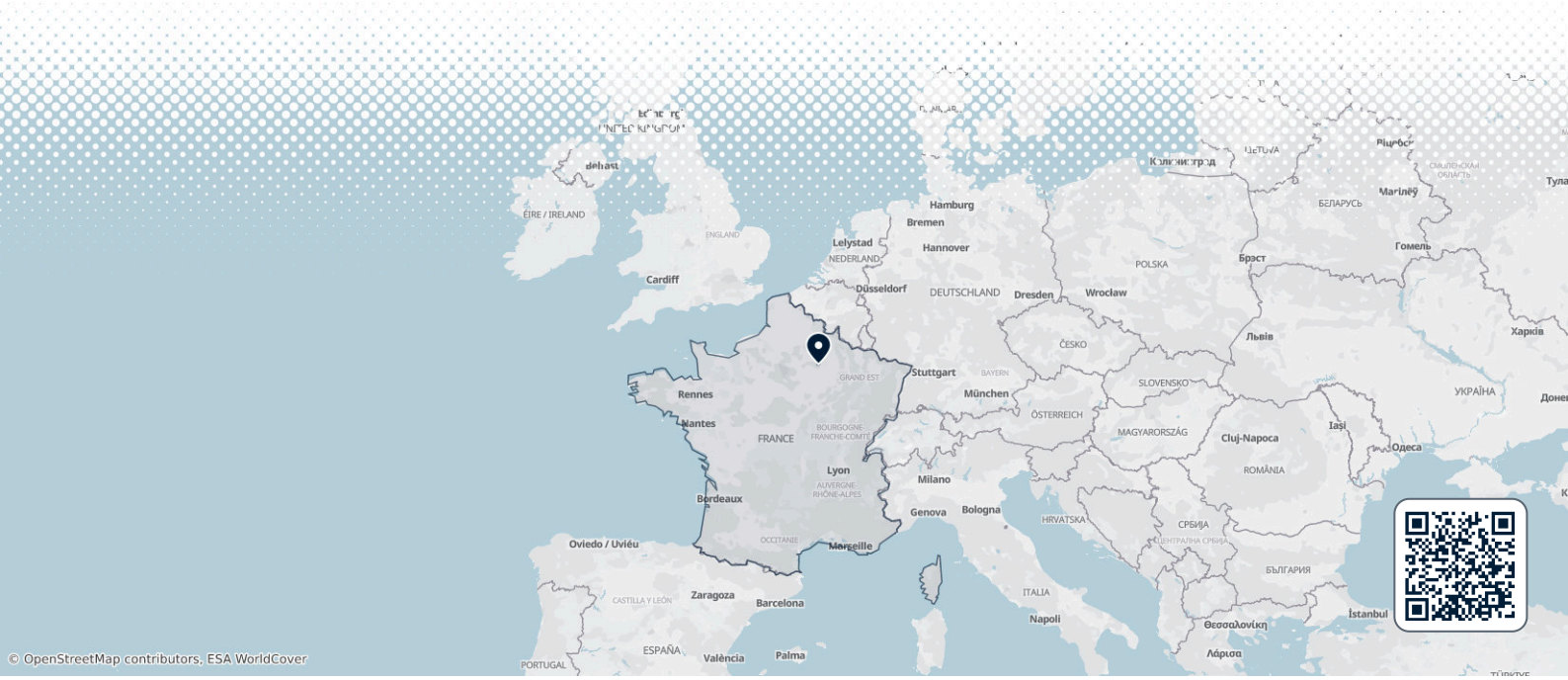


Épernay

Grand Est · France

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Épernay is a small town on the Marne river, about 130 km northeast of Paris. It is one of the two main centres of Champagne wine, with Reims. The big champagne houses have their cellars here, in chalk tunnels under the town.

It suits a one- or two-night trip built around cellar visits, tastings and walks in the vineyards. The centre is compact and calm. Most visitors come from Paris or Reims.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time. Days are warm and the cellars stay cool all year. The grape harvest usually runs in late summer or early autumn, and the vineyards are busy then. Winters are cold and grey, and some smaller houses close or shorten their hours.

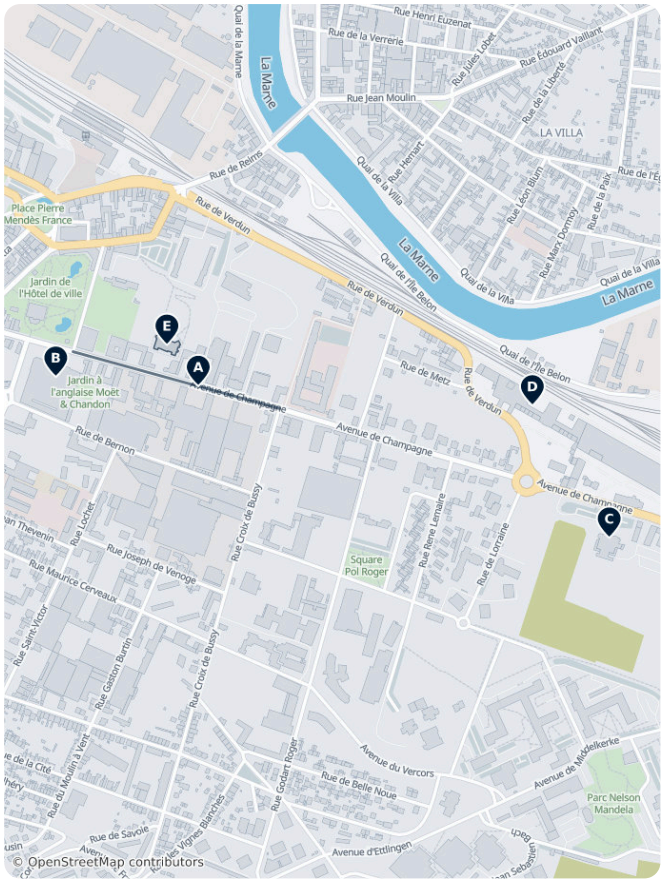
The biggest event is Habits de Lumière, a weekend of lights, parades and shows in December. Book hotels early for that weekend.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like 0°	0° / -7°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 13° Feels like 2°	0° / -6°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 18° Feels like 7°	2° / -3°	Dry air
April	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 22° Feels like 11°	5° / -1°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	9° / 4°	13 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 29°	12° / 7°	12 rainy days
July	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	14° / 10°	12 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 33°	14° / 10°	
September	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 29°	11° / 6°	Dry air
October	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 23° Feels like 13°	8° / 1°	12 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	10° / 16° Feels like 6°	4° / -3°	13 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 12° Feels like 1°	1° / -5°	13 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, July, August, September

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

Top sights



- A Avenue de Champagne is the town's main street and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Large champagne houses stand on both sides, with long cellars under the road.
- B Moët & Chandon was founded in 1743. It is one of the largest champagne houses, and its cellar tour is among the most popular. Book ahead in season.
- C Mercier was founded in 1858 by *Eugène Mercier*. Its tunnels are long, and visitors can ride through parts of the cellar.
- D Bâtiments de la Société Champagne de Castellane is another house on the avenue, founded in 1895. It is a good choice for a smaller visit with a tasting.
- E Château Perrier is a 19th-century mansion on the avenue. It holds the museum of Champagne wine and regional archaeology, a good place to learn how champagne is made.

Épernay – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

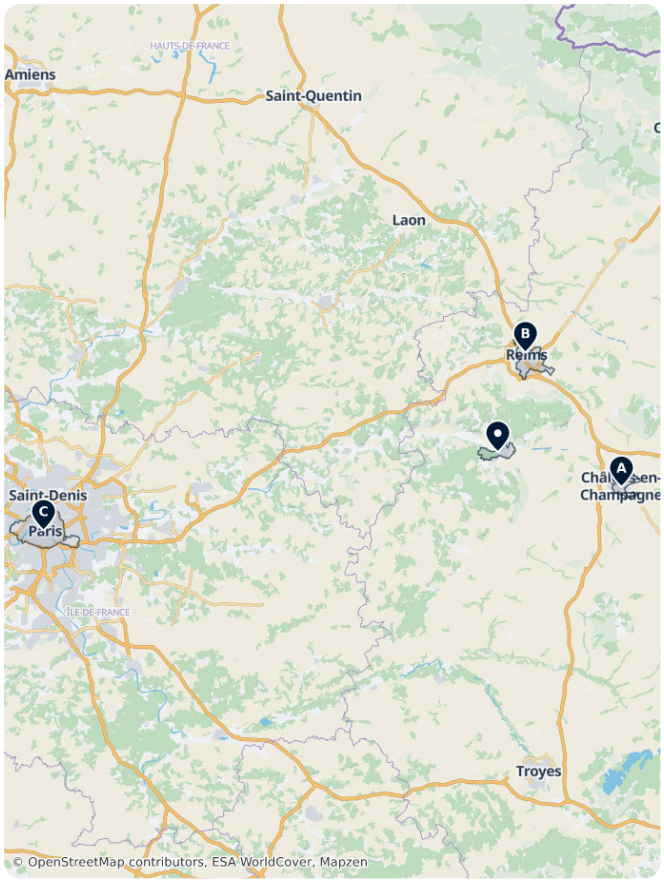
What to experience

- Take a cellar tour with a tasting. Houses on the avenue offer visits, and small family producers offer private tastings. Book ahead.
- Walk the avenue in the evening, when it is quiet.
- Join the Habits de Lumière weekend in December for lights, parades and shows.
- Visit in harvest season to see pickers in the vineyards near the town.
- Try a vineyard walk or a bike ride from Épernay to the villages on the slopes above the Marne.

Day trips

Épernay is a good base for the wine villages and for two larger towns.

- The village of Hautvillers is about 15 minutes away by car or taxi. Its abbey, Hautvillers Abbey, was the home of the monk *Dom Pérignon*. Walk the village streets between the vineyards.
- Montagne de Reims is a wooded hill with vineyards, villages and walking paths, 20 to 30 minutes away by car. A car or a tour is the easiest way to see it.
- A Châlons-en-Champagne is about 30 minutes by train. It is a calm town with canals, old houses and a large cathedral.
- B Reims is about 30 minutes by train. It has a Gothic cathedral and more champagne houses.
- C Paris is about 1 hour 15 minutes by train (direct trains are limited), so a long day trip is possible.



Where to explore

Nearby places in the Champagne area:

- Reims is the larger champagne city, with a famous cathedral.
- Châlons-en-Champagne is a quiet town on the Marne.
- Troyes is a timber-framed old town in the south of Champagne, about 1.5 hours away by road.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest big airport is Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG), about 130 km west. From there, take a train to Paris Gare de l'Est or drive on the A4. There is no practical commercial flight option closer to town.
- **By train**: A direct regional train (TER) runs from Paris Gare de l'Est in about 1 hour 15 minutes. Other trains need a change, so check times on SNCF Connect. Trains also run to Reims and Châlons-en-Champagne, and east to Strasbourg and Metz. The station is about 10 minutes on foot from the Avenue de Champagne. Book at SNCF Connect.
- **From nearby cities**: Coming from Reims or Châlons-en-Champagne, the train takes about 30 minutes.
- **From Paris**: Paris is the main starting point for most visitors.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre, the station and the Avenue de Champagne are all within walking distance of each other. This is the best way to see the town.
- **Local buses**: A small town bus network serves the suburbs. You rarely need it for sightseeing.
- **Taxi**: Use a taxi to reach vineyards and villages after a tasting. Book ahead for the evening.
- **Cycling**: The town is flat and the vineyards have quiet roads, but the slopes outside town are steep. Cycling is a nice way to reach the nearest villages.

For visit planning and bookings, see the Épernay tourist office.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The centre, the station and the Avenue de Champagne are all within a short walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The town is flat, but the vineyard slopes outside town are steep.

Driving

- **Worth it?**: Not for the town itself, which is small and walkable. A car helps for vineyard villages and small producers outside town.
- **Parking**: Park once in a town car park and walk. The avenue is a short walk from the centre.
- **Alcohol**: France has a low legal limit. After tastings, use a taxi, a driver or a tour instead of driving.

Food & drink

Champagne is the main drink, and many restaurants list it by the glass. Local dishes use regional pork, river fish and Chaource and Langres cheeses. Biscuits roses of Reims are a classic sweet.

For a meal, look in the streets around the town centre and the Avenue de Champagne, where restaurants and wine bars cluster. Smaller producers often serve tastings with local snacks.

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.

Épernay – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · **4.6 stars** · **15 years of trip planning**
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Épernay is a safe town. Petty theft is rare, but keep an eye on bags near the station and in busy bars.

Tap water is safe to drink. Cellars are cool, about 10 to 12 °C, so bring a light jacket even in summer.

History

Épernay belonged to the archbishops of Reims and later to the counts of Champagne. War damaged the town many times. King Francis I burned it in 1544.

Claude Moët founded his wine house here in 1743, and the trade grew in the 1800s. Merchants built big houses and chalk cellars along what is now the Avenue de Champagne. In 1914 German troops held the town for a week, and in World War I about two-thirds of the town was destroyed. The Château Perrier now tells the story of local wine and archaeology.

The avenue and nearby sites became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2015 as part of the Champagne hillsides, houses and cellars.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for France at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

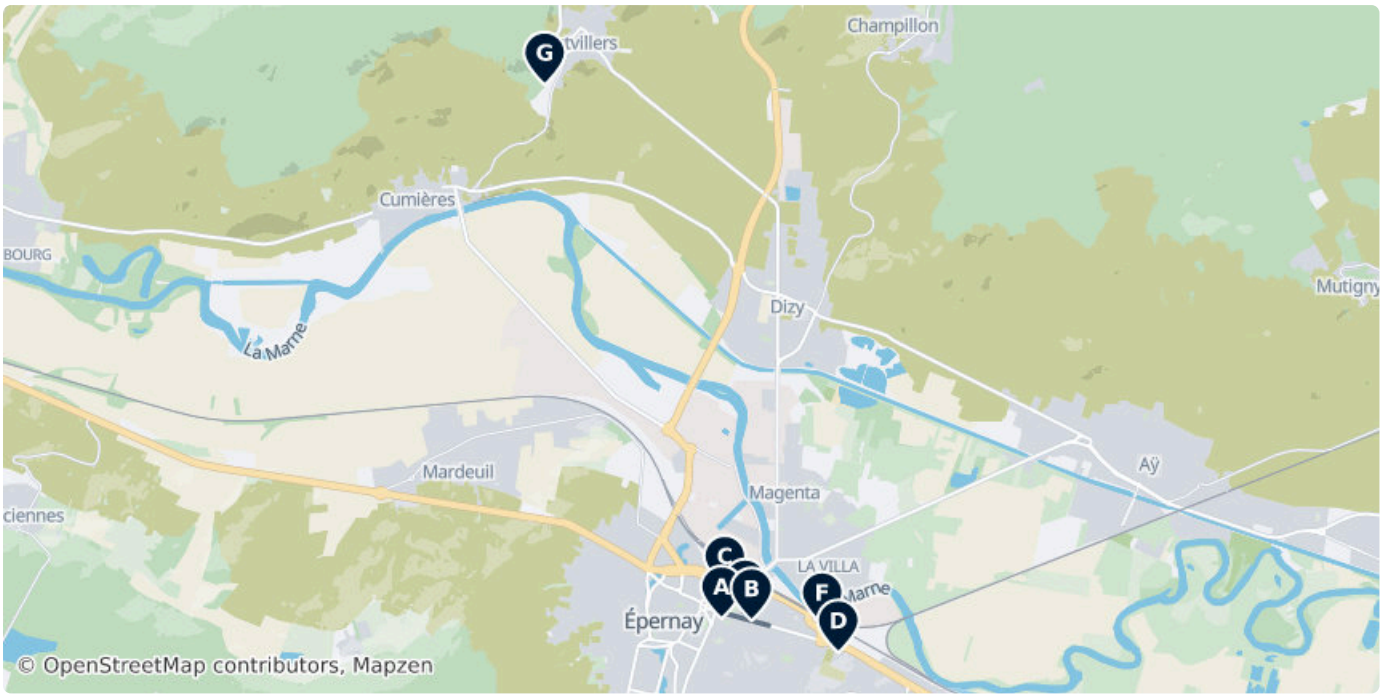


Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights





A Moët & Chandon

Visit the cellars of one of the world's largest champagne producers. It is located quite close to Paris so you can come visit while staying...

20 Avenue de Champagne, 51200 Epernay, France (49.04280, 3.95908)

moet.com/Visit-us/Visit-our-cellars, +33 3 2651 2020



B avenue de Champagne

Famous street lined with leading champagne houses such as Moët & Chandon, Mercier and De Castellane, with kilometres of chalk cellars beneath it. Part of a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2015.

Avenue de Champagne, 51200 Épernay, France (49.04266, 3.96229)



C Théâtre

1 Rue de Reims, Épernay 51200, France
(49.04492, 3.95942)



D Mercier

Mercier is a Champagne producer based in the Épernay region of Champagne.

72 Avenue de Champagne, Épernay 51200, France
(49.04042, 3.97155)

champagnemercier.fr/en/cellars-visits



E Château Perrier

Eclectic Neo-Louis XIII mansion built in 1852–1857 for a Champagne merchant, listed as a historic monument and now home to the Champagne wine and regional archaeology museum.

13 Avenue de Champagne, Épernay 51200, France
(49.04327, 3.96159)



F De Castellane

De Castellane is a Champagne producer based in the Épernay region of Champagne.

(49.04238, 3.96982)



Hautvillers Abbey

Hautvillers Abbey, or more formally the Abbey of St Peter, Hautvillers, is a former Benedictine monastery in the Hautvillers commune of the...

Route de Cumières, 51160, France (49.08016, 3.94017)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- Moët & Chandon — "Moët & Chandon caves 12" by Victor Grigas, cc-by-sa-4.0
- avenue de Champagne — "Avenue de Champagne in Epernay (1)" by Krzysztof Golik, cc-by-sa-4.0
- Théâtre — "Illumination de Noël 2012 9332" by G.Garitan, cc-by-sa-3.0
- Mercier — "Champagne Mercier (8132640037)" by Michal Osmenda from Brussels, Belgium, cc-by-2.0
- Château Perrier — "Détail façade" by Lesptitesmarionnettes, cc-by-sa-4.0
- De Castellane — "Castelane Epernay" by Pehuyghe, cc-by-sa-3.0
- Hautvillers Abbey — "Chapiteau foulage raisin abbaye hautvillers 1006675" by G.Garitan, cc-by-sa-4.0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 20, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.