

OUT AND ABOUT IN CERGY-PONTOISE

Here are some cultural events that are not to be missed in the Cergy-Pontoise area

SEPTEMBER

- **La journée des associations (associations day)** find out about all the activities offered by associations in and around Cergy-Pontoise: sports, theatre, painting, meditation, cookery, etc. (*Beginning of September*).
- **La fête au village à Cergy (Cergy village festival)**. It's an the opportunity to discover the culture and traditions of your host country in a friendly festive atmosphere (*2nd weekend in September*, www.ville-cergy.fr).
- **Le festival Cergy, Soit ! (Cergy street theatre festival)**. The festival has hosted for the last 10 years street artists and circus performers for a weekend of free, festive and creative shows in the park of the Cergy prefecture. Not to be missed (*3rd weekend in September*, www.95degres.net/cergysoit).
- **Les journées du patrimoine (Cultural heritage days)** during this weekend you can visit, free of charge, the most beautiful and interesting French monuments. Some of them are not open to the public except on this occasion. In Cergy you can discover, among other sites, the EDF tower the overlooks the city and offers a superb view of Paris (*3rd weekend of September*, www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr).

OCTOBER

- **La Balade contée (a storyteller's tour)**, this tour is specially organised by the university for international exchange students. You will be able to discover Cergy-Pontoise from an original and surprising point of view!
- **Grand opening of the Open University conferences**. Once a month the Open University organises free conferences and debates about current events that are important for our world and century, www.u-cergy.fr/rubrique378.html.
- **Le Mois de l'étudiant (Student's month)**. Free and festive events are organised throughout the month so that you can discover the cultural life of Cergy-Pontoise: parties, concerts, free entrance to the Cergy-Préfecture ice skating rink, free movies at the Utopia cinema, etc., www.cergypontoise.fr.
- **La fête de la science (Science festival)**. Discover the world of science through a series of events organised by the university.
- **Forum associatif et culturel de l'université (Associations and Cultural activities forum)**. The cultural partners of the university and the Passe Culture scheme will present their programs for the year. The forum will end with a concert.

NOVEMBER

- **La Semaine de la solidarité internationale (International solidarity week)** is a nationwide operation to inform and increase awareness. Cergy-Pontoise associations organise different events, some festive and others more solemn, around the theme of international solidarity. The Open University, in particular, will organise a conference and debate on this issue (*3rd week of November*, www.lasemaine.org).

DECEMBER

- **Telethon**. The telethon's aim is to increase awareness of incurable diseases and promote research. Sports, cultural and artistic events are organised in order to collect donations. You can take part in, for example, the 28 km roller-skate rally through Cergy-Pontoise (*1st weekend of December*, <http://www.telethon.fr>).
- **Sidaction (AIDS awareness association)** organises events in order to inform the public about AIDS and to collect donations. Concerts, hikes, shows, stands, and cultural events are organised on the *2nd weekend of December*, <http://www.sidaction.org/>.
- **Christmas holiday markets** are organised in Pontoise, Osny, and Cergy. You can find interesting gift ideas and discover local crafts while sipping mulled wine. It's a good way to get into the Christmas spirit!

JANVIER

- **Fireworks display** organised by the town of Cergy to celebrate the New Year (*1st Sunday in January on the esplanade de Paris*, www.ville-cergy.fr).
- **Théâtre 95 and theatre student's show**, the fledgling drama students put on a show they have worked on all year with a professional stage director.
- **La Nuit de l'ESSEC (ESSEC school gala)**. This is the largest student party of the year. Concerts, shows, and films all contribute to an exceptional evening (*2^e week-end de janvier*, www.esseclive.com/la-nuit-de-lessec/).

FEBRUARY

- **Piano campus** is a big piano festival organised around an international competition for young pianists. Free concerts at the university will allow you to discover piano music and new, up-and-coming talents, www.u-cergy.fr.
- **La Balade contée (a storyteller's tour)**, this tour is specially organised by the university for international exchange students joining us in the 2nd semester. You will be able to discover Cergy-Pontoise from an original and surprising point of view!

MARCH

- **Printemps des poètes (Spring poetry festival)**, in the spring poetry is in full bloom! Dozens of poems will be proposed by the university library and actors will give readings. If you are a poet, it's an opportunity for you to take part in the poetry competition organised by the university, www.u-cergy.fr/rubrique40.html.
- **La Semaine des cultures du monde monde (World culture week)** Various associations offer the opportunity to discover the cultures of the world during a week-long event at the university. The high points are vibrant concerts and shows showcasing different cultures. Don't hesitate to join in and share your culture with us!
- **Le Festival d'éducation contre le racisme (Festival of education against racism)**. This festival proposes events, exhibitions, films, shows, and round table discussions during two weeks of festivities devoted to action, sharing and understanding.
- **Le Festival international du court-métrage étudiant de Cergy-Pontoise (Student short films festival)**. This festival is organised by the students of the ENSEA (engineering school) (*End of March-beginning of April*, www.lefestivalducourt.org).
- **Le Printemps du cinéma (Spring film festival)**. This festival celebrates the return of spring by proposing a single price for all films in all theatres of 3.50 € a ticket (*End of March*, www.printempsducinema.com).

APRIL

- **Le Festival de cinéma Ciné Qua Non (Film festival)** organised by the ESSEC school proposes films and encounters with cinema industry professionals around a different theme each year (*Beginning of April*, www.esseclive.com/cinequanon).
- **Tournoi des 5 ballons (Ball sports tournament)**. Get out your cleats and shoes for this tournament devoted to 5 ball sports. If you like basketball, football, handball, rugby and volleyball, then get out there and participate in this tournament organised by the ESSEC business school and meet students from all over Europe (*End of April*, www.esseclive.com).

MAY

- **Théâtre 95 and theatre student's show** the fledgling drama students put on a show they have worked on all year with a professional stage director.

JUNE

- **Theatre workshop show**. The students in the theatre workshop will present you with a rich and moving show that they have written.
- **Faites de la science (Science competition)**. The aim of this competition is to promote a new way of teaching science through experimentation. The university opens its doors to welcome secondary and high school students who will present their scientific experiments...
- **La Fête de la musique (Music festival)**. This national event offers free professional and amateur concerts for every taste all over Cergy-Pontoise (*Evening of June 21st*, www.fetedelamusique.culture.fr).
- **La Fête du cinéma (Cinema festival)**. Take advantage of this event! If you buy one ticket at the usual full price you can then see as many films as you want for only 2 € (*Three-day event at the end of June*, www.feteducinema.com).
- **Furia Sound Festival (Contemporary music festival)**. This festival is the largest contemporary music event in the Paris area. The program features a subtle mix of young local talents and national and internationally acclaimed artists. Take advantage of these three days of extraordinary concerts at the Cergy-Pontoise sports facilities, just 10 min away from the university! (*End of June*, www.furia.tm.fr).

JULY/AUGUST

- **Cergy ville d'été (Cergy, summer in the city)**. This event lasts all summer long with festivals, classes, concerts, films, cultural and sports activities... There are plenty of opportunities to learn, move, and progress, between the lawns of the Axe Majeur park to the white water run at the sports facilities, from the beaches of Cabourg to the gymnasiums of Cergy! www.ville-cergy.fr.
- **Solidays (AIDS solidarity days)**. To make noise against AIDS come to the Longchamp Hippodrome for this 3-day festival of giant outdoor concerts. The proceeds go to Sidaction, an AIDS association (*2nd weekend in July*, www.solidays.com).
- **Cergy'Athlon Raid "Cergy ville d'été"** organises a raid over land, sea, water and in the air! In teams of two, come test your nerves and your capacities for endurance through a series of impressive sports challenges. Numerous prizes await the most courageous competitors! (*End of July*, www.ville-cergy.fr).

For more information on cultural activities in the Cergy-Pontoise area:

International and Cultural Relations department

Les Chênes tower - 3rd floor - 01 34 25 63 79 - culture@ml.u-cergy.fr, Student Life section



Cultural program for Cergy-Pontoise and the surrounding area: www.95degres.net



Town of Cergy-Pontoise www.cergypontoise.fr



Val-d'Oise tourist office: www.val-doise-tourisme.com



Pontoise tourist office: www.otpontoise.fr