

## TO COMPLETE YOUR VISIT...

**A The native house of General Hirschauer (20 rue Hirschauer) :** General Hirschauer (1857-1943), one of the founding fathers of the French military aviation industry and senator of Moselle in 1920, was born in this house on June 16, 1857.

**B Protestant church (Rue des Anglais):** This sober, elegant neo-gothic style building created from plans by the architect Wahn, welcomes parishioners from the Lutheran Church of the Confession of Augsburg, Alsace and Moselle. It was opened in 1889. Noted for its acoustics which result from its nave ceiling which is shaped like an overturned boat. *Outside visit only.*



**C Synagogue (Rue de la Mertzelle):** A modern building constructed in 1956 following the plans of the architect Zonka from Metz. The avant-garde cubic shape is completely covered in stars of David. *Outside visit only.*

**D Houses on the Rue Poincaré:** Beautiful 18th century houses at number 12 and 14. Jean-Victor Braun, founder of the order of Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (1825-1882) was born in number 12. Adrienne Thomas (1897-1980) was born in number 33; she lived in our city during her childhood and was author of the book «Catherine Soldat». *Can only be viewed from outside.*



**E Jean Melling Fountain (28 rue des Américains):** This was built in 1744 by Jean Melling, a famous sculptor from Saint-Avold (1678-1748). A monument with simple lines decorated with a lion's mouth. The building was built in 1732. The Town Hall was located here until 1917.

**F The «Faust» House (74 rue Hirschauer):** A typical building which dates from the 18th century. The oak door is decorated with sculpted subjects representing animal heads and twisted masks. This work is attributed to Jean Melling. *Outside visit only.*



**G Corner of Rue Poincaré - Rue de la Mertzelle:** 16th century facade, a former stronghold of the bishops of Metz mentioned in 1343. Rebuilt by Peter Nimesgern, an official working for the Nassau, this set of buildings houses one of the city's communal ovens. Property of the Henning lords in the 18th century.



**H Chêne des Sorcières (Route de Jeanne d'Arc - 4 km):** This «Witches Oak Tree» is said to be more than 850 years old. Classed as a Remarkable Tree in France, legend says that it was a meeting place for witches in the Middle Ages and that Emperor Barbarousse stopped here and drove his sword into the trunk. Its circumference ranges from 6.40m to 1.30m from the ground.

## A FEW DATES IN SAINT-AVOLD'S HISTORY

- **720:** Construction of an abbey which takes the name of NOVA CELLA at the behest of Sigisbaud, bishop of Metz. Around this famous abbey was founded the city.
- **765:** Chrodegang, a minister of Charles Martel and Pepin the Younger, brings the remains of Saint Nabor, an officer martyred under Diocletien, back from Rome. The Roman martyr becomes patron saint of our town and gives it its name, SAINT-AVOLD which is a linguistic deformation of Saint Nabor.
- **1327:** The city is fortified on the orders of the bishop of Metz.
- **1581:** SAINT-AVOLD is attached to the duchy of Lorraine.
- **Thirty Years War:** French occupation until 1697. The market town is left depopulated and in ruins.
- **18th century:** Period of prosperity with reconstruction between 1697 and 1750.
- **1766:** SAINT-AVOLD falls under French sovereignty on the death of the last Duke of Lorraine, Stanislas Leczinsky.
- **1793:** During the Revolution, the town takes the name ROSSELGENE.
- **1871:** Signing of the Treaty of Frankfurt, the region falls under the sovereignty of the Reich.
- **1886-1913:** Successive settlement of German regiments in new barracks. SAINT-AVOLD undergoes significant urban development.
- **1941-1944:** Period of annexation. 27th November 1944, liberation of SAINT-AVOLD.
- **After 1945:** The town refines its industrial vocation. In the 1960s it becomes the capital of carbon chemistry, then petro chemistry.

## STROLLS – RELAXATION - LEISURE

The historic centre of SAINT-AVOLD would naturally like to invite you to extend your stay:

- with a stroll along the many shop windows: various shops, regional products and souvenirs... and exhibitions places,
- by taking a lunch break in one of the delicious restaurants, or a gourmet refreshment break in one of our exquisite pastry shops,
- by relaxing with your children in the municipal park (games for the children, snacks on site), or taking a walk along the many marked paths in the forest, visiting the educational walk in the forest of Zang.

## GROUP TOURS

The Tourist Office offers guided tours of the town (duration: approximately 2 hours) for groups of more than 10 people (maximum 30 people for a walking tour and 50 people for a bus tour). *Prices on request. By reservation only, at least 15 days before the tour.*



With the kind collaboration of Pascal Flaus, archivist of the town of Saint-Avold and president of the Société d'Histoire du Pays Naborien.

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## VISIT OF THE TOWN Saint-Avold



Tourist Office

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Open monday to friday from 9.30am-12.00pm and 1.30pm-6pm,  
saturdays from 10.00am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-5pm.

In August, sundays 11.30am to 3.30pm.



## VISIT OF THE TOWN

### 1 Town Hall (36 boulevard de Lorraine)



Since the 16th century the large stately home, the Schwarzenberger Hof has occupied the site of the current Town Hall. When it became the Lords of Hennin's castle, the building was extended in the elegant style of the 18th century. Excepted a few details, it is the Town Hall you can see today. The current car park stands on the site of the garden. In 1873, the German administration set up an imperial preparatory school here for teacher training. In 1921, the buildings were home to a primary school and then a secondary school in 1952. In 1958 the Town bought the old castle and after restoration works, the current Town Hall was opened on 13th February 1965.

### 2 Saint-Jean Népomucène Fountain (Rue Hirschauer)

Built in 1714 by the master mason Melchior Spinga, this fountain with its hexagonal basin and rounded baluster is decorated with the statue of Saint Jean Népomucène, the protector against the dangers of water who was originally from Bohemia.



### 3 Hôtel de Paris / Chapel of the Counts of Créhange (45 rue Hirschauer)



Former house belonging to the Créhange family and used by the bishops of Metz and the counts of Nassau-Sarrebruck, this flamboyant, gothic style chapel (rib vault in a star, liernes and tiercerons) was built in the 16th century. The keystones bear the arms of the House of Créhange and the Mansfeld family. Home in turn to a skittle alley, a shelter during the last war then a provisions cellar, it was restored in 1986 and classified as a Historic Monument. **Open from 7.30am to 12am and 2pm to 6pm, except Monday mornings.**

### 4 Hôtel de la poste aux chevaux (36-38 rue Hirschauer)

The set of buildings dates from the early 18th century (1723). Saint-Avold was then a mail relay point on the Metz-Frankfurt road until the appearance of the railway in the 19th century. Note a striking carriage porch topped by a head of Aeolus, flanked by two lions' heads. The gateway is set off by superb subjects attributed to the artist Melling. On both sides of the gateway, two oak doors with magnificent panels depicting a floral decoration with angels' heads can be seen.



### 5 Ancient parish church of St Pierre and St Paul (Place Collin)



Built during the Carolingian era (8th – 10th century), this was extended during the 15th century. The former parish church which was abandoned in favour of the abbey church during the French revolution, only a few curved arches harmoniously integrated into the current building remain of its illustrious past. **Outside visit only.**

### 6 Saint-Nabor Fountain / Place de la Victoire

On this square a beautiful collection of 18th century houses next to a building featuring German neo-gothic architecture (1898) surround the Saint-Nabor fountain (1714) overlooked by a statue of the town's patron saint.



### 7 Saint Nabor Abbey Church (Rue du Général de Gaulle)

The city was built around 722 by the bishops of Metz when they founded a monastery at the same place. In 765, Chrodegang, bishop of Metz, transferred the remains of Saint Nabor, a Roman centurion, to the abbey. Governed by the rule of Saint Benoit, the abbey was developed and totally reconstructed between 1754 and 1769 following the plans of Dom Léopold Durand, an architect monk. During the French Revolution, the city acquired the church and transferred the parish church inside this building. At the start of the 20th century, the abbey church was subject to a baroque renovation instigated by Nicolas Dicop, vicar of the town. On 9th November 1944, an American bomb destroyed the building. The restoration works returning the abbey church to its original simplicity. The church is full of treasures such as the «Retable of the Virgin», the «Entombment», the picture of the Assumption, the great organ, the crucifix, the statue of Saint-Nicolas, the glass-windows by Arthur Schouler... **Open daily from 8am to 6pm in winter and 8am to 7pm in summer.**



### 8 Sainte-Marie Fountain (Rue Poincaré)

Built in 1714 to replace the fountain erected in 1313 by the Abbot Jean, this rustic fountain is topped with a finely embossed cross of Lorraine. The facade which it leans against bears in a niche a Seated Madonna created in 1986 by Helmuth Muller (1910-1989), a local artist. This replaces the original 15th century statue, which was stolen in 1973.



### 9 Sainte-Croix Chapel (Rue Mangin)



This flamboyant, gothic style chapel dates from the late 15th century and is the oldest monument in Saint-Avold. A centre for worship until the mid 18th century, it was maintained by a hermit. A significant decline in popular devotion was felt during the second half of the 19th century and with its furniture sold, the chapel was abandoned. In 1966, the Town became the building's owner and restored it. Its facade is decorated with a splendid 16th century cross. Below the chapel, a magnificent Way of the Cross created in the 17th century adorned the wall. The chapel is registered on the additional list of Historical Monuments. **Outside visit only.**

### 10 Notre-Dame de Bon Secours Basilica (Rue Lemire)

A modest chapel, already dedicated to the Madonna was built in the 16th century and was rebuilt following French architects who worked in Sarrelouis plans at the end of the 17th century. It became a famous pilgrimage place and the believers flocked from all over France and Germany. Destroyed during the Revolution, the chapel was then rebuilt by the town's inhabitants in 1806 and quickly became too small. In 1890, the archpriest Georges-Auguste Lemire agreed to the construction of a vast place for prayer, completed in 1897 by an imposing octagonal building topped by a magnificent dome. The shrine was raised to the status of "minor basilica" on 13th August 1932 by pope Pius XI. There is a stained glass window by Arthur Schouler, a master-glass artist from Saint Nabor, in the crypt. On the facade, sits the statue of Hope which comes from a portal of the Metz cathedral. Next to the building : the funeral chapel of Vicar Lemire. **Open daily from 8am to 6pm.**



### 11 American military cemetery (Avenue de Fayetteville)

Saint-Avold is home to Europe's largest American military cemetery of the Second World War. It contains the remains of 10,489 American soldiers and airmen who fell during battles in the border regions. A memorial chapel and a belvedere adorned with an eagle which symbolises the American nation overhang the white marble graves topped by crosses or stars of David. It was finished in 1960. **Open all year from 9am to 5pm excepted 25/12 and 01/01. Admission free.**

