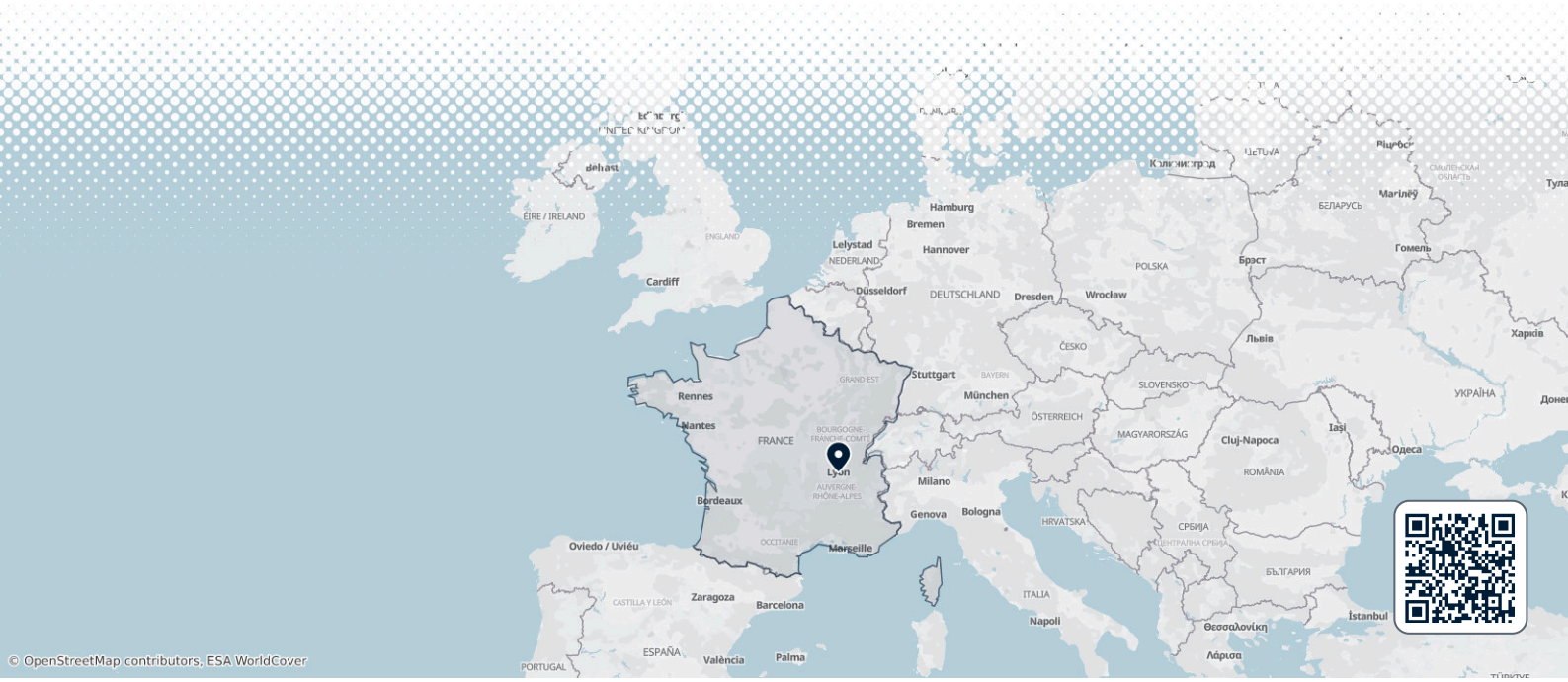


Lyon

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes · France

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Lyon sits where the Rhône and Saône rivers meet, in the heart of eastern France. France's third-largest city grew wealthy from silk weaving in the Renaissance. It is now widely regarded as the country's food capital, with restaurants that draw visitors from across France.

The city suits a traveler who wants a full historic centre and serious food, without the scale of Paris. Two or three days cover it well. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, author of *The Little Prince*, was born here. So were the Lumière brothers, inventors of cinema.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are mild and pleasant for walking. Summer turns warm and can get humid. Winter is cold and often grey.

Time a visit for the Fête des Lumières in early December. Buildings across the city are lit with large-scale light installations, one of France's biggest festivals and a tradition of its own.

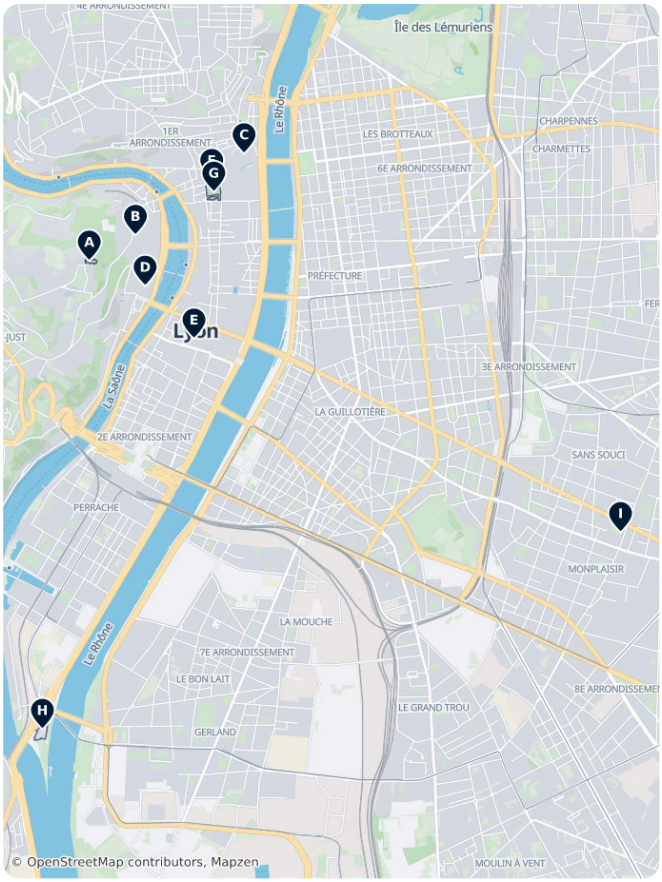
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 13° Feels like 2°	0° / -7°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 15° Feels like 4°	0° / -6°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	13° / 20° Feels like 9°	3° / -3°	Dry air
April	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 23° Feels like 14°	6° / 0°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	10° / 5°	14 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 33°	14° / 9°	
July	Good Good for sightseeing	28° / 35°	16° / 11°	Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 36°	16° / 11°	Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	12° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	9° / 2°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 18° Feels like 8°	4° / -3°	12 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 14° Feels like 3°	1° / -6°	12 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: May, June, September

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

Expect the occasional afternoon thunderstorm in high summer, and frequent morning frost from December through February.

Top sights



A Basilique Notre-Dame de Fourvière crowns Fourvière hill above the old town. It is a 19th-century basilica with an ornate interior; the terrace outside gives views over the whole city.

Below the hill, **B** Site historique de Lyon is one of Europe's largest Renaissance quarters still standing. Its narrow lanes are lined with pastel townhouses built by silk merchants.

Duck through **C** Traboules du Vieux Lyon, hidden covered passageways in the old town. Silk weavers once used them to move goods between streets without exposure to the weather, and dozens still connect the courtyards today.

D Cathédrale Saint-Jean took three centuries to build and mixes Romanesque and Gothic styles. Its 14th-century astronomical clock still chimes several times a day.

E Place Bellecour is one of Europe's largest public squares. It sits on the Presqu'île peninsula, the wide-open meeting point between the two rivers.

F Place des Terreaux centres on a grand 19th-century fountain by Frédéric Bartholdi, the sculptor behind the Statue of Liberty. The city's ornate town hall frames the square.

G Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon is one of France's largest art museums, set inside a former abbey. Its collection spans ancient artefacts to Impressionist paintings.

H Musée des Confluences is a striking modern science and anthropology museum shaped like a glass and steel cloud. It sits at the point where the Rhône and Saône rivers actually meet.

I Institut Lumière preserves the family home and first film studio of the Lumière brothers, inventors of the cinématographe. Screening rooms and early film equipment are on display.

Lyon – 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.

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What to experience

- Catch a summer concert or play at Théâtre Gallo-Romain de Fourvière, the open-air Roman theatre. It hosts the Nuits de Fourvière festival each summer.
- Watch a Guignol puppet show, Lyon's own 19th-century marionette tradition, still performed at small theatres around the city.
- Take a river cruise along the Rhône and Saône to see the Presqu'île and the Confluence district from the water.

Day trips

Lyon makes a good base for day trips into the surrounding countryside and mountains.

- Vienne — a well-preserved Roman theatre and temple, about 20 minutes by train. Quieter than Lyon's own Roman sites.
- Pérouges — a walled medieval village about 35 minutes away by car. Cobbled lanes, stone houses, and the local galette pérougienne pastry.
- Beaujolais wine villages — rolling vineyard country about 45 minutes by car. Tastings in stone hilltop villages.
- A Grenoble — gateway to the Alps, about 1h35 by train. A cable car climbs to a hilltop fort for panoramic views.
- B Annecy — an alpine lake town with turquoise water, about 1h45 by train. It has a well-preserved old quarter.



Getting there

- **By air**: Lyon–Saint-Exupéry Airport (LYS) is the main gateway, about 22 km southeast of the centre. The Rhônexpress tram runs directly to Part-Dieu station in around 30 minutes.
- **By train**: Lyon is a major TGV hub. The fastest trains reach Paris in under two hours. Direct services also run to Marseille, Geneva, and other regional cities. Trains arrive at Part-Dieu or Perrache station.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches connect Lyon to other French and European cities, arriving mainly at the Perrache bus station.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: The TCL network covers metro, tram, bus, and two funiculars up to Fourvière hill. Tap a contactless bank card or phone directly on the validator at any stop. The network calculates the best fare and charges it automatically the next day; no ticket or app is needed. TCL journey planner
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: Uber and local taxi apps operate throughout the city.
- **On foot / cycling**: The historic centre is compact and walkable. Vélo'v, the citywide bike-share system, has stations across the city and is a popular way to get around.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The historic centre and Presqu'île are compact and easy to explore on foot.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Vélo'v bike-share covers the city, though the hills around Fourvière and Croix-Rousse are steep.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Skip it in the city. The centre is compact and walkable, with narrow one-way streets and limited parking. A car helps for reaching Beaujolais wine country or the Alps.
- **Parking**: Underground car parks serve the centre; on-street parking is metered and mostly paid through a phone app.
- **Restrictions**: Lyon has a low-emission zone covering most of the city, which excludes older, more polluting vehicles. Check your vehicle's Crit'Air sticker before driving in.

Food & drink

Lyon is widely regarded as France's food capital. The reputation was built by a wave of chefs, most famously Paul Bocuse, from the mid-20th century on.

Local specialties worth seeking out:

- Quenelle — a poached dumpling, often pike-based, served in crayfish sauce.
- Praline tart, with its bright pink pralines.
- Cervelle de canut, a herbed fresh-cheese spread named for the city's silk workers.

For an authentic meal, look for a bouchon, a small traditional Lyonnais tavern serving hearty, meat-heavy dishes at simple wooden tables. The streets of Site historique de Lyon hold some of the best-known ones.

For fresh produce and prepared food under one roof, browse Les Halles de Lyon Paul Bocuse. It is the city's covered food market near Part-Dieu.

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.

Lyon – Plan Your Trip
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App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Lyon is generally safe for tourists. Pickpocketing can happen in crowded spots, such as Part-Dieu station and the Presqu'île shopping streets. It is more common during the Fête des Lumières in December. Keep bags zipped and valuables out of back pockets.

Tap water is safe to drink throughout the city.

History

Lyon began as Lugdunum, founded by the Romans in 43 BC on Fourvière hill. It grew into the capital of Roman Gaul. The Gallo-Roman museum and ruins at Lugdunum Musée et Théâtres Romains preserve remains from that era.

The city's fortunes turned again in the Renaissance, when Lyon became a centre of European silk weaving and banking. The merchant houses and hidden passageways of Site historique de Lyon date from that boom.

Silk weavers, known as canuts, revolted against falling wages in 1831. It was one of the first workers' uprisings of industrial Europe. The steep streets of La Croix-Rousse were their old district.

Basilique Notre-Dame de Fourvière was built in the late 19th century. Many residents credit it to a promise made to the Virgin Mary after the city was spared during the Franco-Prussian War.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for France at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

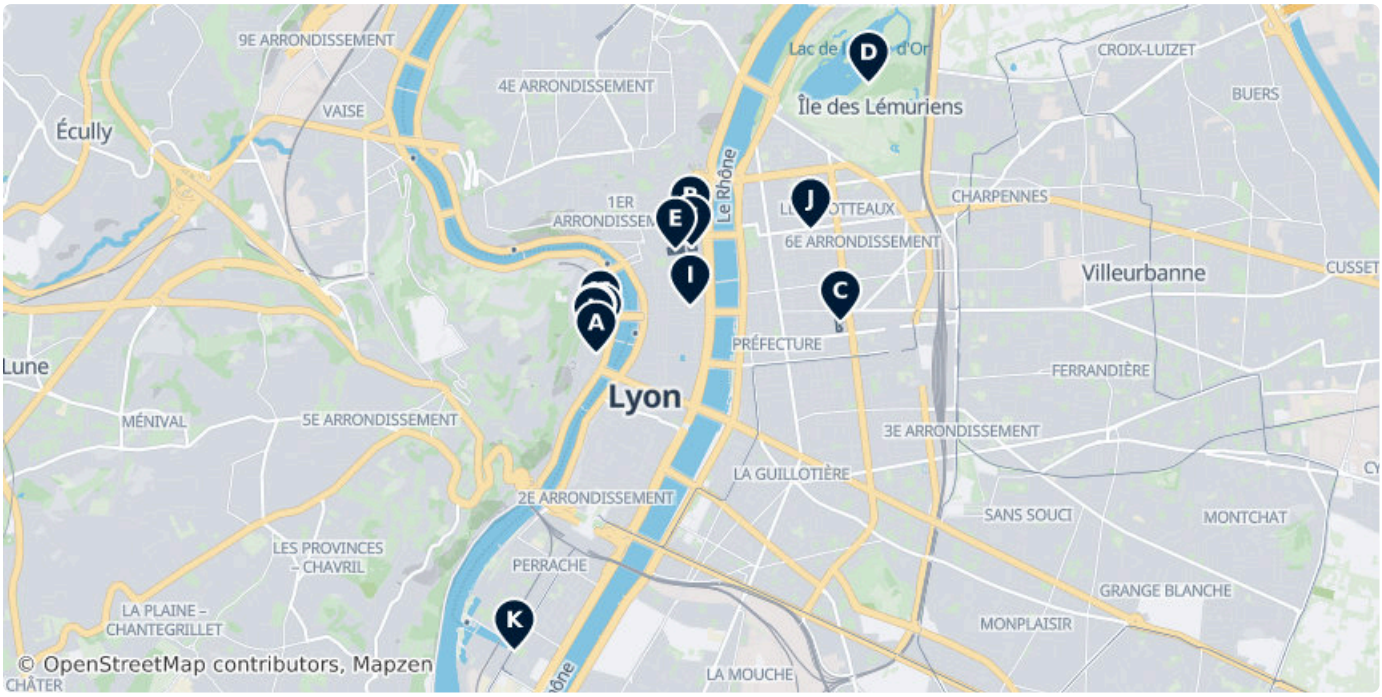
Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

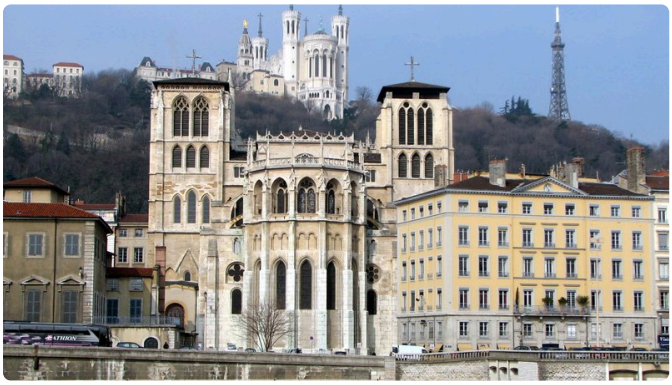
LANGUAGES
French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Lyon's Unmissable Treasures

Lyon's history spans from its Roman foundations to the Renaissance architecture of Vieux Lyon. This collection features the Gothic Lyon Cathedral and the secret traboule passageways historically used by silk weavers. Culinary highlights include the Bernachon chocolate shop and Les Halles de Lyon – Paul Bocuse indoor market. Modern landmarks like the Opéra Nouvel and the contemporary La Confluence district contrast with the 17th-century City Hall and the 117-hectare Parc de la Tête d'Or.





A Lyon Cathedral

Lyon Cathedral is a Roman Catholic church located on Place Saint-Jean in central Lyon, France.

Place Saint-Jean, 69005 Lyon, France (45.76072, 4.82743)

Mo–Th	08:15–19:45
Fr	08:15–20:45
Sa	08:15–19:00
Su	08:00–19:00

cathedrale-lyon.cef.fr, +33 478 54 76 21



B Traboule Passageways

Traboules are a type of secret covered passageways primarily associated with the city of Lyon, France, but also located in the French...

2 Petite Rue des Feuillants, 69001 Lyon, France (45.76912, 4.83642)

lyontraboules.net



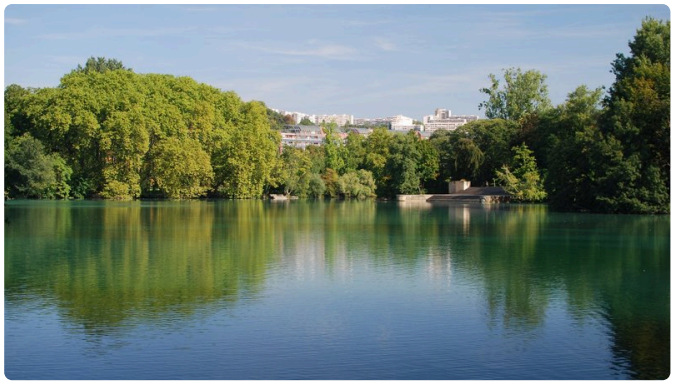
C Les Halles de Lyon - Paul Bocuse

The most popular indoor farmers market in Lyon. More than fifty stalls offer everything from local produce you could think of.

102 Cours Lafayette, 69003 Lyon, France (45.76284, 4.85071)

Mo–Sa	07:30–19:30
Su	07:30–16:30

halles-de-lyon-paulbocuse.com, +33 04 78 62 39 33



D Tete d'Or Park

The Parc de la Tête d'or is a large urban park in Lyon, France, with an area of approximately 117 hectares.

(Unnamed Road), Lyon 69006, France (45.77867, 4.85340)

Apr 15-Oct 14 Mo–Su	06:30–22:30
Oct 15-Apr 14 Mo–Su	06:30–20:30

lyon.fr/page/cadre-de-vie/ville-nature/l... , +33 472 69 47 60



E City Hall of Lyon

The Hôtel de Ville is the city hall of Lyon, France, and one of the largest historic buildings in the city.

15 Rue Puits Gaillot, 69001 Lyon, France (45.76763, 4.83498)

en.lyon-france.com/Guided-Tours-Excur..., +33 472 77 69 69



F Opera House Lyon

The Opéra Nouvel in Lyon, France, is the home of the Opéra National de Lyon.

1 Place de la Comédie, 69001 Lyon, France (45.76781, 4.83651)

opera-lyon.com, +33 469 85 54 54



G Museum of Miniature and Cinema

This museum gives you an insight into the way how the special film effects are made. Includes exhibition on filming Perfume.

60 Rue Saint-Jean, 69005 Lyon, France (45.76188, 4.82730)

Mo–Su	10:00–19:00

museeminiatureetcinema.fr, +33 4 72002477



H Justice Palace

The Palais de justice historique de Lyon is a building located in Quai Romain Rolland, on the right bank of the Saône, in the 5th...

1 Rue du Palais de Justice, 69005 Lyon, France (45.76190, 4.82794)

ca-lyon.justice.fr, +33 4 72 77 69 69



I Palais de la Bourse Lyon

The Palais de la Bourse or Palais du Commerce is a building located in the quarter Les Cordeliers, in 2nd arrondissement of Lyon.

20 Rue de la Bourse, Lyon 69002, France (45.76389, 4.83639)



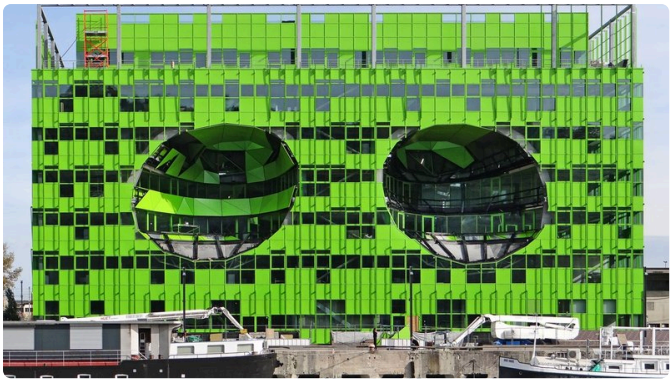
J Bernachon

Chocolate maker with the longest tradition in Lyon. Taste the delicious truffles, desserts or macarons of genuine quality.

42 Cours Franklin Roosevelt, 69006 Lyon, France (45.76894, 4.84788)

Tu–Sa	08:30–19:00
Su	08:30–13:00

bernachon.com, +33 4 78 24 37 98



K La Confluence

If you're into the contemporary architecture, certainly don't miss this brand new large-scale urban development.

73 rue Smith, 69002 Lyon, France (45.74095, 4.81962)

la-confluence.fr/index.php, +33 478 38 74 00



L Maison du Chamarier

The Maison du Chamarier, also known as Hôtel d'Estaing, is a house at 37 rue Saint-Jean in the 5th arrondissement of Lyon, at the corner of...

66 Rue Saint-Jean, Lyon 69005, France (45.76174, 4.82720)



M Rue St-Jean

The main pedestrian thoroughfare of the Vieux Lyon district, lined with Renaissance-era buildings, traditional bouchon restaurants, and artisan shops. It connects the Place Saint-Jean to the Place du Change.

32 Rue Saint-Jean, Lyon 69005, France (45.76285, 4.82781)

Local Hidden Gems

Explore Lyon's unconventional side through these local favorites. Visit Le Bal des Ardents, a bookshop known for its impressive arched entrance made of books. Discover contemporary street art at the Spacejunk Art Center or find handcrafted jewelry at Le 52. For animal lovers, the city offers two distinct cat cafes: The GentleCat and the vegan-focused Au Bonheur des Chats. Finally, the Roseraie de Saint-Clair provides a quiet retreat with its collection of fragrant roses along the Rhône river.





A The GentleCat - Cat Bar

This cat cafe offers a cozy place to hide from the business of the city.

16 Rue du Général Plessier, Lyon 69002, France
(45.75112, 4.82629)

Mo	Closed
Tu–Fr	12:00–19:00
Sa	12:30–20:00
Su	11:00–17:00

legentlecat.fr

B Spacejunk Art Center

Spacejunk Art Center is one of the more unique galleries scattered around Lyon.

16 Rue des Capucins, Lyon 69001, France
(45.76935, 4.83439)

Tu–Sa	14:00–19:00

spacejunk.tv, +33 4 78 72 64 02

C Au Bonheur des Chats

Though at first glance this might seem like an ordinary cat cafe, it's actually a beautiful idea of connecting a quality vegan cafe with a...

20 Rue Salomon Reinach, Lyon 69007, France (45.75344, 4.83962)

We–Fr	10:30–18:30
Sa–Su	11:30–18:30

au-bonheurdeschats.fr, +33 09 87 18 24 24

D Roseraie de Saint-Clair

Located on the banks of the Rhône, this municipal garden features a variety of rose species. The landscaped paths offer views of the river and quiet seating areas away from the city center.

(45.78798, 4.85640)

E Le 52 - Louise Vurpas

Three young women whose craft got turned into a little shop specializing in personalized and unique jewelry pieces.

52 Rue Sébastien Gryphe, Lyon 69007, France (45.75142, 4.84301)

We–Fr	14:00–18:00
Sa	14:00–19:00

louisevurpas.com

F Le Bal des Ardents

A bookshop which not only offers everything and anything when it comes to books but also looks strangely beautiful with its decor and...

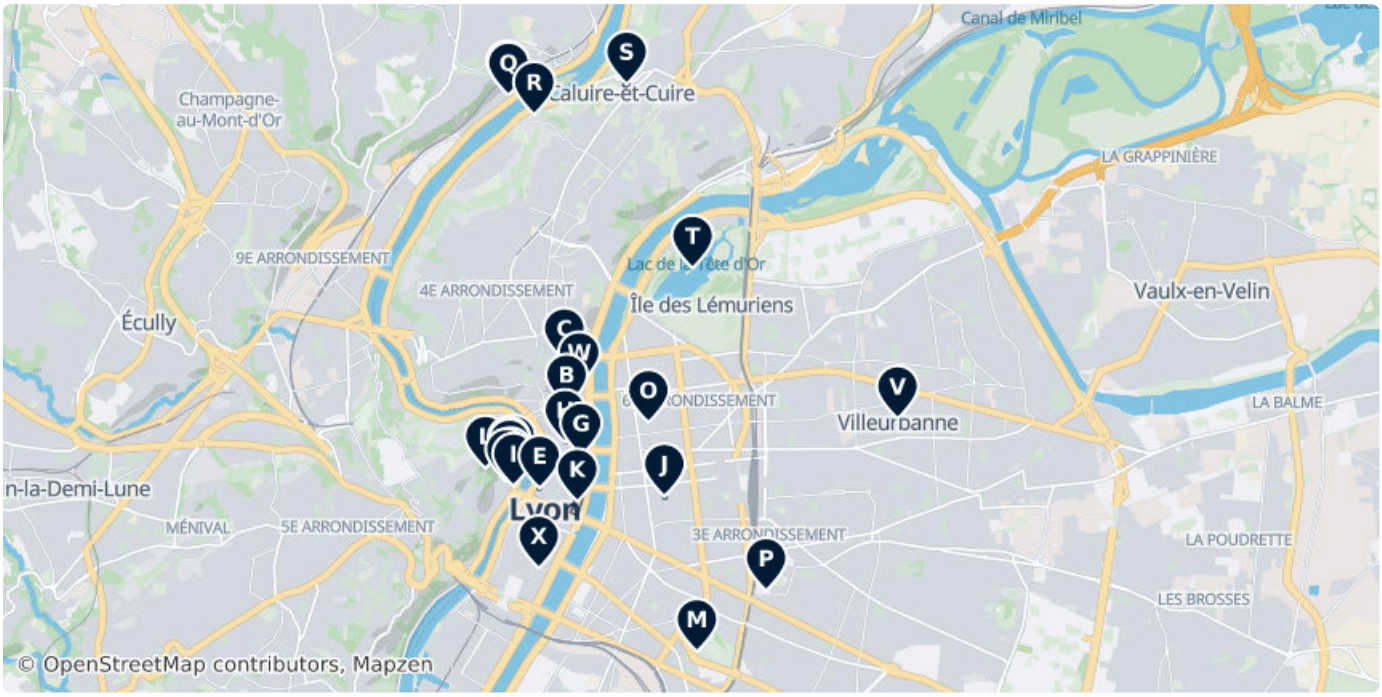
17 Rue Neuve, Lyon 69001, France (45.76535, 4.83544)

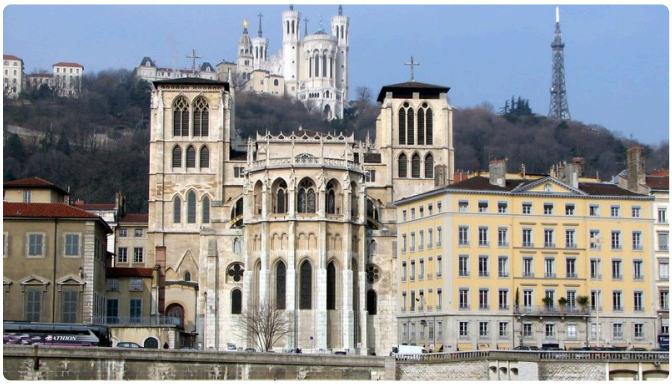
Mo–Sa	10:00–19:00

lebaldesardents.com, +33 4 72 98 83 36

Lyon's Heritage Treasures

Lyon's architectural landscape spans from the medieval streets of Vieux Lyon to the grand 19th-century developments of the Presqu'île. This collection highlights significant landmarks including the 12th-century Lyon Cathedral with its astronomical clock, the monumental 17th-century Hôtel de Ville, and unique urban features like the Cour des Voraces staircase. Explore historical sites such as the former Grand Hôtel-Dieu hospital, the Art Deco district of Villeurbanne, and various private mansions and theaters that define the city's cultural heritage.





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Fr	08:15–20:45
Sa	08:15–19:00
Su	08:00–19:00

cathedrale-lyon.cef.fr, +33 478 54 76 21



B City Hall of Lyon

The Hôtel de Ville is the city hall of Lyon, France, and one of the largest historic buildings in the city.

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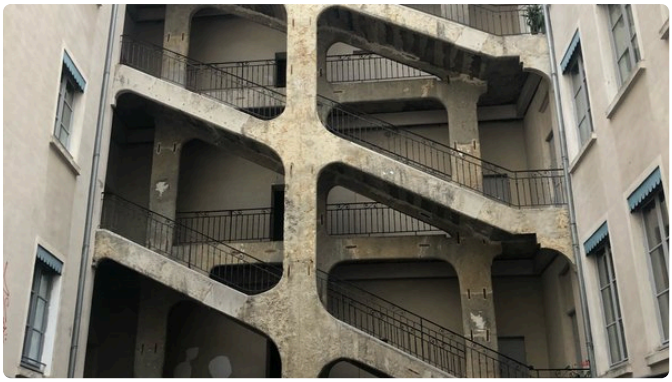


C Cour des Voraces

The Cour des Voraces, also called Maison de la République, is a courtyard building in the Pentes quarter, in the 1st arrondissement of Lyon...

9 Place Colbert, Lyon 69001, France (45.77196, 4.83467)



D Maison du Chamarier

The Maison du Chamarier, also known as Hôtel d'Estaing, is a house at 37 rue Saint-Jean in the 5th arrondissement of Lyon, at the corner of...

37 Rue Saint-Jean, Lyon 69005, France (45.76151, 4.82726)



E Théâtre des Célestins

The Théâtre des Célestins is a theatre building on Place des Célestins in Lyon, France.

11 Place des Célestins, Lyon 69002, France (45.75998, 4.83134)

theatredescelestins.com, +334 72 77 40 00



F Maison du Chamarier

The Maison du Chamarier, also known as Hôtel d'Estaing, is a house at 37 rue Saint-Jean in the 5th arrondissement of Lyon, at the corner of...

66 Rue Saint-Jean, Lyon 69005, France (45.76174, 4.82720)



G Église Saint-Bonaventure

The Église Saint-Bonaventure is one of the churches of the quarter Presqu'île, located on the Place des Cordeliers, in the 2nd...

2 Rue Champier, Lyon 69002, France (45.76306, 4.83695)

+33 4 78 37 83 55



H Printing Museum Lyon

The Musée de l'Imprimerie is a museum in Lyon, France, with the mission of enhancing, conserving, documenting and valuing the heritage of...

13 Rue de la Poulaillerie, 69002 Lyon, France (45.76429, 4.83476)

We–Su 10:30–18:00

imprimerie.lyon.fr, +33 4 78 37 65 98



I Palais archiépiscopal

The medieval residence of the Archbishops of Lyon, also called Palais Saint-Jean, featuring architectural elements from the 15th to the 18th centuries.

4 Avenue Adolphe Max, Lyon 69005, France (45.76020, 4.82780)



J Bourse du Travail

The Bourse du Travail is a 1,950-capacity theatre located in Lyon, France.

27 Rue Voltaire, Lyon 69003, France (45.75923, 4.84816)

bourse-du-travail.com, +33 4 72 10 30 30



K Hôtel-Dieu de Lyon

Hôtel-Dieu de Lyon was a hospital of historical significance situated on the west bank of the Rhone river, on the Presqu'île.

69002 (45.75874, 4.83643)

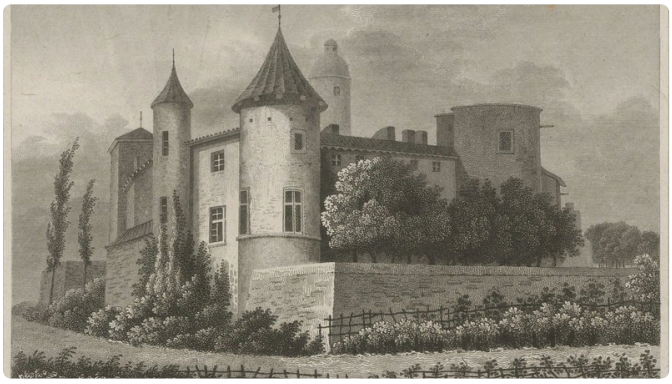
Mo–Sa 10:00–19:30, 12:00–01:00

grand-hotel-dieu.com

L Maison de la Bréda

A historical residence contributing to the Renaissance architectural fabric of the Saint-Jean district in Vieux Lyon.

Montée Cardinal Louis-Marie Billé, 69005 Lyon, France (45.76186, 4.82404)



M Château de La Motte

Château de La Motte is a French castle that is also known as The castle of La Motte or just La Mothe.

11 Rue de l'Épargne, Lyon 69007, France (45.74462, 4.85256)



N Palais de justice historique de Lyon

The Palais de justice historique de Lyon is a building located Quai Romain Rolland, on the right bank of the Saône, in the 5th...

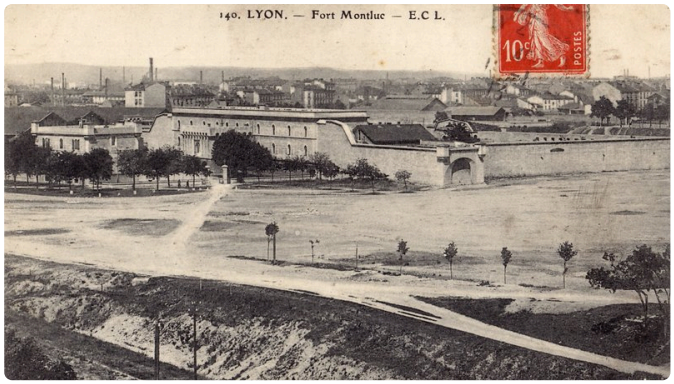
35 Rue Saint-Jean, Lyon 69005, France (45.76191, 4.82795)



O Église Saint-Pothin

The Église Saint-Pothin is a Roman Catholic church located in Lyon, France.

13 Place Edgar Quinet, Lyon 69006, France
(45.76616, 4.84600)



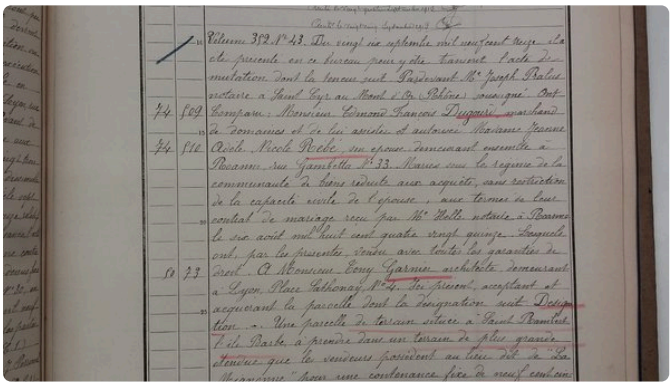
P Fort Montluc

Fort Montluc, also known as Fort de Villeurbanne, is a fort located in the 3rd arrondissement of Lyon.

(45.75037, 4.86188)

Sep-Jun We–Sa	14:00–17:30
Jul-Aug Tu–Sa	09:00–12:30, 14:00–17:30

memorial-montluc.fr, +33478536041



Q Villa de madame Garnier

A 20th-century residence in the Saint-Rambert-l'Île-Barbe district designed by the influential Lyon architect Tony Garnier.

(45.79693, 4.82713)



R Maison La Rivette

An 18th-century manor house in Caluire-et-Cuire featuring classical French architecture and designated historical gardens.

17 Montée des Forts, Caluire-et-Cuire 69300, France
(45.79511, 4.83062)

S Radiant Bellevue

A cultural complex and theater in Caluire-et-Cuire that serves as a major venue for concerts and performing arts.

(45.79797, 4.84308)

radiant-bellevue.fr, +33 4 72 10 22 19



T War memorial on Île du Souvenir

The war memorial on Île du Souvenir is a war memorial dedicated to the victims of World War I, located on Île du Souvenir in the Parc de la...

Lyon 69006, France (45.78067, 4.85196)



U Manécanterie, Lyon

The Manécanterie is an ancient monument situated in Lyon in Saint Jean district, in the 5th arrondissement of Lyon.

Place Saint Jean, 69005 Lyon, France (45.76061, 4.82687)

V Hôtel de Ville de Villeurbanne

An iconic Art Deco town hall built in the 1930s as the centerpiece of Villeurbanne's Gratte-Ciel architectural project.

5 Place du Docteur Lazare Goujon, Villeurbanne 69100, France (45.76652, 4.87960)

Mo–Tu	09:00–17:00
We	09:00–19:00
Th–Fr	09:00–17:00

villeurbanne.fr, +33478036767

W Thou bout de chant

A theater located in the Pentes de la Croix-Rousse district specializing in French musical performances and chanson.

4 Rue de Thou, Lyon 69001, France (45.76972, 4.83669)

X Hôtel de Sarron

An 18th-century private mansion in the Presqu'île district, recognized as a historical monument for its preserved period architecture.

Rue de la Charité, 69002 Lyon, France (45.75247, 4.83122)

Villa Tony Garnier à son amie

Also known as Villa Mlle Bachelard, this residence was designed by architect Tony Garnier in the early 1900s in the Saint-Rambert area.

(45.79707, 4.82697)

DATA SOURCES

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