

Chartres Cathedral

Anglais

The cathedral of our Lady which you are to visit is a place of great wealth. It is a high place of christianity, an important pilgrimage centre and also a cultural, artistic and historical monument.

A few dates...

* **4th century** : Gallo-roman wall, the first cathedral dates from this period.

* **6th century** : building of a merovingian cathedral, some remains are under the choir.

* **8th century** : In 743 the cathedral is destroyed by Hunald, duke of Aquitaine. Another cathedral is rebuilt at the same place

* **9th century** : Carolingian crypt, called the St Lubin crypt.

* **11th century** : Romanesque crypt, called the St Fulbert crypt. It is the longest in France (220m). Fulbert taught at the famous Chartres Cathedral School, and became bishop in 1006.

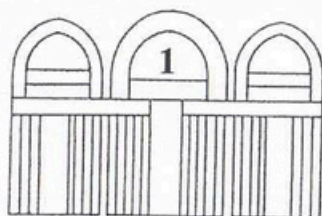
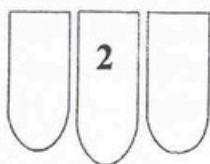
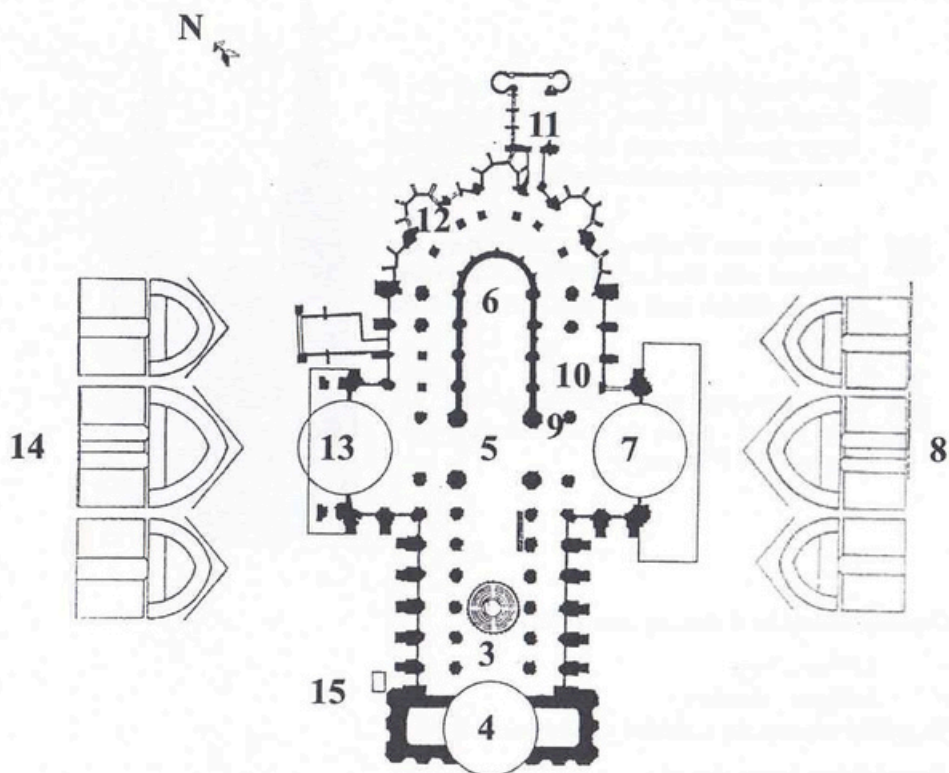
* **1194** : Fire, after which this cathedral was rebuilt on the remains of previous buildings (the crypts).

* **Around 1230** : Everything was in place. The cathedral was not dedicated until 1260.



What you can see with the plan :

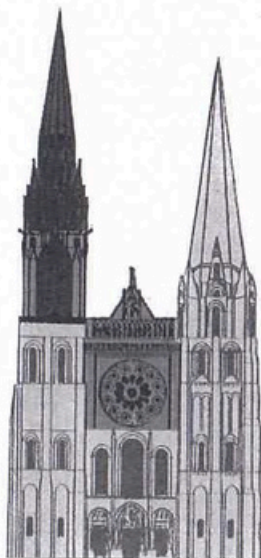
- 1 Royal Portal. Mid 12th century
Obvious influence of the Chartres School
 - centre, Christ in majesty, Apocalyptic vision.
 - right, the Nativity.
 - left, the Ascension.
- 2 The three mid 12th century stained glass windows.
 - Jesse window.
 - Incarnation window.
 - Passion and Resurrection window.
- 3 Labyrinth - symbol of the path leading us from the earth towards God.
- 4 West Rose Window (c. 1215) The Last Judgment (diameter : 12,18 m).
- 5 Altar, Bishop's catheder and pulpit created by Goudji (1992 - 1994).
- 6 In the choir, statue of the Assumption, 18th century.
- 7 South Rose Window (c. 1225) The Second Coming of the Lord (diameter : 10,56 m).
- 8 South Portal, early 13th century. Central porch : Christ blessing,
To either side stand his 12 apostles. Above : the Last Judgment.
- 9 Choir screen (16th - 18th century.
From the south to the north : the life of Mary and Jesus.
- 10 Blue Virgin Window, very famous (12th century).
- 11 The St Piat Chapel, built in the 14th century.
- 12 The Mary Chapel, where Mary's veil is displayed. The relic survived the 1194 fire, which was the reason for the construction of the gothic cathedral.
- 13 North Rose Window (c. 1235) with the Kings of Juda (in the squares) and the Prophets (in the circles) (diameter : 10,15 m).
- 14 North Portal, early 13th century : great figures of the Bible, from Melchizedek to Peter.
- 15 Clock tower, 16th century built by Jean de Beauce.



Total length of the cathedral :	130,20m
Width of the nave :	16,40m
Height of the vaults :	37,50m
Height of south tower and steeple :	103,00m
Height of north tower and steeple :	112,00m

The western front of Chartres cathedral :

-  The steeple (103 m), the royal Portal, the 3 stained glass windows (middle of the 12th century) and the north tower had been saved as the romanesque cathedral burnt in 1194.
-  The west rose Window, the Kingsgallery, the pediment with Our Lady and part of the north tower had been built at the beginning of the 13th century.
-  The flamboyen gothic steeple (115m), had been built by Jehan de Beauce at the beginning of the 16th century.



Pilgrim tours in French, everyday :

- 2:00 pm Crypt
- 3:00 pm Cathedral

No guided tours in the cathedral during celebrations.

For groups, enquire at :



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We also propose guided tours in English, German, Spanish, Russian and Japanese...

For information on pilgrimages and masses, contact :

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