

French
moments

2025



25

PLACES TO SEE IN FRANCE



25 Places to See in France in 2025

Welcome to this new ebook, "The 25 Sites to Discover in France in 2025". Over the pages of this ebook, I will take you on an extraordinary journey across France, discovering iconic locations, hidden treasures and unique experiences waiting to be explored in 2025.

2025 will also mark a significant milestone in France's cultural history with the long-awaited reopening of Notre Dame de Paris. After the devastating fire in April 2019, this timeless landmark is due to reopen in December 2024, demonstrating the resilience of France's heritage and the determination to preserve our cultural legacy.

The Tour de France, one of the world's most prestigious cycling competitions, has some surprises for 2025. This 112th edition of the cycling race will start in Lille, northern France, before finishing in style on the Champs-Élysées in Paris.

In the following pages, I will guide you through a carefully selected collection of 25 must-see sites in France in 2025. From historic towns to picturesque villages and majestic castles to breathtaking natural areas, each destination will offer you a unique and rewarding experience.

I've deliberately chosen sites outside Paris in France to take you to places that are a little less crowded.

So open the pages of this ebook and be inspired by the treasures that await you. The adventure begins here, and each site I introduce you to will become an unforgettable stop on your journey through this land of dreams and wonder.



Pierre

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[Click here to view the 25 places on Google Maps](#)



AMBOISE


AMBOISE


COUNTRY TOWN + CHATEAU

 **Region:** Centre-Val de Loire


 **Population:** 12,500

 **Train station:** YES

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The picturesque town of Amboise, nestling in the Loire Valley in France, is a destination that combines history, architecture and natural beauty. Famous for its majestic château, Amboise offers visitors an unforgettable experience. The cobbled streets and stone houses evoke a medieval charm, while the Loire banks add a serenity touch.

The jewel in Amboise's crown is undoubtedly its château, perched on a hill overlooking the town. The château has played host to such illustrious figures as Leonardo da Vinci, who resided in the region and is buried in the château's chapel. Visitors can explore its richly decorated rooms, admire panoramic views of the Loire from its terraces and immerse themselves in the captivating history of the French Renaissance.

Amboise is a small country town full of charm, offering lively alleyways, picturesque cafés and local markets. Visitors can also discover Le Clos Lucé, the last home of Leonardo da Vinci, located close to the château.

Nearby sites include the cities of Tours and Blois and the Renaissance châteaux of Chenonceau, Chaumont-sur-Loire, Cheverny and Chambord.





ANNECY


ANNECY


CITY + LAKE + MOUNTAINS

 **Region:** Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes


 **Population:** 131,700

 **Train station:** YES

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Nestling at the foot of the majestic French Alps, Annecy is a rare gem that dazzles visitors with its enchanting beauty. Nicknamed the "Venice of the Alps", this picturesque town is brimming with charm and elegance. Its sparkling canals wind through the old town, lined with colourful Italianate houses, creating a romantic atmosphere.

Crystal-clear Lake Annecy adds to the magic of the town. Framed by the Alpine mountains, it offers a spectacular setting for strolls along its shores or exciting water sports activities. Annecy Castle, towering over the town from a hilltop, reminds us of its medieval history and offers breathtaking views.

The old town has lively cobbled streets, shady squares and craft shops. Local markets offer everything from Savoyard cheeses to sweet delicacies. Art lovers will be enchanted by Annecy's museums and galleries, reflecting its vibrant cultural scene.

Whether you're attracted by nature, history or gastronomy, Annecy will seduce you. It's a city where every corner offers a new breathtaking view and a memorable experience.





ARRAS


ARRAS

CITY

 **Region:** Hauts-de-France


 **Population:** 42,300

 **Train station:** YES

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Arras, a true gem in the north of France, charms visitors with its warm atmosphere and historic heritage. This picturesque town is a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity. The Place des Héros, the Rue de la Taillerie and the Grand'Place form an extraordinary monumental ensemble, unique in Europe with elegant Baroque and Flemish facades.

The history of Arras is palpable around every corner. The former underground quarries tell tales of the First World War and offer captivating tours. The majestic Notre Dame-et-Saint-Vaast cathedral and the iconic belfry bear witness to the city's architectural wealth.

Culture is woven into the fabric of Arras, with festivals, art exhibitions and musical events enlivening the local scene. The Musée des Beaux-Arts boasts a diverse collection from ancient to contemporary art. The cobbled streets of Arras are lined with cafés, restaurants and bakeries offering local culinary delights. The markets offer fresh, artisanal products that reflect the authentic character of the region.

Arras is an invitation to discover the north of France in all its splendour, where the history, culture and warm welcome of the locals will leave you with unforgettable memories.





BAYEUX


BAYEUX

COUNTRY TOWN + BEACHES


 **Region:** Normandy

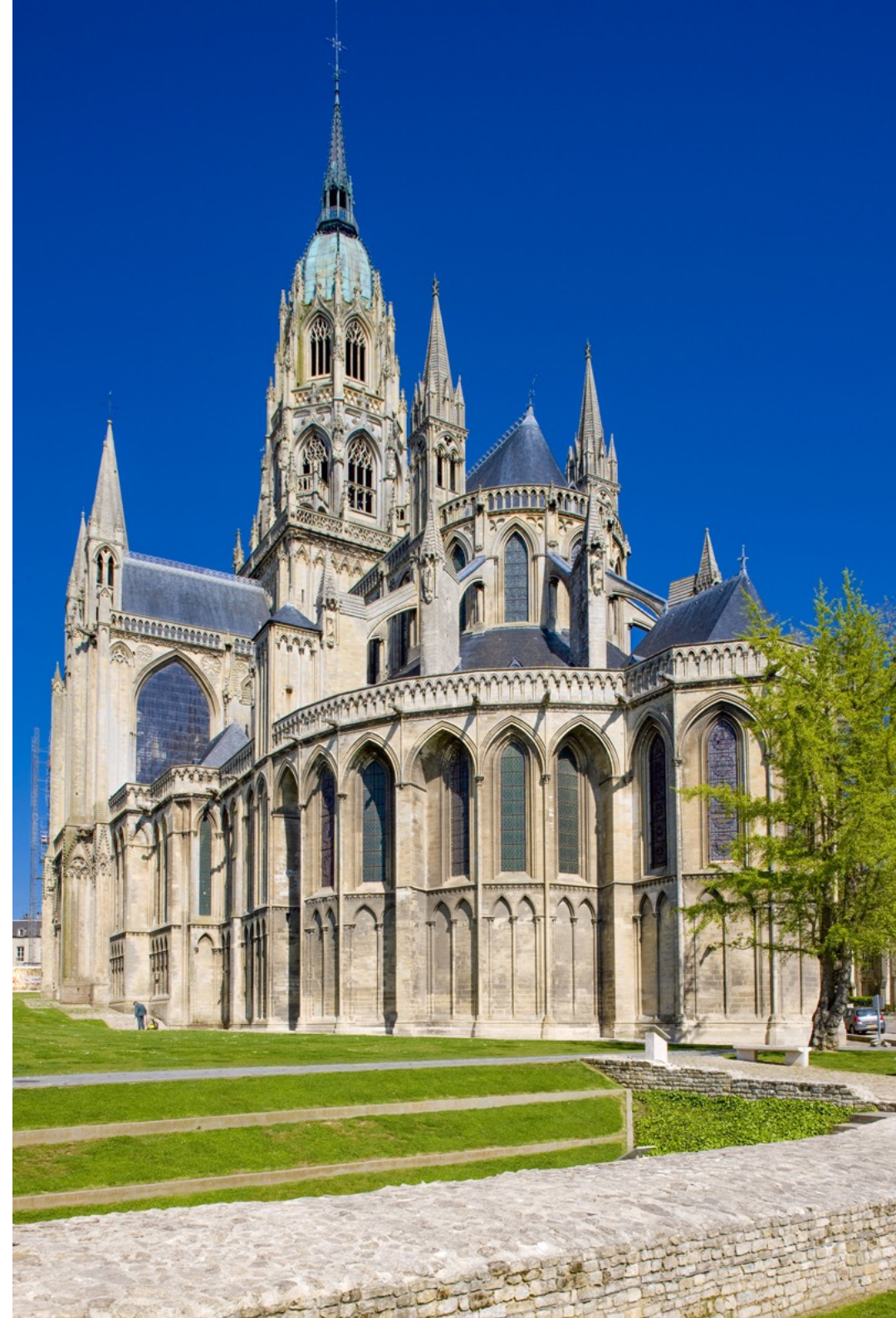
 **Population:** 12,640

 **Train station:** YES

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Situated in the heart of Normandy, the town of Bayeux boasts a rich historical heritage and timeless beauty. This charming town has preserved its heritage while embracing the modern world. Bayeux is perhaps most famous for the Bayeux Tapestry, an exceptional medieval work that tells the epic story of William the Conqueror.

Strolling the cobbled streets of Bayeux is like stepping back in time. Old houses and limestone buildings lend the town a unique charm. The majestic Bayeux Cathedral, in Gothic style, dominates the skyline.

The picturesque town centre is full of craft shops, cafés and restaurants serving local gastronomic delights. Traditional markets offer a variety of regional produce, including cheeses and seafood.

Bayeux enjoys enviable proximity to the D-Day beaches, a reminder of the region's crucial role in the Second World War. The beaches and memorials witness the courage and sacrifice of the Allied troops.





BEAUNE

BEAUNE

COUNTRY TOWN + VINEYARDS

 **Region:** Bourgogne-Franche-Comté


 **Population:** 20,100

 **Train station:** YES

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At the heart of France's iconic Burgundy wine region, the town of Beaune shines like a precious gem for wine lovers and history enthusiasts alike. Famous for its world-famous vineyards, Beaune is also an architectural and cultural treasure trove.

Beaune's picturesque charm lies in its cobbled streets and half-timbered houses. Its location amidst the vineyards adds a romantic touch to the atmosphere. The town's focal point is the Hôtel-Dieu, a medieval architectural masterpiece with a roof of multicoloured glazed tiles. It houses a museum today and remains an eloquent testimony to the town's hospital past.

Beaune is a must for wine lovers. Cellars and tastings abound, offering an opportunity to savour the region's exquisite wines, including the prestigious red Burgundy. The colourful market, where fresh local produce is on display, celebrates Burgundy's gastronomy.

The town exudes tranquillity and authenticity, creating a soothing contrast to the hustle and bustle of modern life. Beaune is an invitation to slow down, taste, explore and soak up the history and terroir of Burgundy.





BERGUES


BERGUES

COUNTRY TOWN

 **Region:** Hauts-de-France


 **Population:** 3,500

 **Train station:** YES

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Bergues, a medieval gem in northern France, has a timeless charm and a captivating history. Surrounded by imposing ramparts, this fortified town is like stepping back in time. Locating close to the Belgian border has shaped its unique, multicultural identity.

The majestic and emblematic belfry dominates the landscape, a reminder of the importance of Bergues through the centuries. The cobbled streets wind between picturesque houses, creating a warm and authentic atmosphere. The Grand Place, a lively meeting place and local market is a central gathering point. The town has also preserved five town gates and ramparts from the Middle-Ages and Louis XIV era.

Bergues is also famous for its role in the film "Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis" (Welcome to the Sticks) bringing it national notoriety. However, its charm extends far beyond the screen, with local festivals, northern French culinary specialities and warm hospitality making it a unique destination.

In short, Bergues embodies the very essence of French Flanders, harmoniously blending history, architecture and a friendly atmosphere.





BIARRITZ


BIARRITZ

SEA RESORT


 **Region:** Nouvelle Aquitaine

 **Population:** 25,900

 **Train station:** YES

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Biarritz, on the Basque coast of south-west France, is a destination that combines elegance, nature and culture. Once a humble fishing village, Biarritz has evolved into a world-renowned seaside resort while retaining its authentic charm.

The golden beaches and powerful waves attract surfers from all over the world, creating a vibrant atmosphere. Standing proudly on a promontory, the Biarritz lighthouse offers panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and the rugged coastline.

Biarritz has a royal history, having been a favourite destination of Napoleon III and Empress Eugenie. Their influence is reflected in the town's elegant architecture, with buildings such as the splendid Hôtel du Palais, now a luxury hotel.

The city centre has chic boutiques, lively cafés and restaurants serving regional specialities. The covered market is a paradise for lovers of local produce, such as Basque cheeses and seafood.

Biarritz also celebrates Basque culture through its music, dance and the traditional sport of Basque pelota. Festivals and events enliven the town throughout the year.





CARCASSONNE


CARCASSONNE


COUNTRY TOWN + CASTLE

 **Region:** Occitania

 **Population:** 46,600

 **Train station:** YES

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Carcassonne, an enchanting medieval town in southern France, seems straight out of a fairytale. Dominated by its massive ramparts and crenellated towers, the Cité de Carcassonne transports visitors through the ages. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, this fortified fortress is an impressive testament to medieval architecture.

The cobbled streets wind between the stone buildings, creating an immersive and mystical atmosphere. Castles and churches dating back to the Middle Ages add historic grandeur. The ramparts offer panoramic views of the surrounding valley and the Pyrenees on the horizon.

The Cité is surrounded by the modern city of Carcassonne, which offers an exciting contrast between the past and present. The Canal du Midi, a World Heritage site, runs through the town, adding a touch of serenity.

In short, Carcassonne is a window into the past, an invitation to explore centuries of history and marvel at structures that defy time. It's an unforgettable experience that immerses visitors in a captivating medieval world.





CHANTILLY


CHANTILLY


CHATEAU + GARDENS

 **Region:** Hauts-de-France

 **Population:** 10,600

 **Train station:** YES

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The Château and estate of Chantilly, located near Paris, are a cultural and architectural treasure trove that captivates visitors with its elegance and timeless beauty. Nestling in the heart of a vast wooded park, the Château de Chantilly is a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture, reflecting the grandeur and refinement of its past.

The château is home to the Musée Condé, which houses an exceptional collection of works of art, ancient manuscripts and historical treasures. Highlights include the wood-panelled library and the Cabinet des Livres, containing thousands of precious books.

The Chantilly estate offers much more than just the château itself. The formal gardens, designed by Le Nôtre, dazzle with their symmetry and beauty. The Grand Canal adds a picturesque touch to the ensemble, while the Hameau de la Reine, a recreation of a rustic village, contrasts the château's splendour.

The estate is also famous for its racecourse and the Musée du Cheval, a tribute to Chantilly's equestrian passion. The large stables, among the largest in the world, are an impressive example of eighteenth-century architecture.





CHARLEVILLE
-MÉZIÈRES


CHARLEVILLE-MÉZIÈRES

TOWN


 **Region:** Grand-Est

 **Population:** 46,300

 **Train station:** YES

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Charleville-Mézières, in the Ardennes region of France, charms visitors with its blend of history, culture and natural beauty. Comprising the twin towns of Charleville and Mézières, the city contrasts modernity and tradition harmoniously.

The Place Ducale is the jewel of Charleville-Mézières, an elegant space surrounded by Renaissance buildings with magnificently ornate facades. It's a place for lively meetings, colourful markets and local events. The Flemish-inspired architecture adds a touch of elegance to the city's heart. The quays of the Meuse add a picturesque touch, with walks along the river and panoramic views. The narrow streets of Mézières evoke medieval charm, while Charleville stands out for its organised urban layout.

The town is also famous for its annual festival, the Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes, which attracts artists worldwide. The Musée Rimbaud is a reminder that Charleville-Mézières is the birthplace of the famous poet Arthur Rimbaud.

The surrounding Ardennes offer green landscapes, dense forests and hiking trails, allowing visitors to reconnect with nature.





COLMAR


COLMAR

TOWN + VINEYARDS

 **Region:** Grand-Est


 **Population:** 68,300

 **Train station:** YES

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Colmar, one of the pearls of Alsace in France, draws visitors with its medieval charm, picturesque canals and rich culture. Nicknamed "Little Venice", the town is a living tableau of bright colours and half-timbered houses worthy of a fairytale.

The canals winding through the old town add a touch of romance, while the cobbled streets invite you to stroll and discover architectural treasures at every corner. The Place de l'Ancienne Douane, surrounded by timber houses, is a lively meeting point in town. The Collegiate of Saint-Martin, with its mighty bell tower, is a remarkable example of Gothic architecture. The Little Venice district is a photographer's paradise, with its colourful houses reflected in the calm waters.

Colmar is also home to the Musée Unterlinden, housed in a former convent, which exhibits a varied collection of works of art ranging from medieval altarpieces to contemporary works.

Alsatian gastronomy takes pride of place in Colmar's restaurants and winstubs (bistros), where you can sample traditional dishes and local wines.





CÔTE VERMEILLE


CÔTE VERMEILLE

SEA COAST + MOUNTAINS


 **Region:** Occitania

 **Train station:** YES

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The Côte Vermeille enchants visitors with its exceptional coastal beauty, picturesque villages and authentic Mediterranean atmosphere. Nestling between the Mediterranean Sea and the mountains of the Pyrénées-Orientales, this region offers the perfect balance between nature and culture.

Crystal-clear coves and sandy beaches create a breathtaking coastal landscape. Coastal villages such as Collioure and Port-Vendres are characterised by their colourful houses, cobbled streets and bustling harbours. The light and vibrant colours of the region seduced painters such as Matisse and Derain.

The Côte Vermeille is also a paradise for lovers of seafood and Mediterranean cuisine. The local markets are full of fresh produce and regional specialities.

The terraced vineyards produce natural sweet wines, such as Banyuls, which perfectly complement the culinary delights.

Hiking trails offer panoramic sea and mountain views, allowing you to explore the region's natural beauty.





DINAN

DINAN

COUNTRY TOWN

 **Region:** Brittany


 **Population:** 14,600

 **Train station:** YES

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Dinan, a medieval town in Brittany, amazes visitors with its timeless atmosphere and historic charm. Dinan offers spectacular views over the Rance Valley, perched on a steep hilltop and surrounded by imposing ramparts.

The cobbled streets, half-timbered houses and picturesque facades create an authentic atmosphere. The cobbled, sloping Rue du Jerzual is lined with craft shops. It transports you back to the past while remaining lively and animated.

The ramparts offer a unique view of the city and its green surroundings. The church of Saint-Sauveur is a remarkable example of Gothic architecture, and the nearby belfry offers a peaceful refuge and a breathtaking view. Dinan castle, with its towers and moat, is a striking testimony to its fortified past.

Dinan is also alive with festivals and cultural events throughout the year. The quays of the River Rance offer relaxing walks and river cruises.

In short, Dinan is an immersion in medieval charm and Breton authenticity, where every street corner reveals a new facet of its fascinating heritage.





HONFLEUR

HONFLEUR

COUNTRY TOWN


 **Region:** Normandy

 **Population:** 6,700

 **Train station:** YES

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Situated on the banks of the Seine estuary in Normandy, Honfleur is a historic port city that captivates visitors with its maritime charm, cobbled streets and rich artistic heritage. Its past as a fishing and trading port gives the town an authentic and picturesque atmosphere.

The Vieux Bassin, surrounded by houses with colourful facades and sloping roofs, is reminiscent of a postcard. The reflections of the fishing boats and pleasure craft in the calm water add to the magic of the place. The wooden church of Sainte-Catherine is a unique example of Norman architecture.

Art galleries, studios and cafés along the quays make Honfleur a vibrant artistic centre. Artists such as Monet and Boudin were captivated by the town's unique light, which inspires artists today.

The covered market offers local produce and Norman culinary delights. The narrow streets of the town centre show craft shops, art galleries and restaurants serving fresh seafood dishes.





LOCRONAN

LOCRONAN

VILLAGE


 **Region:** Brittany

 **Population:** 790

 **Train station:** NO

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Situated in western Brittany, the small village of Locronan seems frozen in time, offering visitors an immersive journey into the history and beauty of an unspoilt village. Paved with pebbles polished over the centuries, Locronan's narrow, winding streets are lined with granite houses with picturesque facades and thatched roofs, creating an authentic medieval atmosphere.

The central square, dominated by the church of Saint-Ronan, is an architectural gem surrounded by traditional buildings. Art galleries, craft workshops and antique shops abound, making Locronan a paradise for local crafts and creations lovers.

The panorama from the top of the hill is breathtaking, with views of the surrounding countryside and the sea on the horizon. Hiking trails in the surrounding area invite you to explore the natural surroundings.

Locronan has also been a film location for many films, a testament to its exceptional charm. The village hosts festivals and traditional events in summer, adding a festive touch to its peaceful atmosphere.







LUBERON

LUBERON

NATURAL AREA + VILLAGES


 **Region:** Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

 **Train station:** NO

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The Luberon region of Provence set between mountains and lavender fields, evokes an idyllic vision of the French countryside. This enchanting landscape, immortalised in the works of Peter Mayle, captivates visitors with its natural beauty, rustic charm and authentic way of life.

The hilltop villages of the Luberon, such as Gordes, Roussillon and Bonnieux, seem frozen in time, with their warmly-coloured stone houses and narrow streets. Provençal markets abound with local produce, fragrant cheeses and tasty olives.

Fields of lavender in full bloom paint the landscape in shades of purple and blue, creating a breathtaking spectacle and releasing a captivating fragrance.

The Luberon also offers opportunities for hiking along winding paths through wooded hills and vineyards. Local wines can be tasted in the wine cellars.

Festivals, craft markets and cultural events enliven the region throughout the year, celebrating Provençal traditions and art.






MENTON

MENTON


SEA RESORT

 **Region:** Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur


 **Population:** 30,700

 **Train station:** YES

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Menton, on the French Riviera, captivates visitors with its Mediterranean beauty, mild climate and rich heritage. Nestling between the mountains and the sea, Menton offers a perfect balance of nature, culture and elegance.

Nicknamed the "Pearl of France", Menton is distinguished by its colourful architecture and picturesque seafront. The exotic Val Rahmeh and Serre de la Madone gardens, lovingly created by botanical enthusiasts, add a touch of lush greenery to the town.

The old town offers panoramic views over the azure waters of the Mediterranean, while the city centre's narrow streets are packed with cafés, craft shops and Provençal markets. The Basilica of Saint-Michel-Archange, with its slender bell tower, is a jewel of religious architecture.

Menton is also famous for its Lemon Festival, a colourful event where giant citrus sculptures dazzle the streets. Music festivals, art exhibitions and night markets add a lively cultural touch to the town.






**MONT-SAINT-
MICHEL BAY**

MONT-SAINT-MICHEL BAY

SEA SHORE + VILLAGES

 **Regions:** Brittany + Normandy

 **Train station:** YES

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The Bay of Mont-Saint-Michel, straddling the border between Brittany and Normandy, is a natural and cultural treasure that evokes natural grandeur and historic charm. With its impressive tidal show and iconic medieval abbey, it offers a unique and spellbinding experience.

The tides that flood and uncover the vast expanses of sand and mudflats add a touch of magic to the bay. The view from Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey, perched on its rock, emerging from the water or surrounded by sand, is breathtaking.

The abbey, a masterpiece of medieval architecture, is home to chapels, hanging gardens and cloisters, bearing witness to the spirituality and history of the region.

The Bay of Mont-Saint-Michel is also a paradise for nature lovers, with its migratory birds, unique geological formations and vast open spaces.

Walking trails, guided tours and boat excursions allow you to discover the bay from different angles.






PROVINS

PROVINS

COUNTRY TOWN


 **Region:** Ile de France

 **Population:** 12,100

 **Train station:** YES

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Provins, a medieval town just an hour from Paris, is a window into medieval France's history and architectural beauty. Famous for its imposing ramparts and cobbled streets, this UNESCO World Heritage Site offers an unforgettable experience.

The narrow streets, timber-framed houses and watchtowers evoke a bygone era. The Tour César, at the top of a hill, offers a panoramic view of the town and surrounding countryside.

The underground system of galleries, the Provins souterrains, allows visitors to discover the secrets of the medieval town and delve into its fascinating past.

Provins is also famous for its historical events, including the Spectacle des Aigles, where birds of prey impress the crowds, and the Fête Médiévale, where the town comes alive with period costumes and entertainment.

Provins is an immersion in the grandeur of the past, where every street corner reveals captivating stories, and the medieval atmosphere permeates every moment.





ROCHEFORT

-EN-TERRE


ROCHFORT-EN-TERRE

VILLAGE


 **Region:** Brittany

 **Population:** 600

 **Train station:** NO

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Rochefort-en-Terre, a medieval hilltop village in Brittany, charms visitors with its timeless beauty and peaceful atmosphere. Nestling at the top of a hill, this historic gem offers breathtaking views over the surrounding countryside and valley.

The cobbled streets with richly decorated houses transport you back to a bygone era. The Place du Puits, surrounded by picturesque buildings, is an ideal place to stroll, relax and enjoy a coffee. The narrow streets reveal art galleries, craft shops and restaurants that add a modern touch to the medieval charm.

With its imposing keep, the castle bears witness to the village's defensive history. The well-kept gardens offer a peaceful place to stroll and panoramic views.

Rochefort-en-Terre is also known for its commitment to arts and crafts. Local artists display their creations in the streets and galleries, creating a vibrant cultural atmosphere.

In summer, the village comes alive with events and festivals, including the night market, which adds a touch of magic to the evening.





SANCERRE


SANCERRE

VILLAGE + VINEYARDS


 **Region:** Centre-Val de Loire

 **Population:** 1,300

 **Train station:** NO

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Sancerre, a small town perched on a hill in the heart of the Loire wine region, charms visitors with its breathtaking views, rich history and renowned wine. Overlooking the vineyards and the Loire Valley, Sancerre offers spectacular views stretching to the horizon.

The old town, with its cobbled streets and stone houses, is a journey back in time. The medieval church of Saint-Jean-Baptiste dominates the skyline. The terraces of the cafés and restaurants are perfect places to savour Sancerre's famous white wine while admiring the scenery.

Wine cellars and tastings are a must for wine lovers. The surrounding vineyards produce some of the best white wines in France. Sancerre also has cultural events, including music festivals and art exhibitions, that enliven the town throughout the year.

In short, Sancerre is a picturesque corner of France where terroir, history and natural beauty come together in harmony. It's an experience that celebrates life's pleasures, from breathtaking scenery to wine delights, and invites visitors to savour every moment in a soothing, refined atmosphere.





SARLAT
-LA-CANÉDA


SARLAT-LA-CANÉDA


COUNTRY TOWN

 **Region:** Nouvelle Aquitaine


 **Population:** 8,700

 **Train station:** YES

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Sarlat-la-Canéda, a charming little town in the Dordogne region, enchants visitors with its medieval ambience, preserved architecture and provincial charm. The cobbled streets, lined with old honey-coloured houses, create a setting worthy of a period painting.

The Place de la Liberté, at the heart of the town, is surrounded by historic buildings and bustling with local markets. The stalls are brimming with local produce such as cheeses, truffles and homemade jams, offering an immersion in Périgord gastronomy.

The narrow, winding streets invite you to discover picturesque corners and hidden squares. Saint-Sacerdos Cathedral, with its Gothic architecture, bears witness to the town's religious heritage.

Sarlat is also the starting point for exploring the Dordogne Valley and the region of Périgord Noir, dotted with castles, prehistoric caves and breathtaking scenery. Canoe trips on the river offer a unique perspective on the surrounding natural beauty. Discover the villages of La Roque-Gageac, Beynac, Castelnaud-la-Chapelle, the bastide of Domme and the fantastic gardens of Marqueyssac and Eyrignac.





SAUMUR


SAUMUR

COUNTRY TOWN + CHATEAU


 **Region:** Centre-Val de Loire

 **Population:** 26,100

 **Train station:** YES

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Saumur, a picturesque town on the banks of the Loire, captivates visitors with its dazzling history and elegant architecture. Dominated by its majestic château, the town offers an enchanting blend of ancient and modern.

The castle of Saumur, perched on a hill, is an imposing emblem of medieval history. Its slender turrets and ramparts offer panoramic views over the Loire and the surrounding town. Now a museum, the château houses collections of armour, works of art and furniture, immersing visitors in the region's tumultuous history.

The cobbled streets of the town centre are full of craft shops, cafés and restaurants, creating a warm atmosphere.

The vineyards of Saumur produce renowned sparkling wines, adding a touch of deliciousness to the experience.

Overall, Saumur is a showcase of French history and elegance, where the iconic château and the peaceful ambience of the Loire create an unforgettable destination. It's an invitation to explore the historic streets, savour the local wines and immerse yourself in the refined atmosphere of a town that has gracefully weathered the ages.






SAINT-GERMAIN
-EN-LAYE


SAINT-GERMAIN-EN-LAYE


CITY + CHATEAU

 **Region:** Ile de France


 **Population:** 44,400

 **Train station:** YES

 [Tourist Office Board](#)

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Saint-Germain-en-Laye, an elegant town on the western outskirts of Paris, offers the perfect blend of royal heritage, natural beauty and provincial charm. Dominated by the majestic castle of Saint-Germain, the town stretches along green hillsides and offers breathtaking views over the Seine Valley.

The castle, the birthplace of Louis XIV, is a splendid example of Renaissance architecture. Its formal gardens are an invitation to stroll and contemplate. The Terrace, an elevated area built by Le Nôtre, offers a panoramic view of Paris and its surroundings.

The old town, with its cobbled streets and old houses, is a haven of provincial charm. The Place du Marché, surrounded by cafés and shops, is bustling with life at the local market and exudes a friendly atmosphere.

In short, Saint-Germain-en-Laye is a cultural and natural treasure at the gateway to Paris. It's an invitation to immerse yourself in royal history, savour peaceful moments in the gardens and stroll through the picturesque lanes of a town that gracefully blends past and present.





VANOISE


VANOISE

NATURAL AREA + VILLAGES


 **Region:** Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

 **Train station:** NO

 [Tourist Office Board](#)

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The Vanoise, located in the French Alps, is a true natural gem that captivates lovers of mountains and nature. Established as France's first national park in 1963, the Vanoise spans over 500 square kilometres, offering breathtaking landscapes ranging from lush alpine meadows to snow-capped peaks.

The park is a haven for wildlife and flora, home to iconic species such as the Alpine ibex, chamois, and golden eagle. Hiking enthusiasts will delight in more than 600 kilometres of marked trails, catering to all levels of ability. These paths lead to stunning vistas, pristine alpine lakes, and majestic glaciers.

Nestled at the heart of this remarkable region is the charming resort-village of Pralognan-la-Vanoise. This picturesque village serves as an ideal gateway for exploring the park, offering a perfect blend of traditional alpine hospitality and modern amenities. In winter, Pralognan transforms into a cosy ski resort, providing access to pristine slopes and a range of winter sports activities.

Beyond skiing, the Vanoise also offers tranquillity, where one can rejuvenate amidst untouched nature. The authentic charm of alpine villages like Pralognan, coupled with the rich cultural heritage and Savoyard traditions, enhances the allure of this unique region.







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25 Places to see in France in 2025

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This eBook has been made based on my travel experience in France.

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