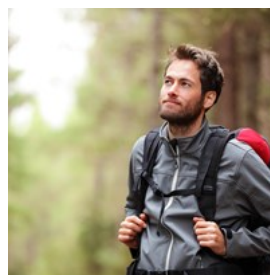
### Catimini



Catimini sells super-chic toddler wear and is the place to go if you're looking to find the perfect gift for young parents.

Photo: Andresr/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 72 Rue nationale, Tours  
Opening hours: Monday - Saturday: 10am- 7 pm, Sunday: closed  
Phone: +33 2 47 20 47 00  
Internet: [www.catimini.com](http://www.catimini.com)  
More Info: Galerie Nationale

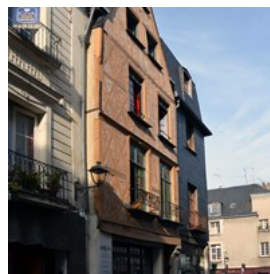
### Nature et Découverte



Everything is nature-themed in this unusual boutique that will equip you with outdoor exploration gear as well as nature-themed items (even if you're not exactly planning to head into the wild anytime soon).

Photo: Maridav/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 25 Rue nationale, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 70 27 70  
Internet: [www.natureetdecouvertes.com](http://www.natureetdecouvertes.com)

### Rue Colbert



Cutting across rue Nationale, historic rue Colbert, mainly pedestrianized, has an attractive array of small shops, including many specialist stores. For antiques and artwork, visit parallel rue de la Scellerie.

Photo: Pline (image cropped)  
Address: Rue Colbert, Tours

### Les Halles Market



all sorts of fresh produce.

There are several markets in Tours. The main one, at Les Halles, the covered market at the edge of Vieux Tours, takes place daily and sells

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com

Address: Place Gaston Paillhou, Tours

Opening hours: Daily 7.30am-12.30pm

Phone: +33 2 47 39 04 89

Internet: [www.halles-de-tours.com](http://www.halles-de-tours.com)

### Rue Nationale



one of the oldest streets and for sure the busiest shopping street in the city of Tours.

Rue Nationale is the main commercial artery of the city, where most department stores, shops and boutiques are concentrated. It is in fact

Photo: Sylvain Naudin (image cropped)

Address: Rue Nationale, Tours

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

### Aéroport de Tours-Val de Loire



The small, modern Aéroport de Tours-Val de Loire is located on the edge of the city, 7 kilometers from the center. If you would like to rent a car you will find several car rental companies here.

There is a shuttle bus running between the airport and the city center. If flying to and from London, by far the easiest and quickest way into town is on the shuttle bus for London passengers. It runs to the railway station in Tours city center.

You can alternatively take a taxi which is available outside the airport terminal.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Aéroport de Tours-Val de Loire, Tours

Phone: +33 2 47 49 37 00

Internet: [www.tours.aeroport.fr](http://www.tours.aeroport.fr)

### Public transport



Vieux Tours is small and can easily be discovered by foot. From morning until night, the Fil Blue public buses serve all the main streets in Tours. On some roads service continues all night. Tickets and cards can be bought from the bus driver or the Fil Blue shop.

Tours has also a modern tram system which allows for easy and inexpensive access to major landmarks. Tickets can be bought from the ticket machine which are located at the tram/bus station.



Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair  
Address: 9 rue Michelet, Tours  
Phone: +33 2 47 66 70 70  
Internet: [www.filbleu.fr](http://www.filbleu.fr)

### Taxi



Taxis display a yellow sign on the roof. They can be hailed, phoned or picked up at cab ranks around town. Fares are metered by distance, journey time and time of day. Tips are optional.

Taxi Jacques  
+33 6 720 242 06

Taxi Plus  
+33 2 47 39 51 66

Taxis Tours:

Photo: ArrivalGuides  
Phone: +33 2 47 20 30 40  
Internet: [www.taxis-tours.fr](http://www.taxis-tours.fr)

### Post



Look for the yellow and blue sign to find a post office. You can buy stamps from kiosks and newsagents. Main post office:

Photo: Andy Fuchs  
Address: 1 bd Béranger, Tours  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8.30 am-6.30 pm. Sat 9 am-5 pm.  
Note that opening hours vary depending on the season.  
Internet: [www.laposte.fr](http://www.laposte.fr)

### Pharmacy



On the door of any pharmacy a list shows which pharmacy is on night duty. The list is also available from the police office. Pharmacie du

Grand Marché:

Photo: Gemma Garner  
Address: 37 Place du Grand Marché, Tours  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-7.30 pm. Sat 8 am-7 pm  
Phone: +33 2 47 38 61 36  
Internet: [www.pharminfo.fr](http://www.pharminfo.fr)

### Telephone



Country code: +33 Area code: 0247

Photo: Jardson Almeida

### Electricity

220/240 V, 50 Hz



Photo: Stirling Tschan

**Population**  
Approximately 140,000

**Currency**  
Euro (EUR) €1 = 100 cents

**Opening hours**  
Most shops are open from Tuesdays to Saturdays between 9 am-12 pm and 3-7 pm. Most supermarkets are open Mondays to Saturdays between 8.30 am-12.30 pm and 3-7.30 pm, and have late closing on certain days. Most museums and sights keep similar hours, but are closed one day a week, usually Monday or Tuesday.

#### **Newspapers**

La Nouvelle République  
Le Monde (national)

#### **Emergency numbers**

Police: 17  
Ambulance: 15/112  
Fire Brigade: 18

#### **Tourist information**

Office De Tourisme De Tours  
78-82 rue Bernard Palissy, Tours (near the railway station)  
+33 2 47 70 37 37  
Opening hours:  
April to September: Mon-Sat 8.30 am-7 pm. Sun 10  
am-12.30 pm and 2.30-5 pm  
October to March: Mon-Sat 9 am-12.30 pm and 1.30-6 pm.  
Sun 10 am-1 pm



