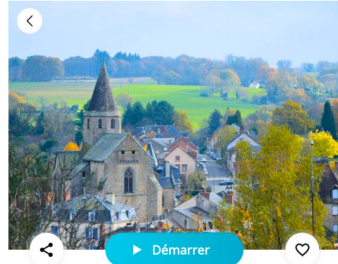




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FIND THE ITINERARY IN AN INTERACTIVE DIGITAL FORMAT



**NEXON
CITY CENTRE ROUTE**



**THE SMALL
Map OF NEXON**



WWW.VISITLIMOUSIN.COM

IPNS - Création graphique : @Benoit_Mauger / @Hélène_Badoinot
Photographies : @Benoit_Mauger - OT Pays de Nexon - Monts de Châlus



HIKING NEARBY

- Pond trail and fishermen's promenade - 2h30 - 10km
- Quarry trail - 5h10 - 20.7km
- Trail available on the free Loopi app and in paper format at the tourist office.
- Terra Aventura - Qu'est-ce que c'est que ce cirque ? - 1h - A 3km treasure hunt trail for the young hikers



PICNIC AREA

- Etang de la Lande
- Etang de la Lande
- Parc du château

HAVE A DRINK - DINE

- Le Noctambule - 7 place Annie Fratellini - bar, tobacco shop, press - +33 (0)5 55 58 10 48
- O coquin de sort - 7 rue Pasteur - Library, spread bar, coffee, wine cellar - +33 (0)5 55 79 35 64
- Brasserie l'Eden - 17 avenue Charles De Gaulle bar, tobacco shop, restaurant - +33 (0)5 55 58 12 57
- Bakery - Pastry - L'Atelier Sucre - 12 rue Gambetta - +33 (0)5 87 08 29 50



EATING LOCAL, WHAT A DELIGHT!

- Market every Friday morning and fair on the 3rd of the month, place de la République
- V'la Aut'chose - 9 rue Pasteur - Community-owned grocery shop featuring local and organic products - +33 (0)5 55 58 80 16
- La Crèmerie de Jadis - 9 pl. Annie Fratellini - Cheese shop - 05 55 70 63 75



1. WELCOME TO NEXON

A charming commune in Haute-Vienne, Nexon presents a harmonious blend of heritage, nature, and authenticity. Surrounded by picturesque landscapes, characteristic of Limousin, nature lovers will be delighted by the diverse verdant landscapes, ideal for hiking, cycling, horseback riding and discovering the local flora and fauna.

2. LA PLACE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE (THE REPUBLIC SQUARE)

Still today, markets and fairs are run on this square. This echoes with the daily lives of the inhabitants which were once filled with cattle and pigs. In the past, these fairs allowed breeders to exchange news but, above all, to showcase their livestock. The end of the 19th century finally saw the decline of the fairs with cars replacing livestock, and the square has somewhat become what we see today.

3. LE JARDIN DES SENS (THE GARDEN OF THE SENSES)

Created in 1996, this garden is located between the retirement home and the school complex, forming a real bridge between generations. Nestled in the heart of Nexon, it reveals a wide range of plants with their captivating fragrances, diverse textures and vibrant colours awakening all the senses.

4. THE BELVEDERE

From here, you can enjoy an unobstructed view of the surrounding agricultural areas, characterized by brown and acidic soil, sometimes mixed with sand. Woodland, wooded hedges and huge forests constitute the vegetation. You can often find oaks, beeches, and chestnut trees - species which once played a significant role in the lives of the inhabitants (food, heating, furniture).

5. LA CHAPELLE DU PARC (THE PARK CHAPEL)

At the turn of this grand driveway, you can find the tomb of the Gay de Nexon family, built in the 19th century. Numerous generations have rested in this private structure since 1806. Among them is Adrienne Chanel, Baroness of Nexon from 1932 to 1956 and aunt of the famous fashion designer Coco Chanel.

6. LE PARC DU CHÂTEAU (NEXON CASTLE PARK)

Listed in the inventory of Historic Monuments, this landscaped park is entirely enclosed by a stone wall of no less than 38 hectares. Commissioned by Baron Astolphe de Nexon in the mid-19th century, it was conceived and designed by the renowned landscape architect Paul de Lavenne de Choulot. Several paths are lined with rhododendrons and azaleas, and the park is embellished with an English river, a waterfall, and the Saint-Ferréol rock (with legend promising happiness to the newlyweds sitting on it).

7. LE SIRQUE - PÔLE NATIONALE CIRQUE À NEXON, EN NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE

In 1986, a French clown named Annie Fratellini was searching for a city to host some introductory circus courses during summer. The following year, she convinced the municipality to host the first workshop in the greenery of Nexon Castle Park.

Created in 1992, the Nexon Tourist Office organized an event titled "Art Meeting Circus." This brought forth to a flamboyant program with films, exhibitions, shows, etc... and gave rise to the formation of the National Circus Centre and its summer festival that continues this day.

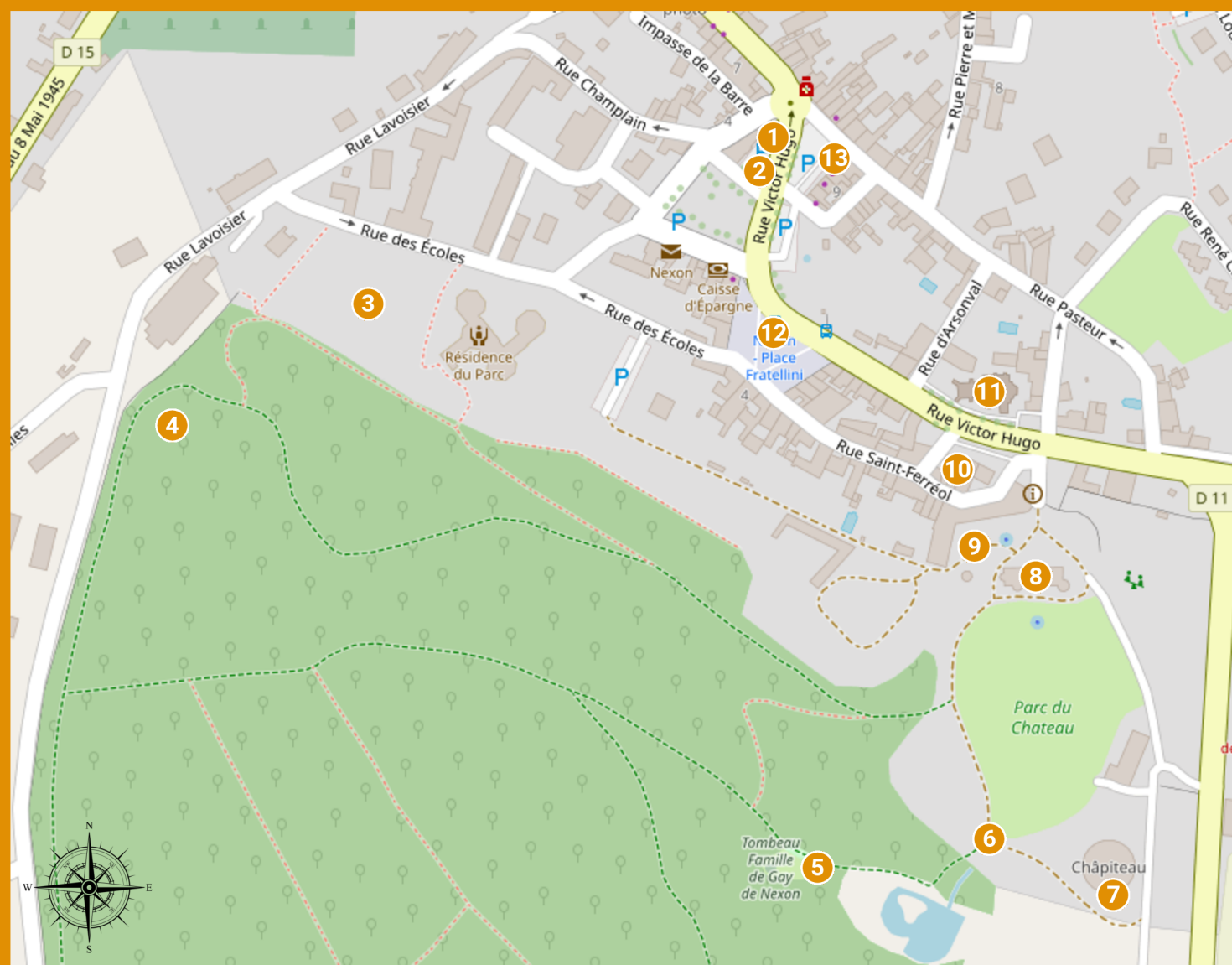
Why "Sirque" (circus) is spelt with an "S" (rather than "cirque" as it is spelt in French)?

This acrobatic "S" symbolises the contemporary circus in all its diversity. In 2007, "Art Meeting Circus" was renamed "Le Sirque."

The discovery of Nexon...



PEDESTRIAN ROUTE
1h20 - 2.5km



8. LE CHÂTEAU DE NEXON (NEXON CASTLE)

Serving as the town hall today, this building was once the residence of an old Limousin family named "Gay de Nexon." Léonard Gay purchased the co-seigniory of Nexon in 1532, which included an uninhabitable house. His nephew, Léonard II Gay, later acquired another dilapidated house nearby in 1620. Finally, he had the two ruins demolished to build the current castle in 1623. Using the old foundations, the reconstruction began with walls of the cellar. The following year began the actual construction of the estate (castle, barns, stables, orangery, etc.). This stud farm is thus one of the oldest in France. The work was complete in 1633 and the estate had been owned by the same family for 350 years until it was bought by the municipality in 1983.

9. THE FORMER STABLES

The Gay de Nexon family has been recognized for breeding luxury horses and supplying the royal stables since 1550. They began to breed the English purebreds seriously around 1840. Nexon was one of the leading horse breeders in Limousin in the 19th century and it became a driving force for the local economy.

His nephew, Ferréol de Nexon, succeeded the family at a time when horse breeding and racing were unfortunately no longer profitable (1970-1980). He gradually withdrew from the business, after which he decided to part with his ancestral home, where maintenance costs were becoming increasingly onerous. In 1983, he sold the property to the municipality.

10. PAUL BUFORN - ÉMAILLEUR & LES ATELIERS DE L'ESPERLUETTE

11. L'ÉGLISE DE LA DÉCOLLATION-DE-SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE (CHURCH OF BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST)

Constructed from the 11th century (transept, apse, and apse chapel) to the 15th century (the elevation of the nave and the addition of the sacristy), this church in Nexon consists of both Romanesque and Gothic architectural elements. The church was built mainly out of Limousin granite due to its special durability. Facing the castle, the building still bears the remnants of medieval fortifications. The buttresses and brattice on the west façade can still be recognized. The granite bell tower, a special local feature, should not be missed. The church has been partially classified as Historic Monuments since 1926, namely the apse and the presbytery (the Romanesque part).

12. LA PLACE ANNIE FRATELLINI (ANNIE FRATELLINI SQUARE)

Born in Algiers, Annie Fratellini began her career at the Cirque Medrano in 1948 and was the first woman to play the role of Auguste the clown (the joyful clown with a red nose). After her circus workshops were established in Nexon, the summer event "Les Arts à la Rencontre du Cirque" (Arts Meeting Circus) was formed in 1992.

In homage to Annie Fratellini, the market square was renamed after her. This gesture was an expression of profound gratitude to Annie Fratellini who made Nexon shine in the field of circus, cultural tourism and leisure.

13. "LAINES" ("WOOL")

This sign bears witness to the trade of Henri Malardeau, a 20th century dyer. He built a spinning mill and diversified its activity by transforming fleece into balls of yarn. Upon his retirement, his descendants took over the business, but the activities were changed to adapt to the new ways of consumption (ready-made clothes and dry cleaning).