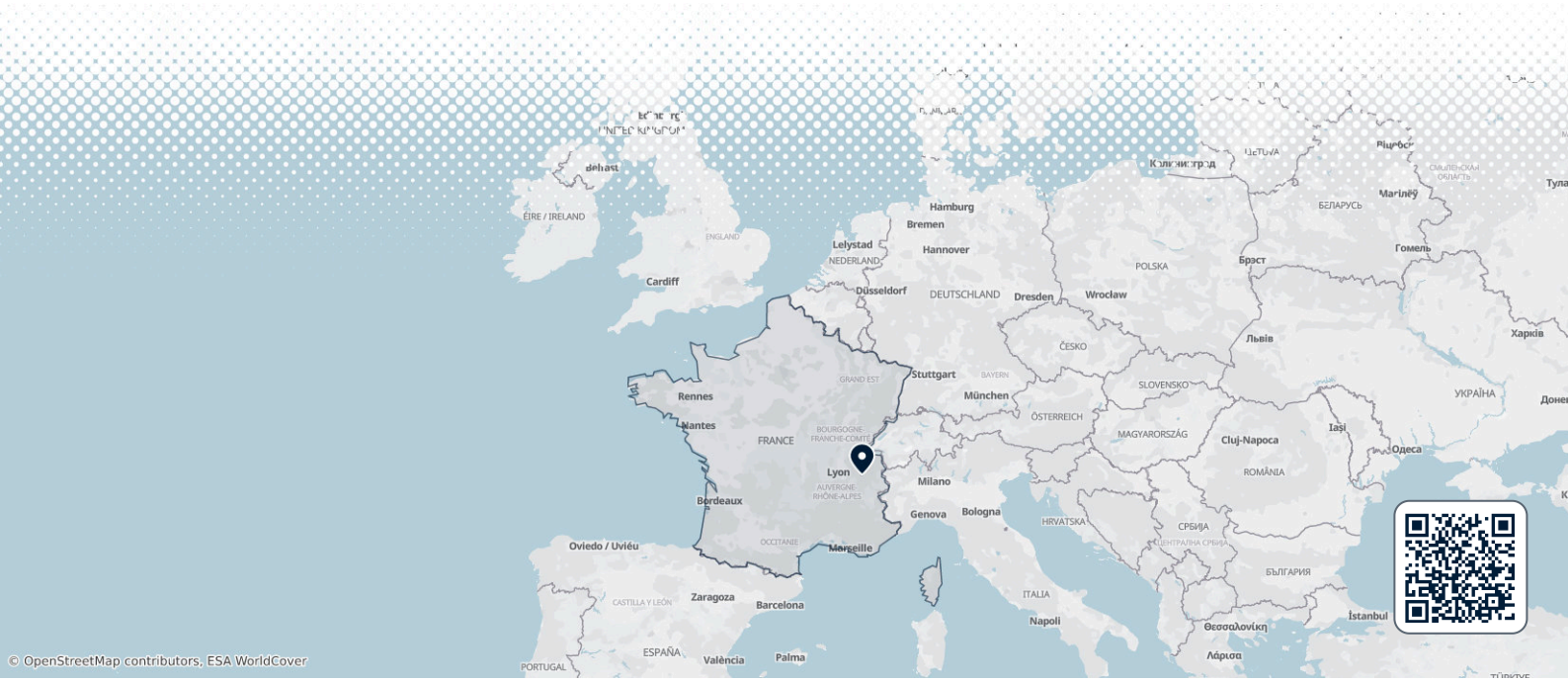


Aix-les-Bains

Savoie · France

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Aix-les-Bains is a spa town on the eastern shore of Lac du Bourget, in the Savoie region of the French Alps. Romans used its hot springs, and in the 19th century it became a fashionable resort. Royals visited, including Queen Victoria, and the poet *Alphonse de Lamartine* wrote "Le Lac" here.

Today the town mixes spa heritage with lake life. It has Roman ruins, a historic casino, a lakeside beach and a large marina. Mont Revard rises behind the town, and boats leave for the lake's abbey. It suits a relaxed stay of two to three nights, or a base for the lake and nearby Chambéry and Annecy.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the most pleasant times. Summer is warm and sunny, and it is the season for swimming and boat trips on the lake. Winter is cold and quiet. Snow is common in the hills, and Mont Revard has a small ski area.

The main event to plan around is Musilac, a music festival held in July on the lakeside esplanade. Book hotels early if you visit then.

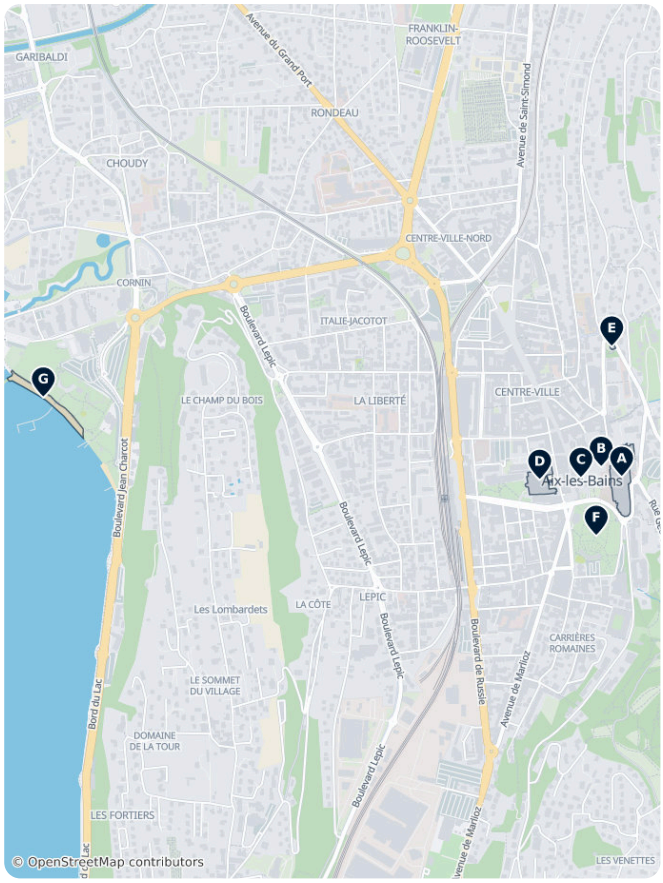
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	7° / 14° Feels like 4°	0° / -6°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Fair Fair for cycling	9° / 17° Feels like 6°	1° / -7°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for cycling	14° / 20°	4° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for cycling	17° / 23°	7° / 1°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	11° / 5°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	15° / 9°	Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	27° / 33°	16° / 11°	Calm winds
August	Great Great for watersports	27° / 34°	16° / 11°	Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 30°	13° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	9° / 3°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for cycling	12° / 20°	4° / -2°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for cycling	8° / 15° Feels like 5°	1° / -5°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: May, June, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Thermes nationaux d'Aix-les-Bains is the historic spa complex. It grew in stages from 1783 into the 20th century and still shows the town's spa past.
- B Arc de Campanus is a Roman arch from about the 1st century. It stands in the old centre and is the oldest sight in town.
- C Temple romain dit de Diane is a Roman building from the 2nd century, traditionally called a temple of Diana. It now holds a small archaeology museum.
- D Casino Grand-Cercle opened in 1850. It is a historic casino with a theatre, and its ceiling mosaic is made of millions of glass cubes.
- E Musée Faure is an art museum in a villa above the lake. It has paintings by Impressionist artists and a large collection of sculptures by *Auguste Rodin*.
- F Parc floral des Thermes is a landscaped park beside the baths. It is a calm place for a walk between sights.
- G Plage d'Aix les Bains is the main lake beach, next to the marina and the lakeside esplanade. It is the place to swim in summer.



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What to experience

- **Take a heritage cruise on the lake.** Boats leave from the Grand Port and pass the shore below Hautecombe Abbey. Adult tickets cost about 18 €.
- **Swim from the lake beach.** The water is calm in summer. The beach has a lawn, a marina next to it and views of the mountains.
- **Take a thermal bath.** Spa treatments are part of the town's identity. Ask the tourist office for current day-pass options.
- **Paddle or cycle the Savière canal.** The canal links the lake to the Rhône and is flat and quiet.
- **Go to Musilac in July.** The festival fills the lakeside esplanade with concerts.

Day trips

Aix-les-Bains is a good base for short trips around the lake and the nearby Alps.



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- **Hautecombe Abbey**: A 12th-century abbey on the far shore of Lac du Bourget. Heritage cruises leave from the Grand Port in Aix-les-Bains. The abbey was the burial place of the counts and dukes of Savoy.
- **Chambéry**: The former capital of Savoy, about 10 minutes by train. It has a compact old centre and the castle of the dukes of Savoy.
- **Mont Revard**: A mountain in the Bauges range, about 21 km away by road. It has views over the lake, hiking in summer and a small ski area in winter.
- Ⓐ Annecy: A canal town on Lake Annecy, about 40 minutes by train.
- Ⓑ Grenoble: A city in the Alps with a cable car and museums, about 1 to 1.5 hours away by train or car.
- Ⓒ Lyon: France's third-largest city, about 1.5 hours away by train or car. It is better as a long day trip.

Where to explore

Other destinations nearby:

- For a canal town on a lake, visit Annecy.
- For a city in the Alps, visit Grenoble.
- For a large city with food and history, visit Lyon.
- For a city across the border, visit Geneva.
- For high mountains and walking, visit Vanoise National Park.

Getting there

- **By air**: Chambéry-Savoie Airport is close to town but has limited seasonal flights. Most visitors use Geneva Airport (GVA) or Lyon–Saint-Exupéry (LYS), about 1.5 hours away by road. Coaches link both airports with Aix-les-Bains.
- **By train**: Aix-les-Bains-Le Revard station is a short walk from the centre. TGV trains from Paris take about 3 hours. Regional trains run to Chambéry, Annecy and Lyon. Book at SNCF Connect.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches connect the town with Chambéry, Annecy and the airports.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The station, the baths, the casino and the old centre are within a short walk of each other. The lake and beach are about 20 to 30 minutes on foot from the centre.
- **Public transit**: Local buses around Aix-les-Bains and the lake are run by the Ondéa network. Ask the tourist office for routes and tickets at Aix-les-Bains Riviera des Alpes Tourist Office.
- **By bike**: Cycling is popular around the lake and along the Savière canal. Mont Revard is a hard climb on a road bike.
- **By boat**: Boats leave from the Grand Port for lake cruises.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The station, baths, casino and old centre are close together, and the lake is a short walk or bus ride away.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycling is popular around the lake, but the hills behind the town are steep.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not for the town itself. A car helps for Mont Revard and the Bauges mountains.
- **Parking**: Parking in the centre and near the lake is paid. Lake car parks fill early on summer weekends.
- **Restrictions**: Some central streets are pedestrian. Check signs before you drive in.

Food & drink

Savoy food is rich and made for cold weather. Look for fondue, tartiflette, crozets (small square pasta), diots (sausages) and cheeses such as Beaufort, Reblochon and Tomme de Savoie. Lake fish, such as Arctic char (omble chevalier) and whitefish (lavaret), are local specialities. Savoie white wines are a good match.

For a meal, walk the streets of the old centre or the waterfront around the Grand Port. Restaurants cluster in both areas.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Croissant
Buttery, flaky laminated pastry and a classic French breakfast staple.

LUNCH

Ratatouille
A Provençal stewed vegetable dish of eggplant, zucchini, peppers, and tomatoes.

DINNER

Coq au Vin
Chicken braised slowly in red wine with mushrooms, onions, and lardons.

Beef Bourguignon · Bœuf Bourguignon
Beef stewed in red Burgundy wine with carrots, onions, and mushrooms.

Escargot · Escargots de Bourgogne
Snails cooked in garlic and parsley butter, a classic starter.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Baguette
Long, crusty white bread loaf bought fresh daily from the local boulangerie.

Cheese · Fromage
France produces hundreds of cheese varieties, often served as a course before dessert.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Crepes · Crêpes
Thin pancakes served sweet with sugar or jam, or savory as galettes.

Macarons
Delicate almond meringue sandwich cookies in a range of flavors and colors.

DRINKS

Wine · Vin
France's wine regions, including Bordeaux, Burgundy, and Champagne, are among the world's most renowned.

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Safety & health

Aix-les-Bains is a safe town for visitors. Petty theft is uncommon, but keep bags close in crowded places and car parks. Tap water is safe to drink.

Take care on the lake. Swim only from the town beaches and watch the weather. Mountain weather near Mont Revard can change fast, so bring warm layers.

History

Romans developed the hot springs here. The Arc de Campanus and Temple romain dit de Diane are what remain of that period.

A modern spa building went up from 1779 to 1783, and the town took the name Aix-les-Bains in 1792. Savoy became part of France in 1860. The Casino Grand-Cercle opened in 1850, and the Thermes nationaux d'Aix-les-Bains grew into a large complex.

Queen Victoria visited in 1885, 1887 and 1890. In 1816 the poet *Alphonse de Lamartine* met Julie Charles here. He wrote "Le Lac" about their boat trips on Lac du Bourget. In 1955 the town also hosted talks on Moroccan independence.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for France at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

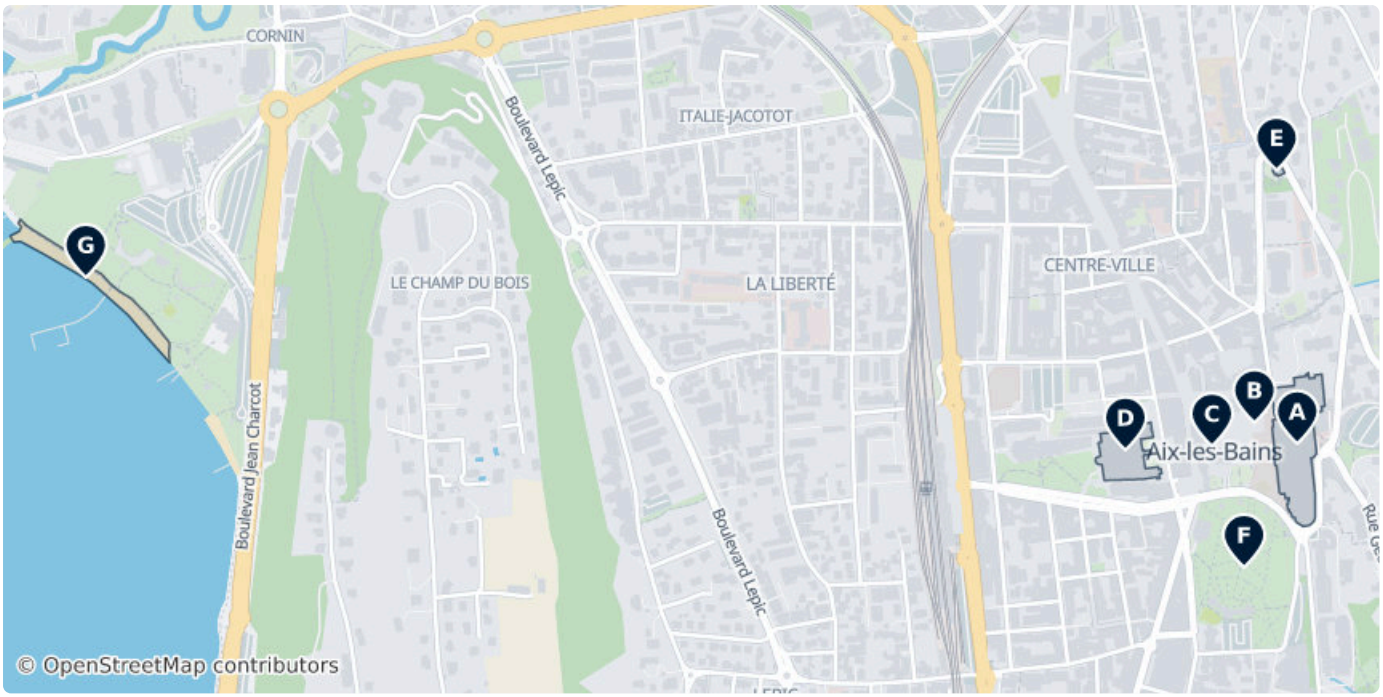
ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights





A Thermes nationaux d'Aix-les-Bains

Former state thermal baths, a large complex built up from 1783 to the 1970s, partly listed as a historic monument. It now houses the tourist office and a beauty school.

Rue Georges 1er, 73100 Aix-les-Bains, France
(45.68876, 5.91629)



B Arch of Campanus

The Arch of Campanus is an ancient Roman funerary monument located in the commune of Aix-les-Bains, Savoie, Rhône-Alpes, France.

30 Place Carnot, Aix-les-Bains 73100, France
(45.68905, 5.91544)



C Temple of Diana

Roman monument probably built in the first half of the 2nd century, with three outer walls fully preserved. Listed as a historic monument since 1875, it has housed the town's archaeological museum since 1948.

11 Rue Albert 1er, Aix-les-Bains 73100, France
(45.68872, 5.91459)



D casino Grand Cercle

Historic casino in the Palais de Savoie, opened in 1850 and listed as a historic monument. It also includes an Italian-style theatre.

Rue William Haldimand, 73100 Aix-les-Bains, France
(45.68867, 5.91288)

casinograndcercle.com, 04 79 35 16 16

E Faure Museum

The Faure Museum is an art museum situated at Aix-les-Bains in France in the department of Savoie.

Boulevard des Côtes 10 (45.69254, 5.91587)

Mo–Su Closed

aixlesbains.fr/fre/culture/museefaure, +33 4 79 61 06 57



F Parc floral des Thermes

Aix-les-Bains 73100, France
(45.68704, 5.91523)

G Plage d'Aix les Bains

73100, France (45.69106, 5.89227)

aixlesbains-rivieradesalpes.com/preparez-votre-sejour/pr...

DATA SOURCES

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- casino Grand Cercle — "Hall Théâtre Palais de Savoie" by Florian Pépellin, cc-by-sa-3.0
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