

DREAMING OF DISCOVERING FRANCE

10 unmissable routes, 10 unique experiences



rendezvousenfrance.com

ALONG THE WAY...

Towns, encounters, culture, history, gastronomy, heritage, architecture, art, trips, museums, vineyards...

Each part of France promises a unique journey. Diverse countryside, regions with hidden treasures, events and festivals which give rhythm to the seasons... Châteaux, abbeys and museums, as well as unusual places, all offer you a rich and varied artistic programme. Whatever your style, French towns will win you over with their modernity and cultural richness.

Between trips, take the time to stroll around and experience the French way of life, and give in to the charms of French gastronomy and vineyards.

There are treasures waiting to be found on your route.

What are you waiting for, follow the guide!

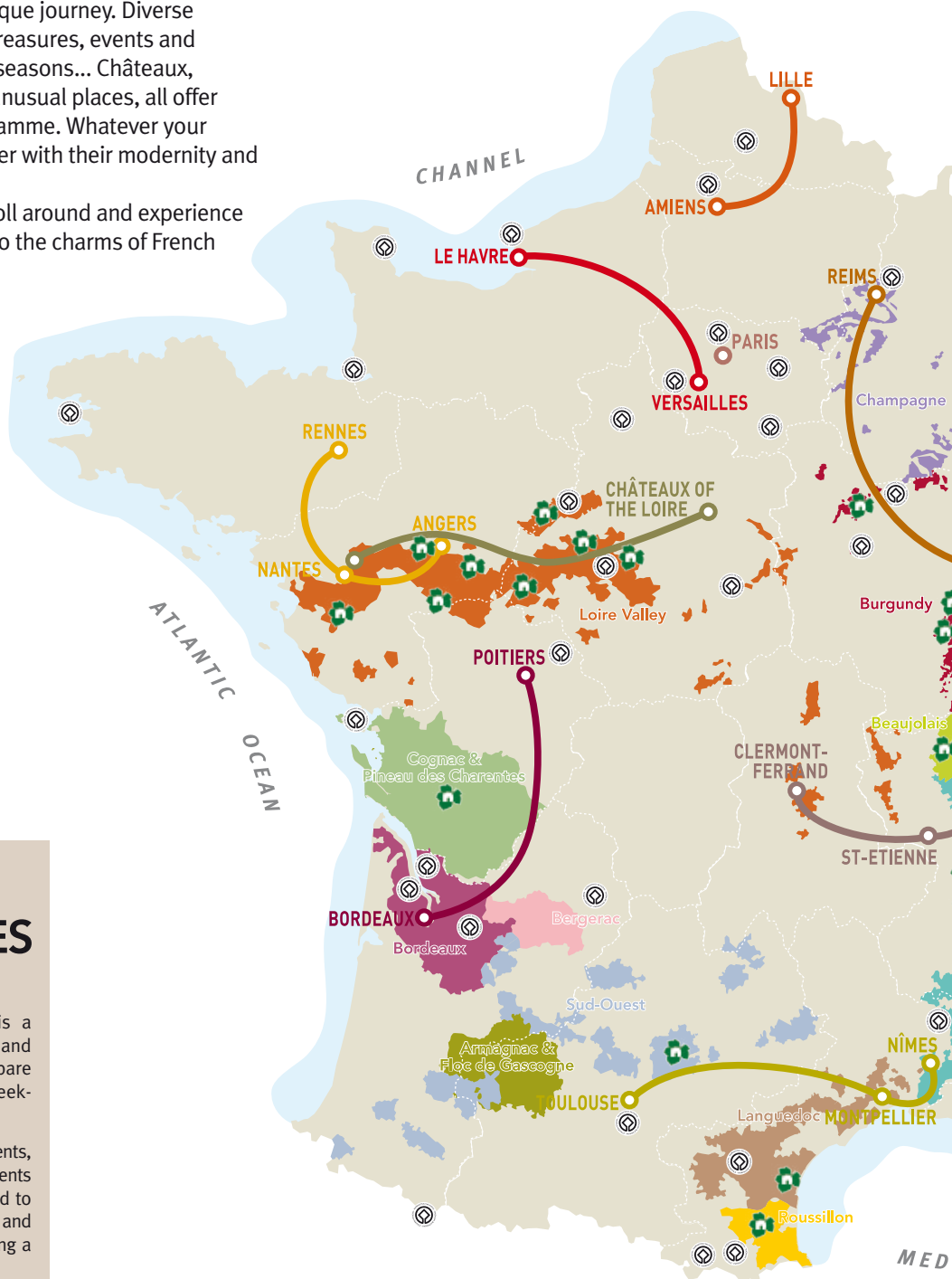


VIGNOBLES & DÉCOUVERTES

The Vignobles & Découvertes label is a guarantee applied to selected activities and locations that allows you to better prepare for your stay in the wine region for a week-end or a few days.

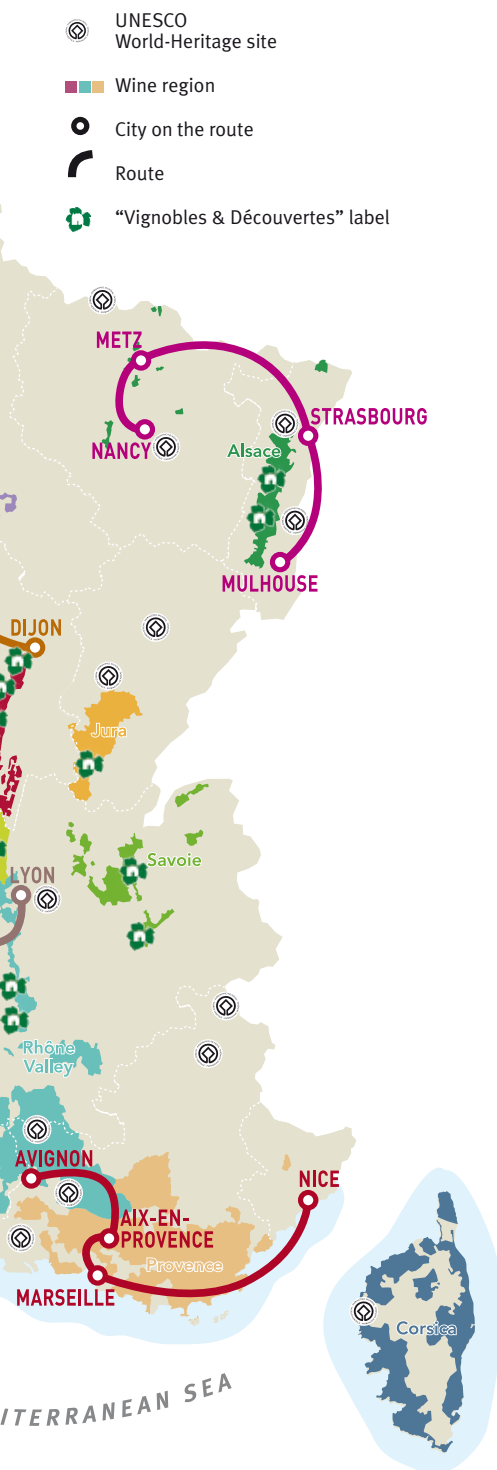
The hotels, cellars, restaurants, monuments, tourist agencies and information offices, events and other labelled activities are committed to providing you with a high-quality welcome and service and giving you the keys to enjoying a unique experience in the wine region.

www.vineyards.rendezvousenfrance.com



+ INFO @ www.rendezvousenfrance.com

ROUTES



AMIENS — LILLE — P. 04

Lose your bearings in architecture



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The rush to the East



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A volcanic atmosphere



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On the sunshine route



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Land of generosity



ANGERS — NANTES — RENNES — P. 22

Art triangle



CHÂTEAUX OF THE LOIRE — P. 24

Jewels of the Renaissance



VERSAILLES — LE HAVRE — P. 26

Brilliant designers

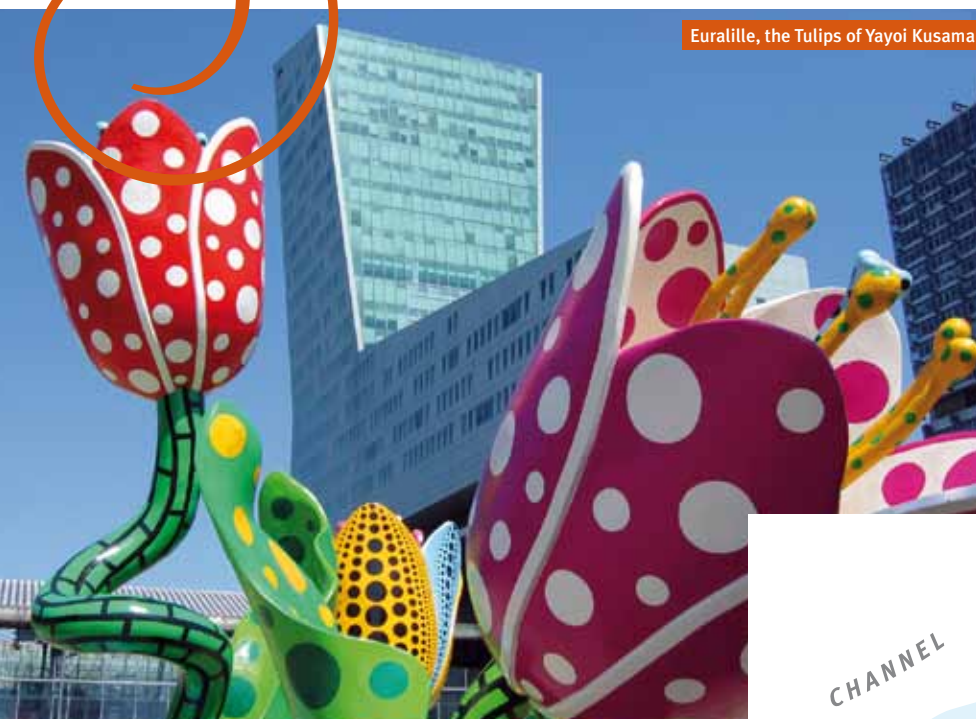


PARIS — ÎLE-DE-FRANCE — P. 28

Insanely romantic

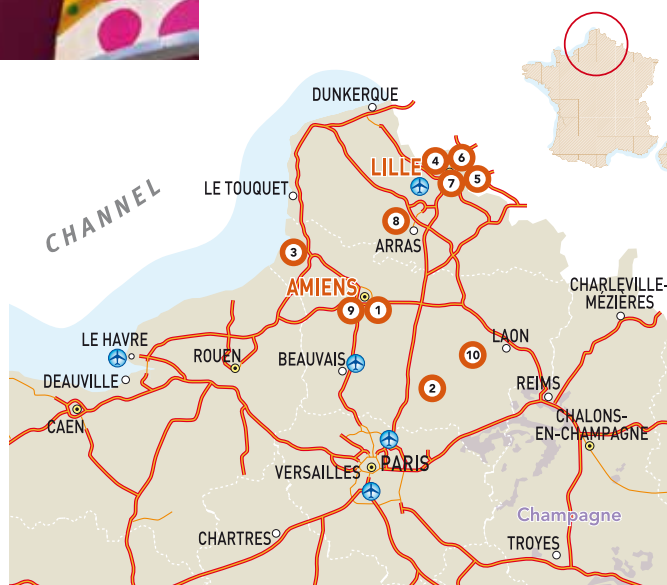
AMIENS - LILLE
IN

LOSE YOUR BEARINGS IN ARCHITECTURE



Euralille, the Tulips of Yayoi Kusama

Exceptional cultural and architectural heritage, a natural setting that reaches all the way to the coast, generous gastronomy that reflects a welcoming people... No you're not dreaming, you really are in the North of France! Take the opportunity to visit Amiens and its "hortillonnages", amazing floating gardens. Continue on to Lille, where you are sure to be charmed by the old town and the brasseries.



UNEARTH A RARE GEM



How about going on the hunt for a bargain? At the flea markets of Lille and Amiens, a friendly atmosphere is guaranteed. The réderies, typical flea markets in Picardy, will give you the chance to roam through stalls chock-full of numerous ill-assorted items. The Lille flea market has become an "event" extending some hundred kilometres, attracting millions of visitors over the first weekend in September

each year. The ideal occasion to combine the joys of bargain-hunting with a traditional meal of "moules frites" (mussels and chips).

PLAN YOUR TRIP

	Amiens	Lille	Paris
Amiens		1h20 1h15	1h30 1h10
Lille	1h20 1h15		2h 1h
Paris	1h30 1h10	2h 1h	

EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL SITES

- ① Jules Verne's house - Amiens
- ② Château de Pierrefonds
- ③ The bay of Somme and the Somme battlefields
- ④ Belfry of the Hôtel de ville - Lille
- ⑤ lille3000 events
- ⑥ "La Piscine" - Roubaix
- ⑦ Palais des Beaux-Arts - Lille
- ⑧ Citadel of Arras
- ⑨ Gothic Notre-Dame cathedral Amiens
- ⑩ Château de Coucy



Amiens, Saint-Leu district



Lille, the Grand Place

AMIENS

During a walk in the picturesque Saint-Leu district, whose canals have given Amiens the nickname “little Venice of the north”, don’t miss the impressive Gothic Notre-Dame cathedral, whose façade is illuminated when night falls. Don’t forget to sample “Amiens macaroons”, another symbol of the city and a favourite of Catherine de Medici who introduced it in the 16th century.

www.visit-amiens.com

WHAT TO SEE

① Jules Verne’s house

Topped with an “extraordinary” tower, it was in this private mansion that the writer was inspired to bring more than 30 novels to life.

www.amiens.fr/maisonjulesverne

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

② Château de Pierrefonds

A dignified building on the edge of the forest of Compiègne, magnificently well-preserved, a castle with an imperial design.

www.pierrefonds.monuments-nationaux.fr

③ Memorial tour

Here at the western front of the First World War, discover all the faces of this major episode of worldwide history through discovery and memorial tours...

www.somme-battlefields.com

www.remembrancetrails-northernfrance.com

LILLE

Renowned for its friendliness, Lille astonishes visitors with its belfries, draws their admiration with its Palais des Beaux-Arts and regales all those with a sweet tooth with its famous stuffed waffles at the Méert patisserie. As for Vieux Lille, you won’t forget its cobbled alleyways, its typically Flemish architecture and its many estaminets in a hurry!

www.lilletourism.com

WHAT TO SEE

④ Belfry of the Hôtel de Ville

At 104 m, it’s the tallest belfry in the north of France. A striking 360° view over the city and its surrounding area!

www.lilletourism.com

⑤ lille3000 events

Continue the adventure of Lille European Capital of Culture with a rich programme of events and exhibitions.

www.lille3000.eu

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

⑥ “La Piscine” - Roubaix

The Roubaix museum of art and industry, based in a former Art Déco-style swimming pool... a real surprise!

www.roubaix-lapiscine.com

AGENDA

Festival Jean de la Fontaine
at Château Thierry
→ May

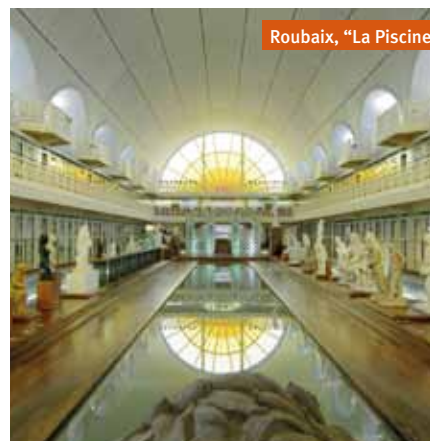
Ancient and Baroque Music Festival
in Saint-Michel-en-Thiérache
→ June-July

Amiens Cathedral in Colours
→ June-September and December

Lille Flea Market
→ September



Amiens, the Cathedral in Colours



Roubaix, “La Piscine”



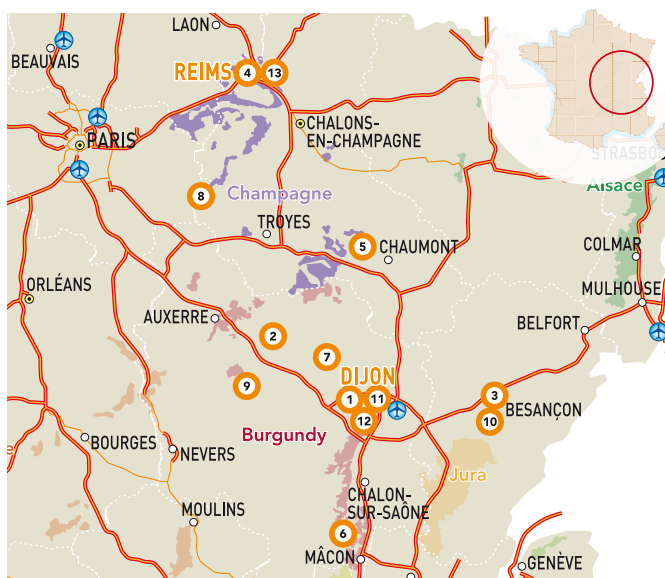
The aerial ball - Europe XXL - 2009 in Lille

DIJON - REIMS AT THE HEART OF THE VINEYARDS

Lovers of fine wines or of bubbles should travel the many Burgundy and Champagne wine routes. Between encounters with wine producers, rambles among the vines, tours of cellars and tasting sessions, you won't be disappointed. You are sure to have an unforgettable gastronomic and œnological experience, but that's not all... Why not also discover the heritage and cultural events on offer in Dijon and Reims?



Le Sauvage restaurant in Dijon



PLAN YOUR TRIP

	Reims	Dijon	Paris	Bordeaux
Reims		2h45 3h20	1h30 45'	4h40
Dijon	2h45 3h20		3h 1h30	1h30
Paris	1h30 45'	3h 1h30		
Bordeaux	4h40	1h30		

EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL SITES

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❶ Palais des États et des Ducs de Bourgogne - Dijon ❷ Fontenay Abbey ❸ Citadel of Besançon ❹ Reims cathedral ❺ Charles de Gaulle Memorial ❻ Cluny Abbey ❼ Château de Bussy-Rabutin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❽ Château de la Motte-Tilly ❾ Basilica and hill town of Vézelay ❿ From the Great Saltworks of Salinles-Bains to the Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans ⓫ Well of Moses - Dijon ⓬ Château du Clos de Vougeot ⓭ Palais du Tau in Reims |
|--|---|

REIMS, THE CHAMPAGNE SPIRIT!

Travel through the vineyards, visit the cellars and have a taste. In Reims, you will learn the secrets of the "king" of wines, a rich history with as many tales as there are Champagne houses and traditions.



The cellars of Champagne, dug into the chalk, conceal many treasures!

www.champagne-ardenne-tourism.co.uk

Place de la Libération in Dijon



DIJON

The gateway to the south, Dijon's sunny little squares surrounded by half-timbered houses and its small antique dealers give this city centre much of its typical and charming character. Strolling through the streets of the city between medieval buildings and private mansions from the 17th and 18th century is a real delight for the senses. Here heritage, particularly the Well of Moses sculpture, exists alongside Burgundy culinary traditions, just like the famous mustard and the prestigious Côte de Nuits wine region, known as the "Champs-Élysées of Burgundy".

www.visitdijon.com

WHAT TO SEE

① The Palais des États et des Ducs de Bourgogne

The Palais des États today houses the Dijon Musée des Beaux-Arts where you can rediscover sumptuous souvenirs from the Medieval period...

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

② Fontenay Abbey

One of the oldest Cistercian monasteries in Europe, at the heart of a small vale of wood and ponds.

www.abbayedefontenay.com

③ Citadel of Besançon

Vauban's masterpiece, this fortress overlooks the old town of Besançon.

TGV Dijon-Besançon (30 mins).

www.citadelle.com

Citadel of Besançon



Towers of Reims cathedral



REIMS

The city is home to three monuments listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites: The cathedral of Reims, home to the coronation of the kings of France, the palace of Tau, and not forgetting the Former Abbey of Saint-Rémi. A visit to Reims will take you to its prestigious champagne producers. Why not try out the local custom beloved by the people of Champagne, who eat the Biscuit Rose (pink biscuit) by dipping it into their champagne flute!

www.reims-tourism.com

WHAT TO SEE

④ Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Reims

A masterpiece of Gothic art, the majestic cathedral with 2,300 statues has made Reims famous.

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

⑤ Charles de Gaulle Memorial

A site tracing the important dates of the 20th century in the village of General de Gaulle, Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises.

www.memorial-charlesdegaulle.fr



Champagne!

BURGUNDY PRESTIGIOUS CÔTE DE NUITS



Château du Clos de Vougeot, symbol of the Dijon Côte de Nuits wine landscape

Discover the delicious and authentic charm of the Burgundy vineyards by winding your way down one of the five mapped wine routes. They will take you, in particular, through the prestigious Côte de Nuits wine region. This narrow area of slopes stretching twenty kilometres to the south of Dijon is where the most famous red wines are born: Romanée Conti, Echezeaux and Vougeot, among others.

www.burgundy-tourism.com

www.vignobles-dijon-cote-de-nuits.com

AGENDA

Les Flâneries Musicales d'Été, festival in Reims
→ June-July

International Festival of Baroque Opera in Beaune
→ July

Rencontres Musicales festival in Vézelay
→ August

Besançon International Music Festival
→ September-October

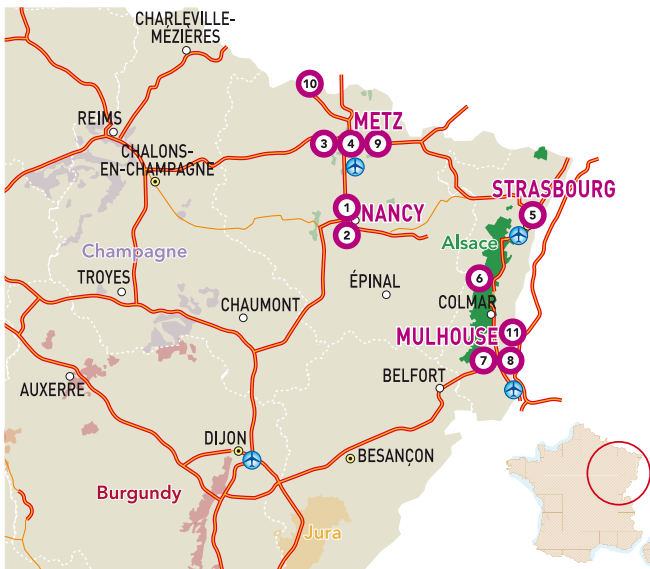
Elektricity Festival in Reims
→ October

Dijon International Gastronomy Fair
→ November

NANCY - METZ - STRASBOURG - MULHOUSE RUSH TO THE EAST

Metz, city of gold

A fascinating journey awaits you in the East. Four cities, abounding in natural, architectural and cultural riches, will enchant you. After Metz, a city that combines the roman, medieval, classical and contemporary, head for Nancy, the capital of Art Nouveau whose 18th-century centre has been awarded UNESCO status. Continue your route to Strasbourg, to discover a unique city centre and traditional Alsace gastronomy. Finish your journey through the east by following the Alsace Wine Route. Let yourself be amazed by Mulhouse and its exceptional museums.



PLAN YOUR TRIP

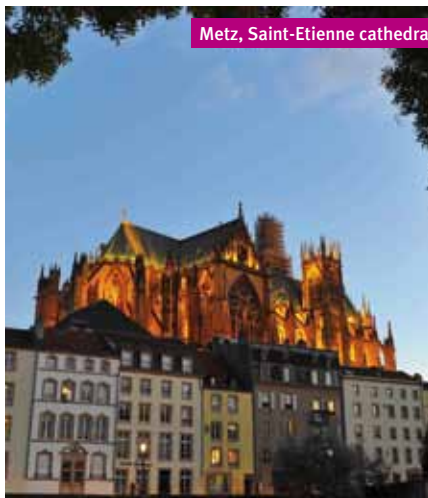
	Nancy	Metz	Strasbourg	Mulhouse	Paris
Nancy		40' 35'	1h45 1h25	2h20 2h20	3h30 90'
Metz	40' 35'		1h40 1h40	2h50 2h20	3h 80'
Strasbourg	1h45 1h25	1h40 1h40		1h15 50'	4h30 2h20
Mulhouse	2h20 2h20	2h50 2h20	1h15 50'		1h10 50'
Paris	3h30 90'	3h 80'	4h30 2h20	1h10 50'	

EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL SITES

- ① Place Stanislas - Nancy
- ② Nancy, capital of Art Nouveau
- ③ Centre Pompidou - Metz
- ④ Imperial district - Metz
- ⑤ "Petite France" historic centre Strasbourg
- ⑥ Château du Haut-Kœnigsbourg
- ⑦ Cité de l'Automobile - Schlumpf Collection
- ⑧ Cité du Train - French railway museum
- ⑨ St Etienne cathedral - Metz
- ⑩ Longwy fortress
- ⑪ Neuf-Brisach stronghold



Nancy, Place Stanislas



Metz, Saint-Etienne cathedral

NANCY

Ducal Palace, Place d'Alliance and Place de la Carrière, the old town... Stroll through the districts of the historic capital of Lorraine, and let it reveal its exceptional heritage to you. Then later, you can relax on a terrace in the famous Place Stanislas. Unless you'd prefer a bit of greenery in the large Parc de la Pépinière around the corner, created 250 years ago. Come for the first weekend of December every year to celebrate Saint-Nicholas day.

www.ot-nancy.fr

WHAT TO SEE

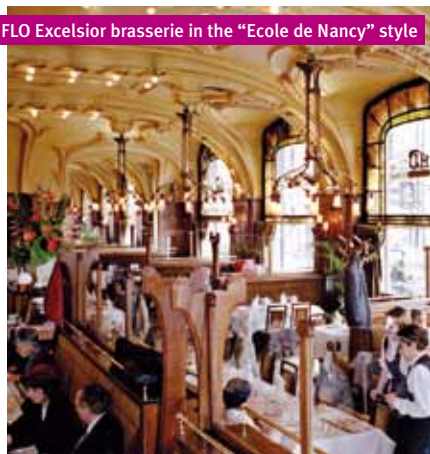
① Place Stanislas

The symbol of the city of Nancy, this pedestrian square built in the 18th century is considered the most beautiful square in Europe.

② Capital of Art Nouveau

The Nancy School, spearhead of the Art Nouveau movement, left its mark on the city, as can be seen when wandering through the streets and in its dedicated museum.

www.ecole-de-nancy.com



FLO Excelsior brasserie in the "Ecole de Nancy" style

METZ

Divided by the Moselle and the Seille, this three-thousand-year-old city will fill you with wonder. As night falls you can admire its illuminated monuments, its squares from the Middle Ages and the 18th century and its famed imperial district. Raise your eyes to gaze at the 6,500 m² of stained glass windows in the splendid Saint-Etienne cathedral in the "stained-glass city".

www.tourisme-metz.com

WHAT TO SEE

③ Centre Pompidou-Metz

The Centre Pompidou-Metz is an art centre designed to present modern and contemporary art in all its forms.

www.centrepompidou-metz.fr

④ Imperial district

A model of urbanism, built at the end of the 19th century under Emperor Wilhelm II by architects from throughout Europe.

AGENDA

Picnic with independent wine-producers

Strasbourg Festival of Music
→ June

Colmar International Festival
→ July

Musicalta festival in Rouffach
→ July and August

Nancy Jazz Pulsations
→ October

Strasbourg and Mulhouse
Christmas markets
→ November/December

Performing arts at the Centre
Pompidou-Metz
→ All year round



Centre Pompidou - Metz

MAGIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Wooden chalets, the smell of cinnamon and gingerbread in the air... what better way to get into the Christmas spirit than going to the traditional Christmas markets? These special times will introduce you to local specialities and crafts. In Metz, in Nancy and Mulhouse, decorated in the colours of a fabric created especially for the occasion, the markets host numerous events which make them festive and popular meeting places. In Strasbourg, the Christmas market is a historical event that dates from the 16th century! Above all, don't forget to amble around the bredle Village, selling little Christmas biscuits from Alsace. Another must-see: the Saint Nicholas celebrations in Nancy on the 1st weekend of December.



RUSH TO THE EAST

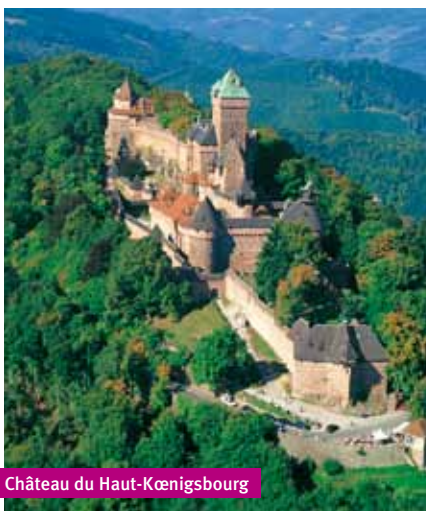
DESTINATION "CŒUR D'ALSACE"



At the heart of Alsatian vineyards

At the foot of the Vosges mountains, encircled by mysterious châteaux, Alsace is home to some lovely wine-growing villages. The famous Alsace Wine Route, which snakes from north to south, reveals the splendours of its region and its great wines, which you can discover through the typical paths, cellars and restaurants. Between Strasbourg and Colmar, the destination "Heart of Alsace" offers a mosaic of landscapes combining vineyards and forests, from Mont Sainte-Odile to the Château du Haut-Kœnigsbourg, through Rosheim, Obernai, Barr and Châtenois-Scherwiller.

www.tourisme-alsace.com



Château du Haut-Kœnigsbourg



Strasbourg, "Petite France" quarter

STRASBOURG

Enter the heart of Strasbourg, listed as a world heritage site, and discover the "Petite France", the old district of tanners and millers. A boat trip is an excellent way of discovering all the sides of the city, including the district that is home to the European institutions. Back on dry land, admire the cathedral and its astronomical clock before pushing open the doors of the Palais Rohan.

www.otstrasbourg.fr

WHAT TO SEE

⑤ "Petite France" ☺

Its narrow alleyways, canals and half-timbered houses make this the most picturesque district in Strasbourg.

The Christmas market

A fairytale world with a distinct gingerbread scent, it is without a doubt one of the loveliest Christmas markets in Europe, and one of the oldest as it dates from 1570!

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

⑥ Château du Haut-Kœnigsbourg

Built into the rock, this superbly restored medieval building is a symbol of the German presence in Alsace from 1871 to 1918.

www.haut-koenigsbourg.fr



Mulhouse, Place de la Réunion

MULHOUSE

Discover Alsace in another light, in the company of a "Greeter", an enthusiastic resident who will turn this encounter into a unique event off the beaten track. Travel around this former industrial city with its colourful façades to your hosts' favourite places: contemporary works that set the pace of life in the city, museums recounting the industrial saga, visit to the Kunsthalle dedicated to emerging artistic creations, as well as good ideas and traditional patisseries to sample a kougelhopf.

www.tourisme-mulhouse.com

www.greeters-mulhouse.com

WHAT TO SEE

⑦ Cité de l'Automobile

The largest car museum in the world and a collection of 400 legendary models gathered by two brothers and industrialists from Alsace. New: the Autodrome, exhibition track.

www.collection-schlumpf.com

⑧ Cité du Train

Completely unique, this museum traces the history of the French railway, with spectacular displays and a new show-route, "the platforms of history".

www.citedutrain.com



Cité de l'Automobile - Schlumpf Collection at Mulhouse

NATIONAL MONUMENTS, A TRULY LIVING HERITAGE



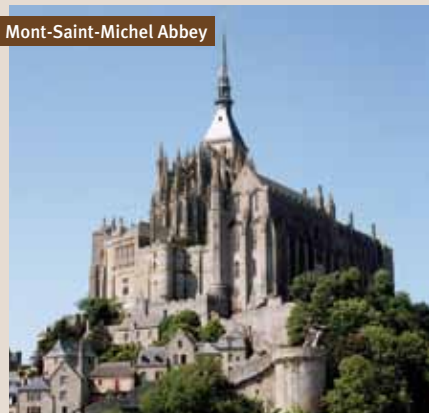
Mont-Saint-Michel abbey, Arc de Triomphe, Sainte-Chapelle, Château d'Angers, the ramparts of Carcassonne... Come to France and visit exceptional monuments, a network with a diversity and quality that make it completely unique.

Admirably preserved or restored, the "monuments nationaux" (national monuments) also reflect a rich cultural life.

200 concerts, shows and exhibitions await you every year in one of the 100 châteaux, abbeys, prehistoric caves or archaeological sites that make up the national monuments.

The national monuments are the responsibility of the Centre des Monuments Nationaux, a public establishment under the aegis of the ministry for Culture and Communication.

www.monuments-nationaux.fr



Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey



City of Carcassonne



Stone rows at Carnac



The Sainte-Chapelle in Paris



A RIGHT ROYAL VISIT WITH GRANDES ETAPES FRANÇAISES

The family hotel group Grandes Etapes Françaises invites you to stay at one of its nine 4-star boutique châteaux-hotels or residences, at the heart of France's most beautiful regions.



Le Choiseul



Le Choiseul

Our small and friendly establishments offer you top-quality, local service. In a unique setting, enjoy a well-preserved architectural, historical and cultural heritage.

Gastronomy-lovers can sample the best regional products and wines in excellent restaurants.

All the establishments benefit from large parks and peaceful gardens, perfect for rest and relaxation.

Some of the establishments have wellness areas and spas.

www.grandesetapes.fr



The Château d'Esclimont, near Paris

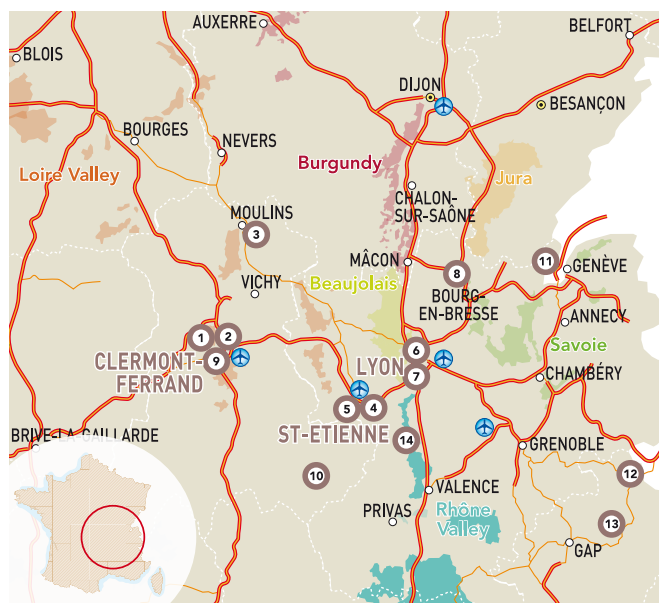
CLERMONT-FERRAND - SAINT-ETIENNE - LYON

A VOLCANIC ATMOSPHERE



Clermont-Ferrand, capital of rock

From the volcanoes of Auvergne to the foothills of the Alps, prepare to experience unforgettable locations! At the foot of volcanoes and in a natural setting that will take your breath away, in Clermont-Ferrand, famed around the world for the Aventure Michelin museum, its short films festival and for being the capital of rock, you really run the risk of getting caught up in the city's love of rugby. At the same time, discover Saint-Etienne, a city of culture, designers and football. Don't forget to take a gastronomic detour to Lyon and its "bouchons", traditional restaurants.



PASSION FOR CREATION



From short films to fashion. From design to dance. From gastronomy to music. From Lyon to Clermont-Ferrand, passing through Saint-Etienne, creations can be found in every possible form. In each of these cities, be on the lookout for today's inspirations

that will become the trends of tomorrow. In Clermont-Ferrand at the beginning of every year, its festival uncovers new talent in short films. In Lyon, stop off at the Village des Créateurs and don't miss its biennial festivals of dance and contemporary art. Another unmissable site: the Cité du Design in Saint-Etienne, which presents the International Design Biennial from 12 to 31 March 2013.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

	Clermont-Fd	Saint-Etienne	Lyon	Paris
Clermont-Fd		1h30 / 2h10	2h10 / 2h20 / 45'	3h55 / 3h / 55'
Saint-Etienne	1h30 / 2h10		40' / 45'	5h30 / 2h45
Lyon	2h10 / 2h20 / 45'	40' / 45'		4h30 / 2h / 1h10
Paris	3h55 / 3h / 55'	5h30 / 2h45	4h30 / 2h / 1h10	

EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL SITES

- 1 The Michelin Adventure (museum)
- 2 Vulcania Park
- 3 Centre national du costume de scène (National Centre for Set Costume)
- 4 Cité du Design - Saint-Etienne
- 5 Le Corbusier site in Firminy
- 6 Vieux Lyon (Old Lyon) district
- 7 Festival of Lights - Lyon
- 8 Royal Monastery of Brou
- 9 Gothic cathedral and the Romanesque basilica of Notre-Dame du Port at Clermont-Ferrand
- 10 Puy-en-Velay cathedral
- 11 Château de Voltaire in Ferney
- 12 Briançon fortifications
- 13 Mont Dauphin stronghold
- 14 Peaugres Manor



Clermont-Ferrand, Place de Jaude



Saint-Etienne, Cité du Design



Vieux Lyon district

CLERMONT-FERRAND

The city has been indisputably marked by Michelin which bequeathed it a remarkable restored industrial heritage. For adventurous types, it will be possible to ascend to the summit of the Puy de Dôme on a rack railway from June 2012. Clermont-Ferrand is also defined by its Gothic cathedral and its Romanesque Notre Dame du Port basilica, which are really worth a visit before wandering through the city centre.

www.clermontferrandtourism.com

WHAT TO SEE

① Aventure Michelin

A museum display presents the Michelin group: its history, its business – and its symbolic mascot the Michelin Man

www.aventure-michelin.com

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

② Vulcania leisure park and the Puys range

Some dozen kilometres from the city, head off to discover the fascinating world of volcanoes, in the staggering setting of the Puys range

www.vulcania.com

③ Centre national du costume de Scène (National Centre for Set Costume)

Costumes for the theatre, opera or even painted scenery rub shoulders in Moulins, in a unique French museum dedicated to the performing arts.

www.cnscs.fr



Centre national du costume de scène, in Moulins

SAINT-ETIENNE

The city of Saint-Etienne has to be discovered through its streets, its trendy locations and its designer shops. Take the time to taste the chocolate specialties of this city, and discover the collections of the 3 major museums in the city (Musée d'Art Moderne, Musée de la Mine, and the bicycle, ribbon and arms collections at the Musée d'Art et d'Industrie). Dynamic, innovative and highly cultured, the city has an extraordinary profile with exemplary architectural creations like the Cité du Design and the Zénith.

www.tourisme-st-etienne.com

WHAT TO SEE

④ Cité du Design

Events, exhibitions... design for everyone on a historical Saint-Etienne site, the former Manufacture des Armes

www.citedudesign.com

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

⑤ Le Corbusier site, in Firminy

The largest architectural complex by Le Corbusier in Europe, a leading architect of the exciting modern and designer town planning movement.

www.sitelecorbusier.com

LYON

The visit starts in Vieux Lyon with its buildings and interior courtyards which give this district its remarkable spirit. Follow the mural route, in trompe l'œil style, including Le Mur des Canuts, the largest fresco in Europe. After taking a detour via the Parc de la Tête d'Or rose garden and visiting the Institut Lumière, a living cinema museum, the pedestrian banks of the Rhône and their barge bars are the perfect end to a busy day.

WHAT TO SEE

⑥ Vieux Lyon (Old Lyon) district ☺

At the foot of the Fourvière hill, bordered by the Saône, criss-cross the alleyways and the famous traboules passageways of the Renaissance St-Jean district.

⑦ Festival of Lights

Magical illuminations and contemporary shows are on the programme for this event, held around 8 December every year.

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

⑧ Royal Monastery of Brou

Not far from Bourg-en-Bresse, this 16th-century masterpiece includes a remarkable complex of religious buildings.

AGENDA

Short Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand → January-February

Les traversées
Noirlac music festival

Nuits Sonores festival, Lyon
Les Nuits de Fourvière, festival in Lyon
→ June/July

Tarentaise festival of music and
Baroque art - Savoie
→ June/August

The multidisciplinary Festival of the 7 Hills in Saint-Etienne

Messiaen au Pays de la Meije festival
L'Estival de la Bâtie → July

Chaise-Dieu Festival in le Puy-en-Velay
Festival Berlioz → August

Ambronay Baroque Festival
→ September/October

Festival of Lights in Lyon
→ December

AVIGNON - AIX-EN-PROVENCE - MARSEILLE - NICE

ON THE SUNSHINE ROUTE






View over the port of Nice

The land of scents and flavours, bordered by the Mediterranean, lulled by the songs of the cicadas, the south of France is a different world, between the wine regions of Provence and the Rhône Valley. On this sunshine route, everything starts with Avignon, the ancient papal city which is now known all over the world, then on to Aix-en-Provence, with a richness of baroque style which is the most important after Paris and Versailles. Just around the corner, dynamic Marseille will give you a warm welcome, before you reach Nice and its 7 km of beaches.



PLAN YOUR TRIP

  	Avignon	Aix-en-Provence	Marseille	Nice	Paris
Avignon		1h 20'	1h 30'	2h30 3h20	6h30 2h40
Aix-en-Provence	1h 20'		25' 30'	3h30 1h50	6h55 2h50 1h20
Marseille	1h 30'	25' 30'		2h 2h	7h 3h 1h10
Nice	2h30 3h20	3h30 1h50	2h 2h		8h30 5h40 1h20
Paris	6h30 2h40	6h55 2h50 1h20	7h 3h 1h10	8h30 5h40 1h20	

EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL SITES

- 1 Palace of the Popes - Avignon
- 2 The Avignon Festival
- 3 Roman Theatre and Museum of Orange
- 4 Paul Cézanne sites
- 5 Château des Baux de Provence
- 6 Château d'If
- 7 Ephrussi de Rothschild Villa and Gardens
- 8 Greek Villa Kérylos
- 9 Place Masséna - Nice
- 10 Promenade des Anglais - Nice
- 11 Trophy of Augustus, La Turbie
- 12 Thoronet Abbey
- 13 The Old Port and Notre-Dame de la Garde - Marseille
- 14 Towers and ramparts of Aigues-Mortes
- 15 Glanum archaeological site
- 16 Carrières de Lumières
- 17 Fort Saint-André - Villeneuve lez Avignon
- 18 Bridge of Avignon
- 19 Montmajour Abbey
- 20 Arles, Roman and Romanesque monuments
- 21 Haut-Thorenc Manor

Nice Carnival
→ February

Avignon Festival
Aix-en-Provence International
Festival of Lyric Art

Nice Jazz Festival
→ July

Chorégies d'Orange festival
Roque d'Anthéron Piano Festival
→ July/August

Luberon International String
Quartet Festival
→ August

Marsatrac festival in Marseille
Antibes Festival of Religious Art
→ September

Marseille Provence, European Capital of Culture
→ 2013



Avignon, Palace of the Popes



Aix-en-Provence, Place d'Albertas

AVIGNON

The grandiose monumental ensemble formed by the Palace of the Popes, the cathedral, the gardens and the ramparts is not lacking in charm. Dance or sing on the famous Bridge of Avignon. Stroll through the squares, wander down the lanes and discover the beautiful façades of mansion houses and museums... Take advantage of the international theatre festival, or even discover the gastronomy of Provence

www.avignon-tourisme.com

WHAT TO SEE

① Palace of the Popes

A symbol of the influence of the Church on the 14th century Christian west, this grandiose palace overhangs the Rhône and the City of the Popes.

www.palais-des-papes.com

② The Avignon festival

In July, Avignon becomes a city-theatre, the international capital of contemporary performing arts.

www.festival-avignon.com
www.avignonleoff.com

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

③ Roman Theatre and Museum of Orange

Discover the best conserved ancient theatre in Europe, as well as its Art and History Museum.

www.theatre-antique.com



Roman Theatre of Orange

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

The son of the region, Paul Cézanne, remains the best guide to the town and to the Aix region. Fountains, private mansions, Provençal countryside... the essential things to see are close together and can be discovered on foot in the town centre, or by hiking or biking in the countryside. With its great cultural and gastronomic vitality, it is also a region where there are more places to go out than there are evenings. An extensive choice of trips, evening entertainment and events throughout the year also show the cultural vitality of contemporary Aix.

www.aixenprovencetourism.com

WHAT TO SEE

④ Cézanne

Paul Cézanne: the places where he lived and worked can be visited all year round. His family home, his workshop, his favourite places in the town centre and in the Aix region...

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

⑤ Château des Baux de Provence

A medieval adventure at the heart of this fortress, which dominates one of the most beautiful villages in France, in the Alpilles.

www.chateau-baux-provence.com

WELCOME TO THE RHÔNE VALLEY



Walk through the vineyard

Few wine regions have such a glorious past as this one: formerly the wines of popes, Côtes du Rhône wines enjoy international renown. Terroirs offering a warm welcome, great cuisine and festivals, the AOCs of the Rhône Valley give you the chance to discover their diversity on a gastronomic getaway. Choose the "after work" workshops, for example, which offer themed tasting sessions so that you can discover all of the nuances of the Côtes du Rhône wines.

One Tuesday a month / 6pm-8pm / Maison des Vins d'Avignon

www.rhone-wines-tourism.com

ON THE SUNSHINE ROUTE



Marseille, the Old Port

MARSEILLE

From the Notre-Dame de la Garde basilica to the Old Port, Marseille has a wealth of iconic places which have earned it its renown. A "City of Design" which numerous talents have made their home, it will also be the European Capital of Culture in 2013. In this city of singsong accents, soothed by the sea, don't miss the chance to taste a bouillabaisse or enjoy an aperitif by one of the most beautiful harbours in the world.

www.marseille-tourisme.com

WHAT TO SEE

⑥ Château d'If

A few miles from the Old Port, the famous structure built on the order of François 1st owes its popularity to the novel *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas.

www.if.monuments-nationaux.fr

Marseille Design and European Capital of Culture in 2013

A programme organised in 4 seasons, with more than 400 events in all artistic and cultural disciplines, will be offered across the region.

www.marseille-provence2013.fr

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

The Calanques

Stretching for more than 20 kilometres between Marseille and Cassis, there is a dream countryside set against the backdrop of the Mediterranean for those who love nature and sport.



Nice, Cours Saleya

NICE

Of course, don't miss visiting the old town with its lanes and markets selling flowers and handicrafts... Scents and colours mix harmoniously with the smell of the sea. Stroll along the famous Promenade des Anglais lined with palaces, hotels and casinos, and let your gaze be drawn by a magnificent azure sea. Stop at the Place Masséna – the starting point of the "Art in the City" tour – to see its fountain, its bronze statues and its sculptures.

www.nicetourisme.com

WHAT TO SEE

Old town and its markets

An old town which is full of charm, lined with colourful and picturesque little lanes, punctuated with the markets which are so characteristic of the south of France.

Architectural and museum heritage

Nice has about twenty municipal museums and galleries, which are free to visit, in addition to private galleries and artists' workshops.

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

⑦ Ephrussi de Rothschild Villa and Gardens

Built on the narrowest part of the Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat peninsula, visit one of the grandest palaces in the Renaissance style on the Côte d'Azur.

www.villa-ephrussi.com

⑧ Greek Villa Kérylos

This splendid villa built at the beginning of the 20th century, between Nice and Monaco, reminiscent of the villas of Ancient Greece, offers an exceptional view of the Mediterranean.

www.villa-kerylos.com



ON THE PROVENCE WINE ROUTE



Tasting session on the seafont

Famous for rosés, Provence wines also include reds and whites with a sturdy character. To discover these, take a look around the remarkable sites which are found in the Provençal wine region and

its various AOCs: Côtes de Provence, Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence, Coteaux Varois en Provence, Baux de Provence, Bandol, Cassis, Palette and Bellet. On the Provence wine route from Nice to the Camargue, 350 wine growers and cooperative wineries open their doors to you for a personalised and guided tasting session.

www.routedesvinsdeprovence.com



Ephrussi de Rothschild Villa



Calanques de Cassis

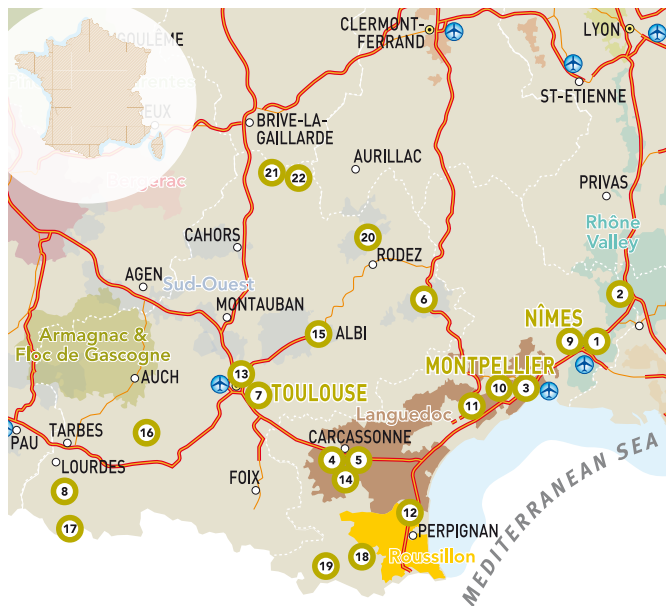
NÎMES-MONTPELLIER-TOULOUSE A PROMENADE THROUGH THE PAYS D'OC



A land of contrasts, the Pays d'Oc will never cease to surprise you with its mix of cultures and histories. Between the Mediterranean and Provence, Nîmes evokes the splendour of ancient Rome while, to the west, the city of Montpellier skilfully reconciles medieval alleyways and new districts bearing the hallmarks of the greatest international architects. Toulouse, the “Ville Rose”, will not only impress you with the wealth of its heritage, but will also add a colourful and festive note to your itinerary. En route for the south-west!

PLAN YOUR TRIP

	Nîmes	Montpellier	Toulouse	Paris
Nîmes		35' / 25'	2h40 / 2h35 / 45'	7h / 2h50
Montpellier	35' / 25'		2h15 / 2h	6h45 / 3h15 / 1h15
Toulouse	2h40 / 2h35 / 45'	2h15 / 2h		6h / 5h30 / 1h15
Paris	7h / 2h50	6h45 / 3h15 / 1h15	6h / 5h30 / 1h15	



EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL SITES

- 1 Amphitheatre of Nîmes
- 2 Pont du Gard
- 3 Musée Fabre - Montpellier
- 4 Carcassonne: The city
- 5 Carcassonne: Bastide Saint-Louis
- 6 The Millau Viaduct
- 7 Cité de l'espace de Toulouse
- 8 Pic du Midi
- 9 Maison Carrée, Tour Magne - Nîmes
- 10 Place de la Comédie - Montpellier
- 11 Scénovision Molière
- 12 Salses fortress
- 13 Le Capitole - Toulouse
- 14 Canal du Midi
- 15 Episcopal City of Albi
- 16 Montmaurin archaeological site
- 17 Pyrenees - Mont Perdu
- 18 Cité de Villefranche-de-Conflent
- 19 Citadel of Mont Louis
- 20 Château du Colombier
- 21 Château de Castelnau-Bretenoux
- 22 Château de Montal

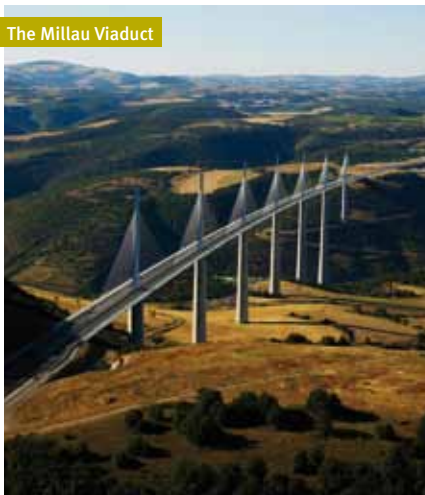
A PROMENADE THROUGH THE PAYS D'OC

IN THE DAYS OF THE ROMANS



Pont du Gard

End of the 1st century, Roman empire. An amphitheatre with capacity for 20,000 spectators was built in Nîmes to entertain the population. Still preserved almost 2,000 years later, today it hosts concerts and shows. The mark left by the Romans is revealed throughout your stay in the south of France: the Roman road in Montpellier and the Pont du Gard to name just two. In Toulouse, visit the Musée des Antiques and walk the ramparts of this "Ville Rose" which owes its nickname to the colour of the bricks brought by the Romans for their buildings. Stroll back through time.



The Millau Viaduct



Nîmes, the Maison Carrée

NÎMES

Nîmes gained a significant heritage from the presence of the Romans. Among the most remarkable remains, the Maison Carrée, a wonderfully preserved Roman temple, the Tour Magne, not forgetting the majestic amphitheatre. Another unmissable sight: the "temple to modernity", the Carré d'Art, a media library and museum of contemporary art by Lord Norman Foster.

www.nimes-tourisme.com

WHAT TO SEE

① Amphitheatre of Nîmes

Without a doubt the best preserved amphitheatre from the Roman era, the Amphitheatre of Nîmes hosts a number of concerts every summer.

www.arenas-nimes.com

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

② Pont du Gard

Remnants of a Roman aqueduct built more than 2,000 years ago to take water from Uzès to Nîmes. Mind-boggling...

www.pontdugard.fr



Amphitheatre of Nîmes



Montpellier, Place Jean Jaurès

MONTPELLIER

Aglaea, Euphrosyne and Thalia. The Three Graces decorate the fountain of the same name that you can admire in the famous Place de la Comédie. A city of designers, discover the Saint Roch district and its workshop-boutiques. Christian Lacroix is designing two new tramway lines in 2012. Montpellier is also home to the oldest university of medicine still in use in Europe, as well as more than 70 private mansion courtyards.

www.ot-montpellier.fr

WHAT TO SEE

③ Musée Fabre

Paintings, sculptures, graphical and decorative arts. One of the largest museums in France, it holds internationally renowned exhibitions every year.

www.museefabre.fr

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

④ ⑤ Castle and ramparts of the city of Carcassonne

Relive the Cathar saga in the fortified city of Carcassonne and contemplate the surrounding vineyards from the top of its 52 towers.

www.carcassonne-tourisme.com

⑥ The Millau Viaduct

An exceptional structure in the Midi-Pyrénées region, the Millau Viaduct, reaching more than 300 metres into the sky, is the tallest road bridge in the world.

www.leviaducdemillau.com

Toulouse, Quai de la Daurade



TOULOUSE

Toulouse, a city of contrasts with an exceptional heritage, has wonderful surprises in store for you. The majesty of the Capitole, private mansions including the Hôtel d'Assézat, brick and stone buildings including the St Sernin basilica or the "palm tree" and cloisters of the Jacobins, rich museum collections including the astonishing wall of skeletons at the Museum de Toulouse, cruises on the Garonne and on the Canal du Midi. As you go from site to site, prepare to be amazed!

www.toulouse-tourisme.com

WHAT TO SEE

7 The Airbus factory and the Cité de l'espace, Toulouse

Young and old head off either to conquer the sky with a visit to the A380, Caravelle or Concorde, or on the fascinating discovery of the universe!

www.cite-espace.com

www.toulouse-tourisme.com

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

8 Pic du Midi

By foot or by cable car, climb the Pic du Midi and reach the summit of the Pyrenees. A breathtaking view.

www.picdumidi.com

View from the Pic du Midi in the Pyrenees



Montpellier, Place de la Comédie



FLAVOURS FROM THE SOUTH

FLAVOURS FROM THE HEART

Warm and family-oriented, the cuisine of the south will delight taste buds. Take advantage of a break between Nîmes, Montpellier and Toulouse to enter local restaurants and discover an lilting, colourful gastronomy, often scented with olive oil. Brandade de Nîmes, tapenade, pies, cassoulet and Toulouse sausages, garbure, magret and foie gras... there's something here for everyone's taste. There's



no shortage of sweet things either, with the Violette de Toulouse, marshmallows and griottes de Montpellier. Take a bite and escape into a sweeter world.

AGENDA

The Great Roman Games in the Amphitheatre of Nîmes

→ April

Rio Loco festival, Toulouse

Siestes Electroniques festival, Toulouse

→ June

Montpellier Dance Festival

→ June/July

Carcassonne Festival

→ June/August

Radio France and Montpellier Festival

→ July

Jazz in Marciac

Sacred Music Festival at the Sylvanès Abbey

Pablo Casals festival, Prades

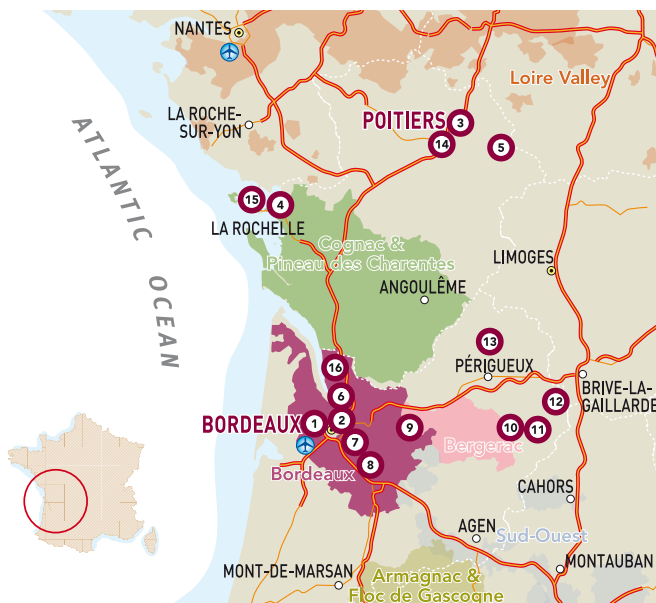
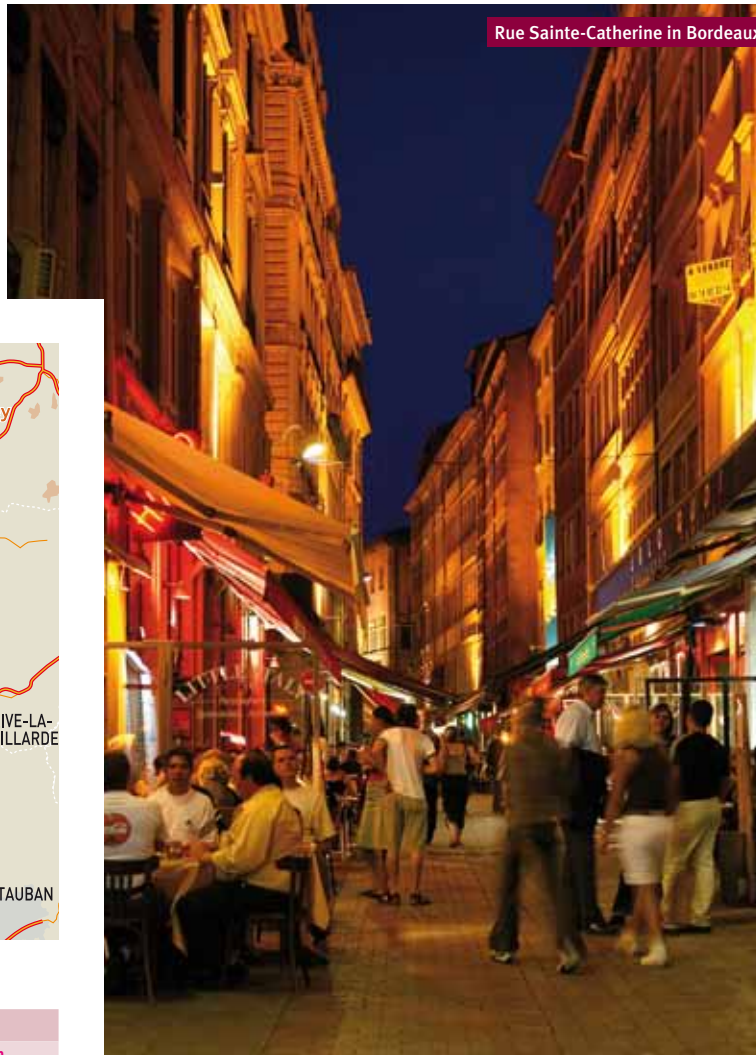
→ July/August



Cité de l'espace in Toulouse

BORDEAUX - POITIERS LAND OF GENEROSITY

This trip will plunge you into the heart of the world's largest fine wine region. The wines here are of an incredible variety, the fruit of many centuries of expertise. Here you will discover Bordeaux, its historical centre and the classical 18th-century architecture which is behind its reputation. Further north, beyond the land of Cognac and its brandies with complex and generous aromas, Poitiers and its exceptional Roman heritage await you.



PLAN YOUR TRIP

	Bordeaux	Poitiers	Paris
Bordeaux		2h30 1h45	6h 3h 1h
Poitiers	2h30 1h45		3h15 1h30
Paris	6h 3h 1h	3h15 1h30	

EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL SITES

- ① Historic centre - Bordeaux
- ② Pey-Berland tower - Bordeaux
- ③ Futuroscope
- ④ The towers of La Rochelle
- ⑤ Saint Savin sur Gartempe Abbey
- ⑥ Pair-non-Pair cave
- ⑦ Sauve-Majeure Abbey
- ⑧ Château de Cadillac
- ⑨ Montcaret archaeological site
- ⑩ Abri de Cap-Blanc
- ⑪ Les Eyzies-de-Tayac
- ⑫ Prehistoric sites and decorated caves of the Vézère valley
- ⑬ Château de Puyguilhem
- ⑭ Notre-Dame la Grande - Poitiers
- ⑮ Fortified town of Saint-Martin de Ré
- ⑯ Blaye fortifications/Cussac-Fort-Médoc

BORDEAUX, JOURNEYS THROUGH THE LAND OF WINE

Setting out from Bordeaux, you have the choice of six large wine-producing regions: Bordeaux, Médoc, Graves and Sauternes, Entre-Deux-Mers, Bourg and Blaye, Saint-Emilion. Each has various activities and ideas for accommodation on offer that are based around wine. www.oenoland.com



Ecole du vin de Bordeaux



Bordeaux, the water mirror at the Place de la Bourse



Poitiers, Notre-Dame la Grande church

BORDEAUX

With its exemplary harmonious town planning and architecture, which has seen almost no break with the traditional style in over two centuries, you can only be filled with wonder at Bordeaux. Go back in time as you discover the 350 historical monuments that make up this City of Art and History. Aboard a tram you will pass alongside the Saint-André cathedral and the Grand Théâtre before crossing the Garonne on the Pont de Pierre. Take advantage of your stay to savour the local dish of delicious finesse: oysters.

www.bordeaux-tourisme.com

WHAT TO SEE

① The Port of the Moon ☾

Name given to the port of Bordeaux, a city listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site for its exceptional urban development.

② Pey-Berland tower in Bordeaux ☾

A symbolic Bordeaux monument, this bell tower from the end of the 15th century offers an unrivalled panorama of the city.

www.pey-berland.monuments-nationaux.fr

Towers of La Rochelle



POITIERS

The city counts more than 80 listed monuments in a setting marked by Romanesque art. One of its jewels, the collegiate church of Notre-Dame la Grande, is famed for its sculpted façade. Immerse yourself in old Poitiers: from Saint Jean baptistery to Sainte Radegonde church, from the Palace of Poitiers to Saint Hilaire church, to visit Poitiers is to travel back through 2,000 years of art and history. On your many walks around the city you will be enchanted by the private mansions and typical gardens.

www.ot-poitiers.fr

WHAT TO SEE

③ Futuroscope

Let yourself be carried away by the magic of the futuristic world offered by this multimedia theme park, to be visited as a family or with friends.

www.futuroscope.com

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

④ The towers of La Rochelle

Stood facing the Atlantic, the towers of Saint-Nicolas, La Chaîne and La Lanterne have acted as the guardians of the Old Port since medieval times.

www.holidays-la-rochelle.co.uk
www.la-rochelle.monuments-nationaux.fr

⑤ Abbey Church of Saint Savin ☾

This gem of Romanesque architecture bordering the Gartempe has an exceptional collection of wall paintings.

www.abbaye-saint-savin.fr

AGENDA

Bordeaux Wine Festival
(every 2 years, even years)
→ June

Polychromies de Notre-Dame-La-Grande, Poitiers (illumination of the church façade)
→ June/September and December

Saintes festival
→ July

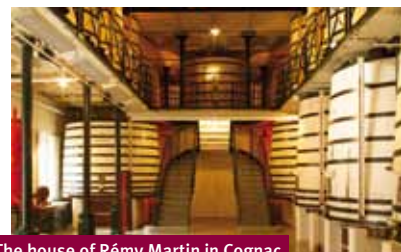
1 000 Sources & Dordogne
Festival de la Vézère
→ July/August

Périgord Noir festival
→ July/October

Sinfonia en Périgord festival
→ August



THE STAGES OF COGNAC



The house of Rémy Martin in Cognac

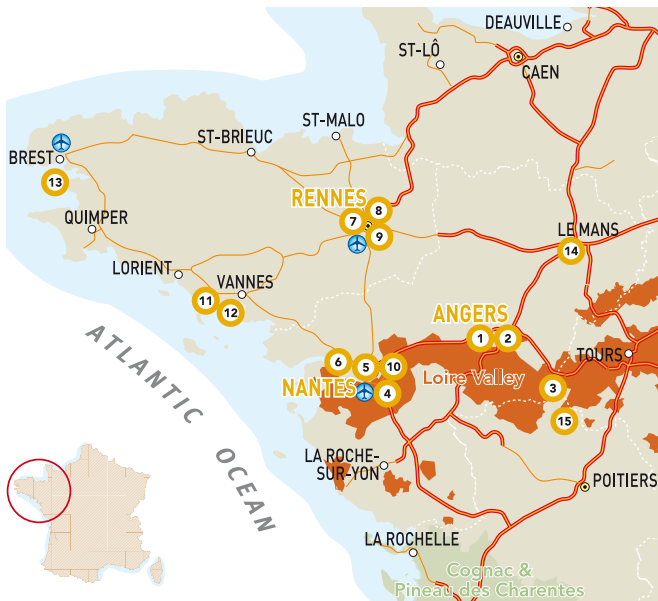
Five itineraries to discover a region and a product with an international reputation: Cognac. Each leg of your journey offers a unique occasion filled with encounters, sharing and exchanges. Visit the great Cognac producers and discover a wealth of expertise: "Les Rendez-vous par Rémy Martin" and "Martell & Co".

www.lacharente.com



Futuroscope park

ART TRIANGLE



En route to the west, between the land and sea, between cities of art and history, on the Loire Valley wine route. On the Loire châteaux itinerary, Angers is renowned for its dynamism and quality of life. Heading towards the Atlantic ocean, you will discover Nantes and its many historical and contemporary facets, as well as Rennes, where the medieval alleyways offer a wonderful route for discovering an exceptional heritage.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

	Angers	Nantes	Rennes	Paris
Angers		1h 35'	1h50 2h10	2h50 1h30
Nantes	1h 35'		1h20 1h15	3h45 2h 1h05
Rennes	1h50 2h10	1h20 1h15		3h25 2h15 1h10
Paris	2h50 1h30	3h45 2h 1h05	3h25 2h15 1h10	

EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL SITES

- Château du Roi René and the Apocalypse tapestry - Angers
- Beaux-Arts district- Angers
- Fontevraud Abbey
- Machines de l'île and the Elephant Nantes
- Château des ducs de Bretagne Nantes
- Nantes estuary: contemporary art route
- Brittany Parliament - Rennes
- Marché des Lices - Rennes
- Musée des Beaux-Arts - Rennes
- Le Lieu Unique theatre - Nantes
- Carnac stones
- Locmariaquer megalithic site
- Camaret sur Mer tower
- Le Mans - Cité Plantagenêt
- Château d'Oiron



The cycling circuit along the Loire at Angers



ANGERS

In the heart of the Loire Valley, Angers will surprise you with its rich heritage and its way of life: châteaux, fine gastronomy and renowned vineyards, etc. Here, the best way to get around is by bike or on foot. Routes have been especially developed for walking and cycling with complete peace of mind, in the city, on the Loire à Vélo route and in the wine region.

www.angersloiretourisme.com

WHAT TO SEE

① Château du Roi René and the Apocalypse tapestry

Enter the vast fortress of the Dukes of Anjou and admire the largest known medieval tapestry: the Apocalypse tapestry.

www.angers.monuments-nationaux.fr

② Beaux-Arts district

In this historical centre, 2 centres of Angevin heritage to discover: the David d'Angers gallery and the Musée des Beaux-Arts.

www.musees.angers.fr

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

③ Fontevraud Abbey

Between Chinon and Saumur, the largest monastic city in Europe which was a prison for a while has preserved its royal allure.

www.abbayedefontevraud.com



Marché des Lices in Rennes



Nantes, Anneaux of Buren

NANTES

Nantes is one of the major cultural, artistic, creative centres of France: the Château des ducs de Bretagne, Lieu Unique, Machines de l'Île, Musée à Ciel Ouvert d'Estuaire, Memorial to the abolition of slavery, Nantes-Angers Opéra, Hangar à Bananes exhibition room, festivals, etc. A Journey to Nantes invites you to discover these scattered monuments with a route that makes Nantes a destination to be envied as a City of Art and Culture.

www.nantes-tourisme.com

www.levoyageanantes.fr

WHAT TO SEE

④ Les Machines de l'Île and the Great Elephant

At the crossroads of the imaginary worlds of Jules Verne, the world of Leonardo da Vinci and the industrial history of Nantes, these monumental structures invite you to dream and journey.

www.lesmachines-nantes.fr

⑤ Château des ducs de Bretagne

This ducal residence is home to the Musée d'Histoire de Nantes with contemporary displays. An ideal introduction to the discovery of Nantes.

www.chateau-nantes.fr

⑥ Estuaire Nantes - Saint-Nazaire : an open-air contemporary art trail

These works give you a different view over Nantes and the Loire. An unusual way of discovering the river's estuary down to Saint Nazaire.

www.estuaire.info

AGENDA

Rennes Jazz festival → March

Festival de l'Epau → May

Printemps des Arts festival in Nantes
→ May/June

Les Orientales festival, St-Florent-le-Viel
→ June/July

Le Voyage à Nantes (A Journey to Nantes) event → June/August



Rennes, the Brittany Parliament

RENNES

The city welcomes an influential French cultural project: Les Champs Libres. A library, the Musée de Bretagne and the Espace des Sciences with its planetarium all rub shoulders in a contemporary building designed by Christian de Portzamparc. A trip to Rennes is also the opportunity to delve into a medieval atmosphere by taking the cobblestone alleyways of the city centre, lined with half-timbered houses. Make sure you sample a galette in a crêperie in Place Sainte-Anne. A must-eat!

www.tourisme-rennes.com

WHAT TO SEE

⑦ Brittany Parliament

One of the most prestigious monuments to the Breton architectural heritage and a page from the history of art in 17th century France. Today the headquarters of the Court of Appeal

⑧ Marché des Lices

On Saturday mornings, the Breton capital is ruled by its traditional market, the Marché des Lices, the second largest market in France with an exceptional heritage.

⑨ Musée des Beaux-Arts

Recently renovated, it provides a complete panorama of the history of painting.

www.mbar.org

Tempo' Rives festival - Angers
→ July/August

Les Musicales du Golfe
Sablé festival
Semaines Musicales festival in Quimper
→ August

"Les Accroche-Cœurs" street festival
in Angers → September

Trans Musicales festival in Rennes →
December

THE CHÂTEAUX OF THE LOIRE JEWELS OF THE RENAISSANCE



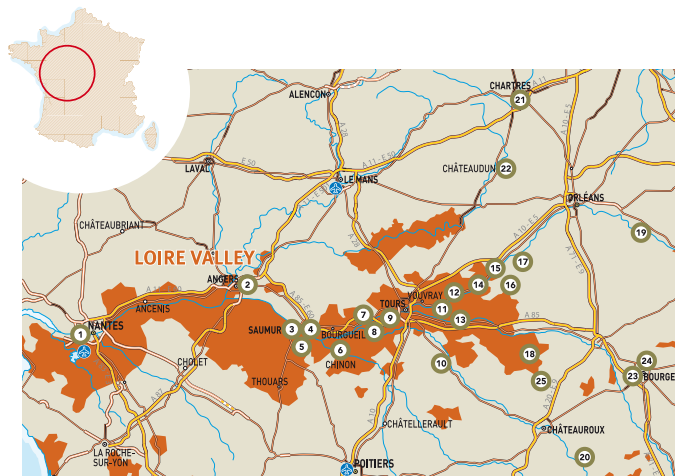
Château de Chambord



Château du Clos-Lucé



Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire



Since 2000, the Loire Valley has been the largest site in France to be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The “garden of France”, as the Loire Valley is known, is an area of outstanding universal value. Come and discover the 19 châteaux where the famous kings of France used to live. Guardians of a thrilling past, these châteaux are architectural gems, models of the savoir-faire of the French way of life, each with their own story.

www.loire-chateaux.org

THE LOIRE WINE PRODUCERS

United by a river that is said to be royal, the Loire wine region stretches from Sancerre to the Atlantic. In Angers and Nantes, the wine producers invite you to discover their AOCs, their terroirs, the tourist route, their cellars, etc. and of course to taste a selection of wines. The Centre-Loire region has some great Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée regions with, from east to west, its Sancerre, Orléanais, Touraine, Saumur and Anjou and Pays Nantais wines. The tourist route takes enthusiasts from cellars to vineyards, visiting prestigious châteaux, abbeys, caves and gardens that run alongside the Loire along the way.

www.vinsdeloire.fr / www.vins-centre-loire.com



Tasting session on the banks of the Loire

EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL SITES

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ① Château des ducs de Bretagne | ⑭ Domaine de Chaumont sur Loire |
| ② Château d'Angers | ⑮ Château royal de Blois |
| ③ Cadre Noir de Saumur | ⑯ Château de Cheverny |
| ④ Château de Saumur | ⑰ Domaine national de Chambord |
| ⑤ Fontevraud Abbey | ⑱ Château de Valençay |
| ⑥ Royal fortress of Chinon | ⑲ Château de Sully/Loire |
| ⑦ Château de Langeais | ⑳ House of George Sand, Nohant |
| ⑧ Château d'Azay-le-Rideau | ㉑ Tower and treasury of Chartres cathedral |
| ⑨ Château and jardins de Villandry | ㉒ Château de Châteaudun |
| ⑩ Royal city of Loches | ㉓ Palais Jacques Cœur, Bourges |
| ⑪ Château du Clos Lucé | ㉔ Tower and crypt of Bourges cathedral |
| ⑫ Château royal d'Amboise | ㉕ Château de Bouges |
| ⑬ Château de Chenonceau | |

THRILLING EVENTS

In Metropolitan France and the overseas territories, national events make France a vibrant and exciting destination all year round...



La Nuit des Musées (Museums at Night)

In May, for one night only, enter the “Musées de France” to discover or rediscover works and artists in a new light!

www.nuitdesmusees.culture.fr



Rendez-vous aux jardins (Gardens open to the public)

Poetry and rarities are present for this event that honours private and public parks in June. Enter locations that are sometimes secret and unimagined from the street...

www.rendezvousauxjardins.culture.fr



Heritage Day

For the last 20 years, the “Heritage Days” have been a special opportunity to visit unusual or historical locations. Churches, prefectures, châteaux, banks and many more. Access to the whole range of French culture.

www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr



La Nuit blanche

Since it was launched in 2002, this magical event has allowed artists to transform public and private spaces in Paris, for just one night in October.

www.nuitblanche.paris.fr



Fête de la musique (music festival)

On 21 June, the arrival of the summer is celebrated with music in all the cities of France. Thousands of musicians, both amateur and professional, will have you dancing to the sound of familiar tunes or introduce new trends.

www.fetedelamusique.culture.fr



Pique-nique chez le vigneron indépendant (Picnic with independent wine-producers)

With your picnic basket tucked under your arm, share in the passion that drives independent wine producers for one weekend in June. They will open their doors, offering you a welcoming, not to mention instructive, visit!

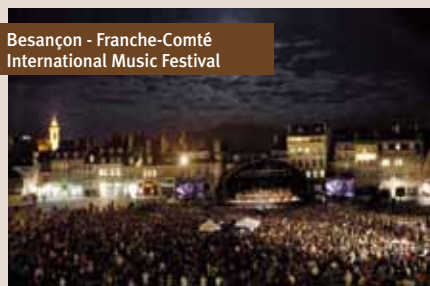
<http://pique-nique.vigneron-independant.com>

LAND OF FESTIVALS



France Festivals brings together 88 festivals which include some of the most prestigious, internationally-renowned seasonal events in France. Every year, from January to December, follow a unique musical trail through all the regions of France. It's the ideal occasion to combine relaxation and gastronomy with unforgettable moments of artistic emotion.

For more information, visit www.francefestivals.com



Besançon - Franche-Comté
International Music Festival



Saint-Riquier - Somme Bay Festival



Saoû Chante Mozart (Mozart festival in Saoû)

VERSAILLES - LE HAVRE

BRILLIANT DESIGNERS

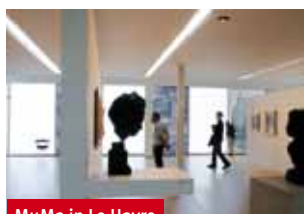


Passerelle du Commerce in Le Havre

From Versailles to Le Havre... in other words from the most famous château in France to the gateway to the ocean. Beyond the splendour of the Sun King's residence, the whole pomp and ceremony of Versailles will amaze you. At le Havre, the flavours of the sea will have you genuinely in rapture. Between royal Versailles and the modern port of le Havre, from the gates of Paris to the cliffs of Normandy, an unforgettable journey awaits you along the Seine.



THE BIRTHPLACE OF GENIUS



MuMa in Le Havre

In the MuMa in Le Havre, one of the largest collections of impressionist paintings is on display for you. Not far from here, Claude Monet painted the port here in his painting "Impression, Sunrise", which gave its name to the art movement. Let yourself

be carried away by the Norman sites and landscapes which have charmed the greatest artists, such as Eugène Boudin, Gustave Courbet, Georges Seurat, Camille Pissarro, Raoul Dufy, Othon Friesz, to name but a few. Extend this artistic journey to Versailles to discover the world of Charles Le Brun, creator of the famous Hall of Mirrors in the palace, the Ambassador's Staircase and even the Halls of War and Peace. Attention, masterpieces.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

	Versailles	Le Havre	Paris
Versailles		2h 3h30	30' 30'
Le Havre	2h 3h30		2h15 2h
Paris	30' 30'	2h15 2h	

EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL SITES

- 1 Palace of Versailles
- 2 Musée Malraux - Le Havre
- 3 Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey
- 4 The Caen Memorial
- 5 The Normandy landing beaches
- 6 Château de Carrouges
- 7 Towers of Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue
- 8 Chartres cathedral



The Neptune fountain at the Palace of Versailles



1950s show apartment in Le Havre



Equestrian Show Academy at Versailles

VERSAILLES

Official residence of the kings of France, Versailles Palace is an unmissable visit if you want to discover the pomp and circumstance of a period, artistic riches, exceptional gardens, famous collections, the Petit Trianon that will throw you into the private world of Queen Marie-Antoinette... and the stables where the town today houses the Académie du Spectacle Equestre.

www.versailles-tourisme.com

WHAT TO SEE

① The King's vegetable garden

To fill his table, Louis XIV ordered the gardener JB. de la Quintinye to create a huge vegetable garden (9 hectares) at the edge of the parc aux cerfs.

www.potager-du-roi.fr

① The Grand Musical Fountain Display

A virtuoso walk through the heart of the most beautiful gardens in France which stage their fountains and jets of water to great classical melodies.

www.chateauversailles-spectacles.fr

LE HAVRE

The combination of an ancient history of a port and contemporary architecture, Le Havre will inevitably astonish you. Take advantage of a trip to the city to visit the MuMa (Musée d'Art Moderne André Malraux) and admire the 2nd largest impressionist collection in France or visit the show apartment, a reproduction of a 1950's life-style. Savour the great sea air at the port or along the two-kilometre beach.

www.lehavretourisme.com

WHAT TO SEE

The city rebuilt ☺

A city devastated by the Second World War, Le Havre has been transformed with the inspired and modern touch of Auguste Perret, a "poet of concrete".

LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

③ Historic route of Norman Abbeys ☺

The visit to Mont-Saint Michel Abbey will be the grand finale of your encounter with the historical edifices that are the Norman abbeys.

www.abbayes-normandes.com

④ Caen Memorial

Near the Normandy landing beaches, it recounts the events of the Second World War, a moving visit and previously unseen films.

www.memorial-caen.fr



The Grand Musical Fountain Display, at the Palace of Versailles



Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey

AGENDA

Le Havre, passionately France
3 exhibitions (MuMa, Espace André Graillet, Plage du Havre)
→ May/September 2012

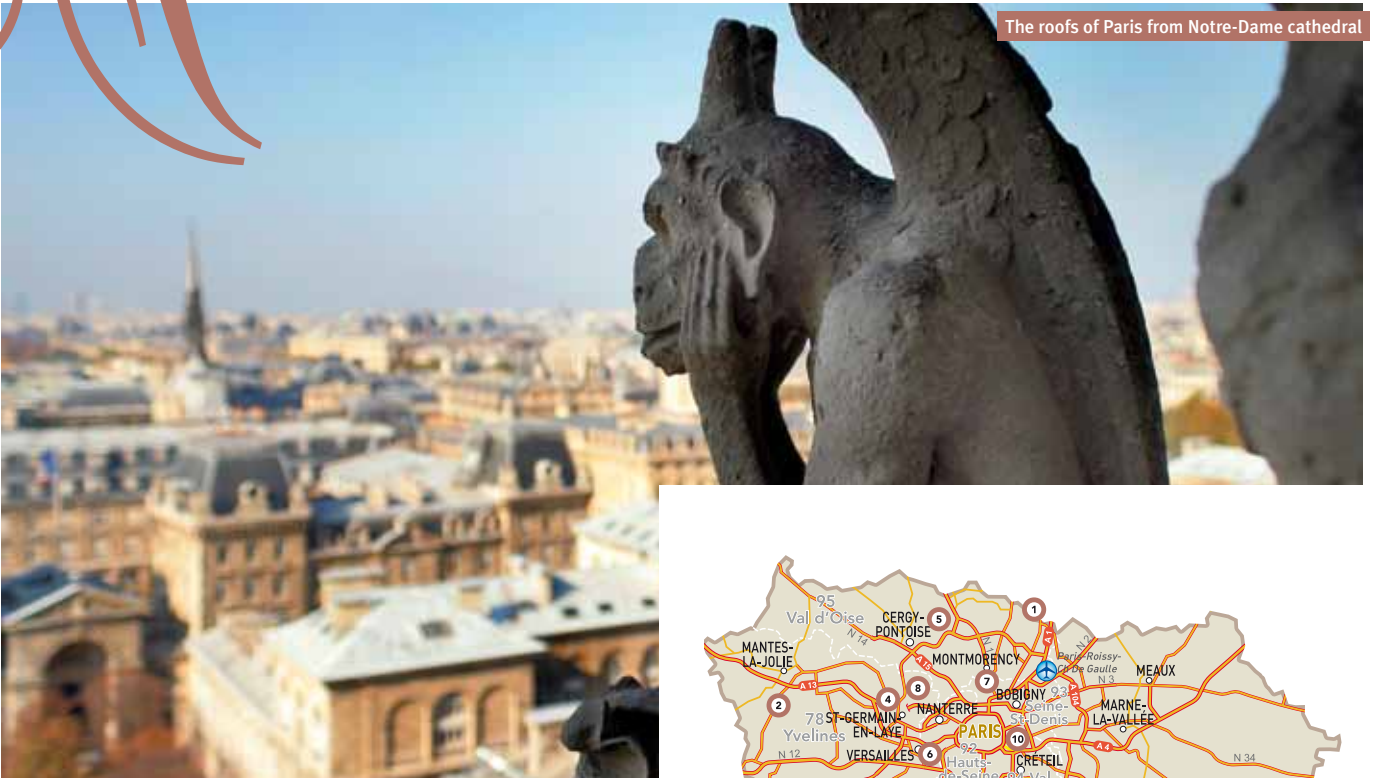
The Grand Musical Fountain Display,
at the Palace of Versailles
→ April/October

Septembre Musical de l'Orne festival
→ August/September

Automne en Normandie festival
→ October/November

PARIS - ÎLE-DE-FRANCE INSANELY ROMANTIC

The roofs of Paris from Notre-Dame cathedral



Paris, the city of lights, and its Ile-de-France region, are an invitation to discover the French way of life. Insanely romantic, the Seine will guide you along a route that is rich with discoveries, extraordinary monuments and unlikely atmospheres... The place for culture, fashion, design and even contemporary art, Paris and its region will make your head spin!

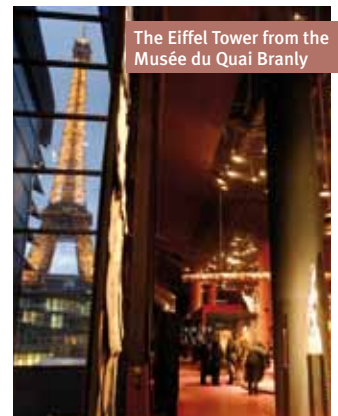


EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL SITES > PARIS

- Cité de la Musique
- Musée de l'Armée - Hôtel national des Invalides
- Museum national d'Histoire naturelle
- Musée d'Orsay
- Musées du parfum Fragonard
- Centre Pompidou
- Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine
- Espace Dalí - Montmartre
- La Cinémathèque française
- Montparnasse 56
- Musée national des Arts asiatiques Guimet
- Musée Rodin
- Musée Marmottan Monet
- Opéra national de Paris - Palais Garnier
- Musée du Louvre
- Musée du quai Branly
- Musée de l'Orangerie
- Musée Jacquemart-André
- Arc de Triomphe
- Conciergerie
- Panthéon
- Sainte-Chapelle
- Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral

> ÎLE DE FRANCE

- ① Domaine de Chantilly
- ② Château de Thoiry
- ③ Château de Vaux le Vicomte
- ④ Villa Savoye, Poissy
- ⑤ Château d'Auvers sur Oise
- ⑥ Palace of Versailles
- ⑦ Saint Denis cathedral
- ⑧ Château de Maisons
- ⑨ Château de Rambouillet
- ⑩ Château de Vincennes
- ⑪ Palais et Parc de Fontainebleau
- ⑫ Provins, medieval fair town



Musée du Louvre



Centre Pompidou



PARIS

The capital of France is also the world capital of romanticism, shopping and gastronomy. A stay in Paris will of course include a visit to must-see monuments like the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame cathedral, Sacré-Cœur, etc. But it should also include walks around the hill of Montmartre or haphazard strolls along the cobblestone alleyways. Make time to visit its numerous museums, which will have something for every interest. The destination benefits from a calendar of cultural and festive events that bear witness to its ever-renewing vitality.

WHAT TO SEE

Museum national d'Histoire naturelle

The plant and animal world will no longer hold any secrets from you, once you have visited this museum located in the Jardin des Plantes in Paris.

www.mnhn.fr

Centre Pompidou

In this building sporting unusual architecture, one of the largest museums in the world dedicated to modern and contemporary art.

www.centrepompidou.fr

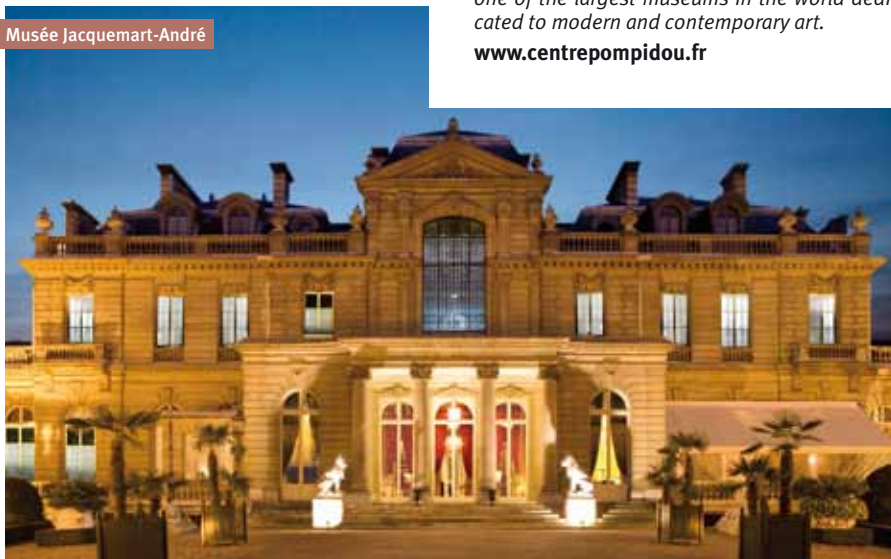
PARIS MUSEUM PASS



The Paris Museum Pass offers free access to the collections of more than 60 museums and monuments in Paris and its region. Different packages, pass access, attractive prices...

www.parismuseumpass.fr

Musée Jacquemart-André



Palais Garnier

Whether for a show or to admire the flamboyant architecture, don't miss the Opéra National de Paris.

www.operadeparis.fr

Musée de l'Orangerie

Located at the heart of the Jardin des Tuileries, this boasts a collection of impressionist and post-impressionist paintings.

www.musee-orangerie.fr

Musée Jacquemart-André

On the illustrious boulevard Haussmann, this magnificent Second Empire private mansion houses a rich and varied art collection.

www.musee-jacquemart-andre.com

SHOPPING IN THE MARAIS



Take the opportunity to walk through the capital to meet its small designers and the districts where they are based. Head for the Marais in particular. Here, every street is the

perfect chance to explore new trends. In the Haut Marais district, talented young designers have filled shops or former workshops and rub alongside the recognised brands that have given the district its identity as a haven for designers. There is also jewellery and leather goods... don't miss it!

 Saint Paul or Hôtel de ville



PARIS - ÎLE-DE-FRANCE

INSANELY ROMANTIC

Fireworks at the Château de Chantilly



Villa Savoye Le Corbusier in Poissy

ÎLE-DE-FRANCE

The historic heart of France owes its name to the many waterways that cross it. A “nature” destination then, with its parks and forests, such as the Bois de Vincennes, the Forêt de Fontainebleau and the Vallée de la Chevreuse, a paradise for the impressionists. But Paris Ile-de-France is also one of the youngest and most multi-cultural regions in Europe, and its creative energy is unfailing.

WHAT TO SEE

① Domaine de Chantilly

Its château, its forest, its park and its museum make the visit to this 8000-hectare medieval estate unmissable.

www.domainedechantilly.com

② Château de Thoiry

130 species of animals over 150 hectares at the foot of a sumptuous château, for a family-oriented cultural and natural visit.

www.thoiry.tm.fr



Château de Fontainebleau

③ Château de Vaux Le Vicomte

Built on the order of Fouquet, superintendent of Louis XIV, this 17th-century edifice was the main source of inspiration behind the Palace of Versailles.

www.vaux-le-vicomte.com

④ Villa Savoye in Poissy

Nicknamed “Les Heures Claires”, this house built during the inter-war years perfectly illustrates Le Corbusier’s ideas of modernism.

www.villa-savoye.monuments-nationaux.fr

⑤ Château d'Auvers sur Oise

Follow in the footprints of the great names of impressionism who shaped the history of the village and the world of art: Van Gogh, Monet, Degas, Renoir...

www.chateau-auvers.fr



Château d'Auvers-sur-Oise

Château de Vincennes



AGENDA

Candlelight visit, Vaux le Vicomte
→ May/October

Saint-Denis festival
→ June

Auvers-sur-Oise festival
→ June/July

Paris Quartier d'Été/Paris Plages
→ July/August

Rock en Seine in Paris
→ August

Festival d'Automne in Paris
Jazz à la Villette in Paris
→ September

Saison Musicale festival
in Royaumont

Île-de-France festival
→ September/October

International Contemporary
Art Fair in Paris → October

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