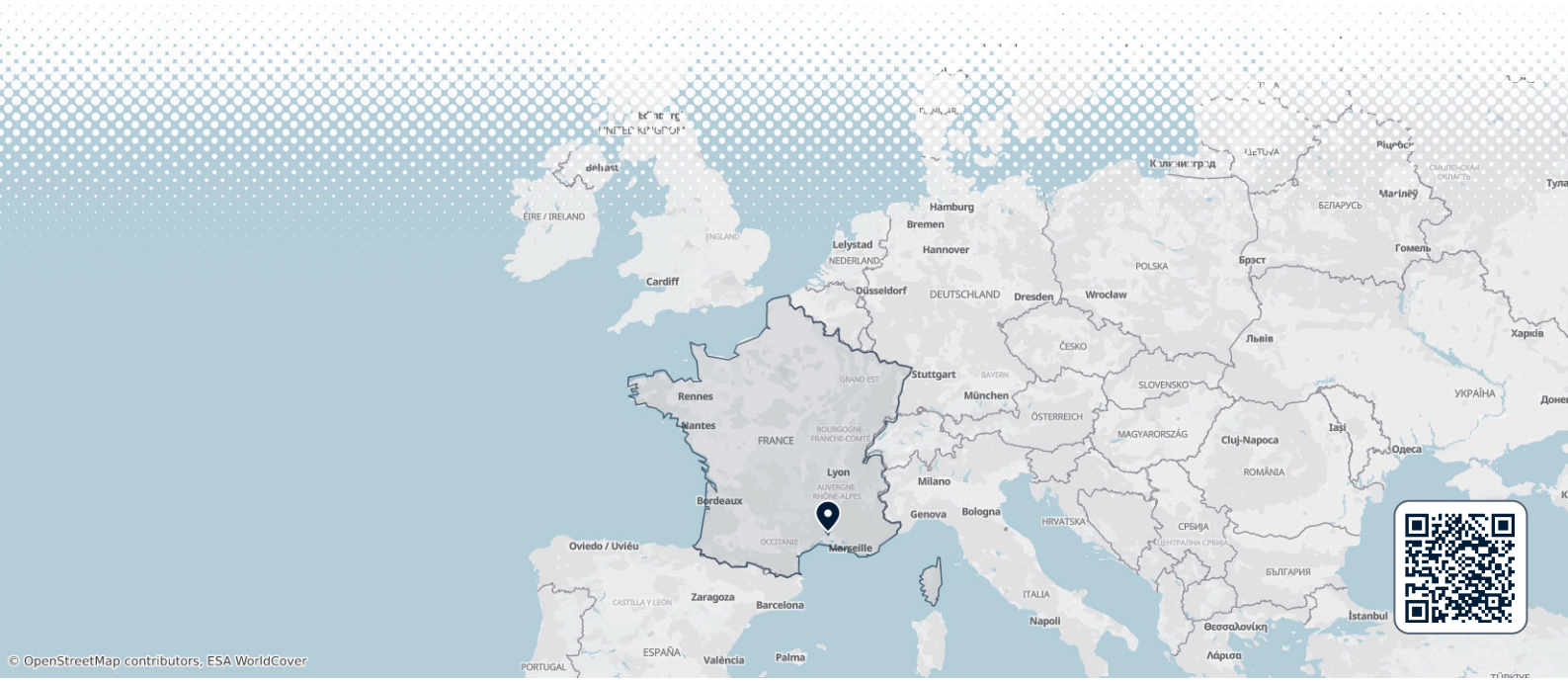


Nimes

Occitania · France

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Nîmes is a city in southern France, in the Gard, between Provence and Languedoc. It has some of the best-preserved Roman buildings in Europe. A Roman arena and a Roman temple stand in the middle of a lively modern centre.

The old town is small and walkable, with shaded squares and 18th-century town houses. Nîmes suits a short stay of two nights and works well as a base for the Pont du Gard, Uzès, Arles and Avignon. The city also gave its name to denim, from the fabric called *serge de Nîmes*. Bullfighting and the big ferias are part of local life.

When to visit

May, June, September and October are the best months: warm, sunny and good for walking. July and August are very hot, so plan sights for the morning and evening. Winter is cool and quiet, with some grey days. Autumn can bring heavy rain.

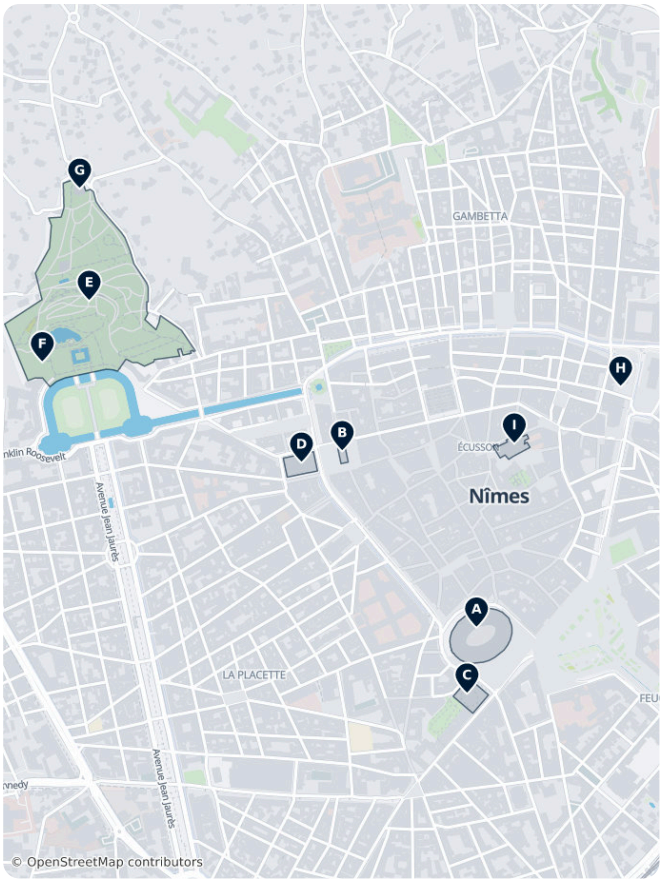
The biggest event is the Féria de Pentecôte, a bullfighting and street festival around Whitsun in May or June. The old town fills with music and crowds, and the arena is the main stage. A second Féria takes place in September. Book hotels well ahead for both.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	10° / 16° Feels like 6°	2° / -3°	Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	12° / 17° Feels like 7°	2° / -3°	Dry air
March	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 21° Feels like 12°	5° / -1°	Dry air
April	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25° Feels like 16°	8° / 2°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 30°	12° / 7°	Dry air
June	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 37°	16° / 11°	
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	33° / 39°	19° / 14°	☀ 20 sunny days · Up to 9 days above 35°
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	33° / 39°	19° / 14°	Up to 8 days above 35°
September	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 33°	15° / 10°	Dry air
October	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	11° / 5°	Dry air
November	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 20° Feels like 11°	6° / -1°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 16° Feels like 7°	3° / -3°	Dry air

Best months: May, September, October

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

Top sights



- **A** Arena of Nimes is a Roman amphitheatre from around 100 AD and one of the best preserved in the world. It once held about 24,000 people. Today it hosts bullfights, concerts and Roman-style games, and you can climb to the upper tiers for views of the city.
- **B** Maison Carrée is a Roman temple from the time of *Augustus*. Its tall columns and deep porch are almost complete, and it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its design later inspired buildings in other countries.
- **C** Musée de la Romanité is a museum of Roman history opposite the arena. It shows mosaics, statues and objects from Nîmes and the region, and has a rooftop view over the arena.
- **D** Carré d'Art is a glass and steel art museum facing the Roman temple, designed by *Norman Foster*. It shows contemporary art, and its roof terrace has a good view of the old town.
- **E** Les Jardins de la Fontaine is a shaded 18th-century garden built around a Roman spring. It has canals, stairs and statues. It is a cool place to walk on a hot day.
- **F** Temple de Diane is a Roman ruin in the gardens, with a half-open vault. It is probably a part of a sanctuary linked to the spring.
- **G** Tour Magne is a Roman tower on the hill above the gardens. It was built on an older Celtic tower, and the top has the best view of Nîmes.
- **H** Porte d'Auguste is a Roman city gate with four arches. It stood on the Via Domitia, the road to Spain and Italy, and it is a short walk from the old town.
- **I** Cathédrale Notre-Dame et Saint-Castor is the cathedral in the old town. It has a Romanesque frieze on the front, and it sits on a quiet square.

Nimes – Plan Your Trip

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What to experience

- **Féria de Pentecôte and Féria des Vendanges**: Twice a year the city turns into a street party for several days, with bullfights in the arena, bands and open-air bars. Bullfighting is part of the tradition here. Visitors who prefer to skip it can still enjoy the streets.
- **Roman games**: The arena hosts shows with gladiators and chariots in costume. Dates change from year to year, so check the arena's program.
- **Concert in the arena**: Each summer the Festival de Nîmes brings big concerts to the Roman stage. It is an unusual setting for live music.
- **Evening at the Tour Magne**: Walk up through the gardens at the end of the day. The view over the city and the Garrigue hills is at its best in the evening light.

Day trips

Nîmes is a good base for day trips in the Gard and the Rhône valley.



- Pont du Gard: about 30 minutes by car. This three-level Roman aqueduct bridge is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It carried water to Nîmes, and you can walk beside it and swim in the river in summer.
- Ⓐ Uzes: about 40 minutes by car. It is a pretty hill town with a ducal castle, arcaded square and market days. It is often combined with the Pont du Gard.
- Ⓑ Arles: about 30 minutes by train. It has a Roman arena and theatre and links to the painter *Vincent van Gogh*.
- Ⓒ Avignon: about 30 minutes by train. It is a walled city with the large papal palace and a famous broken bridge.
- Ⓓ Montpellier: about 30 to 50 minutes by train. It is a student city with a car-free centre and good cafés.
- Aigues-Mortes: about 45 minutes by car. This medieval walled town stands near the salt marshes. You can walk along the ramparts.
- Ⓔ Camargue: about 1 hour by car. It is a wetland area of lagoons, white horses and pink flamingos. A guided boat, horse or jeep tour is the easiest way to see it.

Where to explore

Other destinations near Nîmes:

- For Roman and Provençal towns, visit Arles or Avignon.
- For a hill town near the Pont du Gard, visit Uzes.
- For a bigger city on the coast side, visit Montpellier or Sète.
- For nature and wild horses, visit Camargue.

Getting there

- **By air**: Nîmes–Alès–Camargue–Cévennes Airport (FNI) is about 10 km southeast of the city. It has a few daily flights, mostly from Ryanair. An airport shuttle bus runs to Nîmes bus station, next to the train station; tickets cost about 7 € and are sold on board. Most travelers fly to Montpellier (about 50 km away) or Marseille Provence (about 1 hour 15 minutes by car) and take a train or bus.
- **By train**: High-speed TGV trains from Paris take about 3 hours. Direct trains also link Lyon, Marseille and Montpellier, and regional TER trains serve Avignon and Arles. Nîmes station is a 10-minute walk from the old town. A second station, Nîmes–Pont-du-Gard, lies outside the city and is used by a few TGVs. Book at SNCF Connect.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches connect Nîmes with regional towns such as Montpellier, Avignon and Uzes. The train is usually faster.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is compact, mostly pedestrian and flat. Most sights are within 15 minutes of each other. Only the Tour Magne needs a short uphill walk.
- **Public transport**: The Tango network runs buses and two bus rapid-transit lines (T1 and T2). Buy tickets from the driver. Most visitors do not need it in the centre. The tourist office has information and a combined pass for monuments and museums: Nîmes Tourisme.
- **Taxi**: Taxis wait at the train station. They are useful for late evenings and for the airport.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact, flat and mostly pedestrian, so walking is the best way to see the sights.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycling is easy on flat streets outside the pedestrian centre.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city. The old town is walkable and many streets are pedestrian. A car is useful for the Pont du Gard, Uzès and the Camargue.
- **Parking**: Use the underground car parks around the Esplanade and near the arena, then walk in. Street parking in the centre is limited and paid.
- **Restrictions**: Access is limited or closed on many streets inside the old town. Follow local signs.

Food & drink

Food here mixes Provençal and Languedoc cooking. Look for *brandade de morue*, a creamy purée of salt cod, and *gardiane*, a slow stew of bull meat from the Camargue. Local wines from the Costières de Nîmes are easy to find by the glass.

For a food visit, go to the covered market Les Halles, in the old town. For a meal, try the cafés and restaurants around Place du Marché and the streets near the arena and the cathedral. Choose a set lunch menu for better value. In the evenings, terraces are full, so book ahead during a Féria.

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

Nîmes is generally safe for visitors. Pickpocketing is the main risk, especially around the station, the arena and the crowds of a Féria. Keep bags closed and phones in front pockets. At night, stay in the lit streets of the centre.

Summer heat is strong. Drink water, use sun protection and plan outdoor sights for morning or evening. In autumn, heavy storms can cause flash floods. Follow local weather alerts and avoid low roads and underpasses during red or orange warnings.

History

Nîmes started around a sacred spring, which is now the Les Jardins de la Fontaine. It became a Roman colony called Nemausus, and *Augustus* gave it walls and gates. The city grew rich on the road from Italy to Spain, and Porte d'Auguste marks the old road to Rome.

The Romans built Maison Carrée, Arena of Nimes and a long aqueduct, whose best-known part is the Pont du Gard, to bring water from Uzès. The city's coat of arms shows a crocodile chained to a palm tree, a symbol linked to veterans of *Augustus*. In the Middle Ages, the arena became a small fortified neighbourhood with houses inside.

Later, Nîmes became a major Protestant city and a centre of textile trade. Its woven cloth, *serge de Nîmes*, gave the word denim. Musée de la Romanité tells this long story today.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for France at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



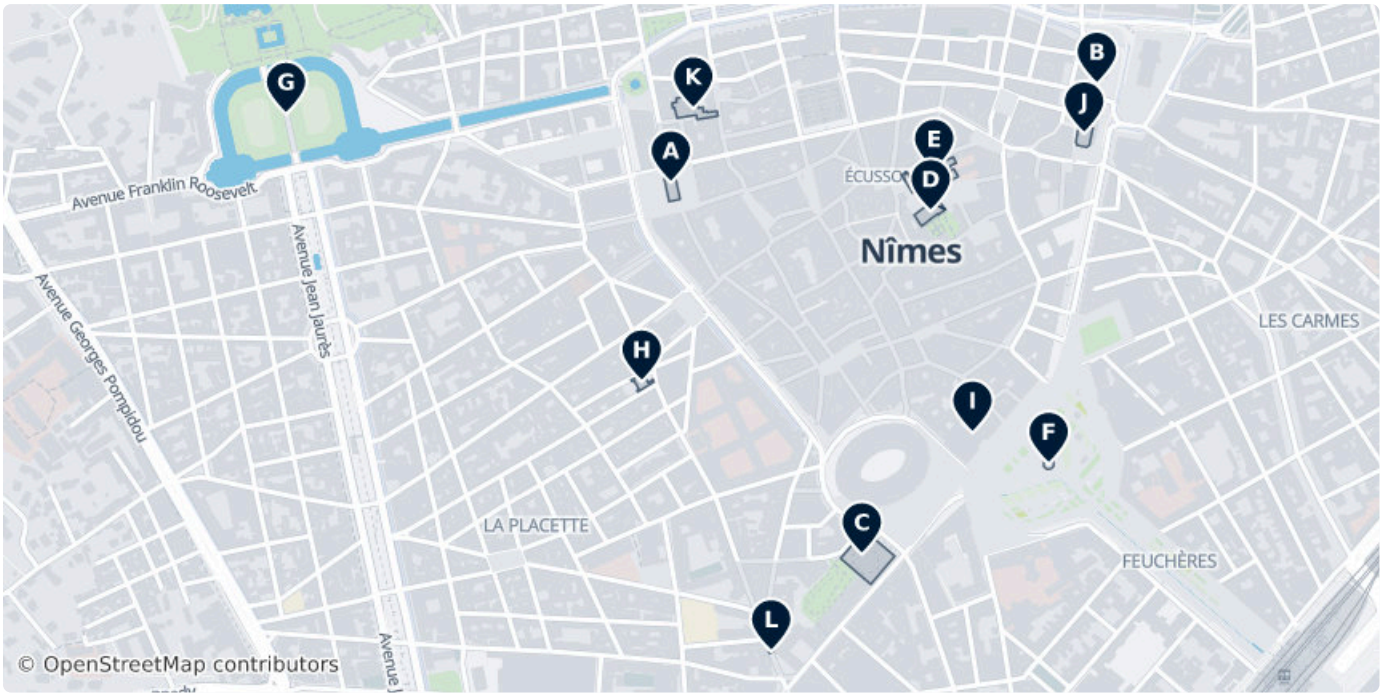
Type C / Type E
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LANGUAGES
French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Nîmes: Roman Majesty and Southern Charm

Nîmes features some of the best-preserved Roman architecture in Europe, centered around the Maison Carrée temple and the ancient gates of Porte d'Auguste and Porte de France. The city's history extends through the Middle Ages at the Cathédrale Notre-Dame-et-Saint-Castor to the 18th-century Jardins de la Fontaine, built around the Roman sanctuary of Nemausus. Modern additions like the Musée de la Romanité contrast with the neoclassical Palais de Justice and the textile-focused Musée du Vieux Nîmes, housed in the former Bishop's Palace.



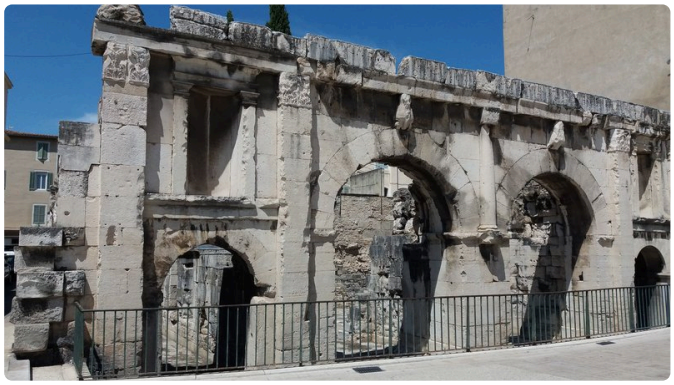


A Maison Carrée

The Maison carrée is an ancient Roman temple in Nîmes, southern France; it is one of the best-preserved Roman temples to survive in the...

Place de la Maison Carrée, 30000 (43.83826, 4.35611)

arenes-nimes.com/fr/decouverte-lieu/... , +33 4 66 21 82 56



B Porte d'Auguste

One of the main gates of the ancient Roman colony of Nemausus, built during the reign of Emperor Augustus. It features two large central arches for carriages and two smaller side arches for pedestrians, originally part of a 6-kilometer-long defensive wall.

25B Boulevard Amiral Courbet, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83944, 4.36315)



C Musée de la Romanité

Musée de la Romanité is an archeological museum in the French city of Nîmes, opened on 2 June 2018.

Boulevard des Arènes 16, 30900 Nîmes (43.83383, 4.35927)

Apr-Oct Mo–Su	10:00–19:00
Nov-Mar Mo–Su	10:00–18:00

museedelaromanite.fr/en/, +33(0)4 48 210 220

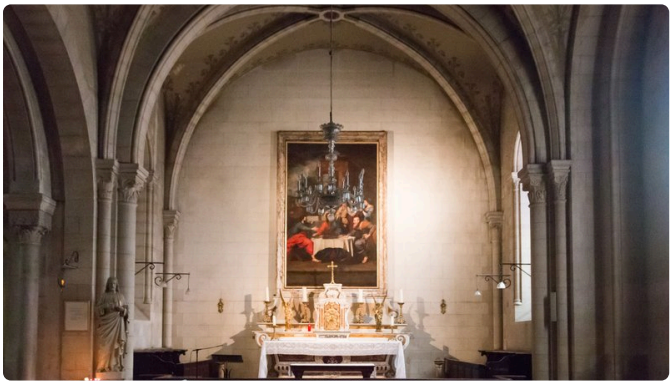


D Musée du Vieux Nîmes

Housed in the 17th-century former Bishop's Palace, this museum documents Nîmes' local history. It features significant collections of furniture, ceramics, and textiles, including the history of 'denim' (serge de Nîmes) originally produced in the city.

2A Place du Chapitre, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83792, 4.36041)

nimes.fr/que-faire-a-nimes/culture/les-musees-le-planeta...



E Nîmes Cathedral

Nîmes Cathedral is a Roman Catholic church in Nîmes, France. The cathedral is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to the local Saint...

9 Rue Saint-Castor, Nîmes 30000;30900, France (43.83840, 4.36046)

nimes.catholique.fr, +33 4 66 67 27 72



F Fontaine Pradier

A monumental white marble fountain inaugurated in 1851 on the Esplanade Charles-de-Gaulle. The central figure represents the city of Nîmes, surrounded by statues personifying the four local waterways: the Source, the Gardon, the Rhône, and the Vistre.

(Unnamed Road), Nîmes 30000, France (43.83491, 4.36236)



G Les Jardins de la Fontaine

Created in 1745, these were among Europe's first public parks. Built around the Roman ruins of a sanctuary, the gardens feature 18th-century canals, neoclassical statues, and the ruins of the Temple of Diana.

(43.83908, 4.34975)



H Château Fadaise

A 17th-century private mansion (hôtel particulier) located in the historic center. Built in 1653, it represents the architectural style of the urban nobility during the city's classical period.

3A Rue du Château Fadaise, Nîmes 30900, France
(43.83589, 4.35563)



I Palais de Justice

An imposing Neoclassical building constructed between 1836 and 1848. Designed by architect Gaston Bourdon, it features a grand colonnade of Corinthian columns that mirrors the architectural style of the nearby Maison Carrée.

1 Place de la Libération, Nîmes 30000, France
(43.83528, 4.36110)



J Grand Temple des Dominicains

A former 17th-century Dominican church that became a Protestant place of worship after the French Revolution. It is notable for its Baroque facade and its role in the city's significant Protestant history.

2 Rue Charles Babut, Nîmes 30000, France
(43.83885, 4.36294)

K Petit temple de Nîmes

Originally a chapel for the Ursuline convent built in the 18th century, this building was converted into a Protestant temple in 1883. It serves as a place of worship for the United Protestant Church of France.

3 Rue Claude Brousson, Nîmes 30000, France
(43.83914, 4.35648)



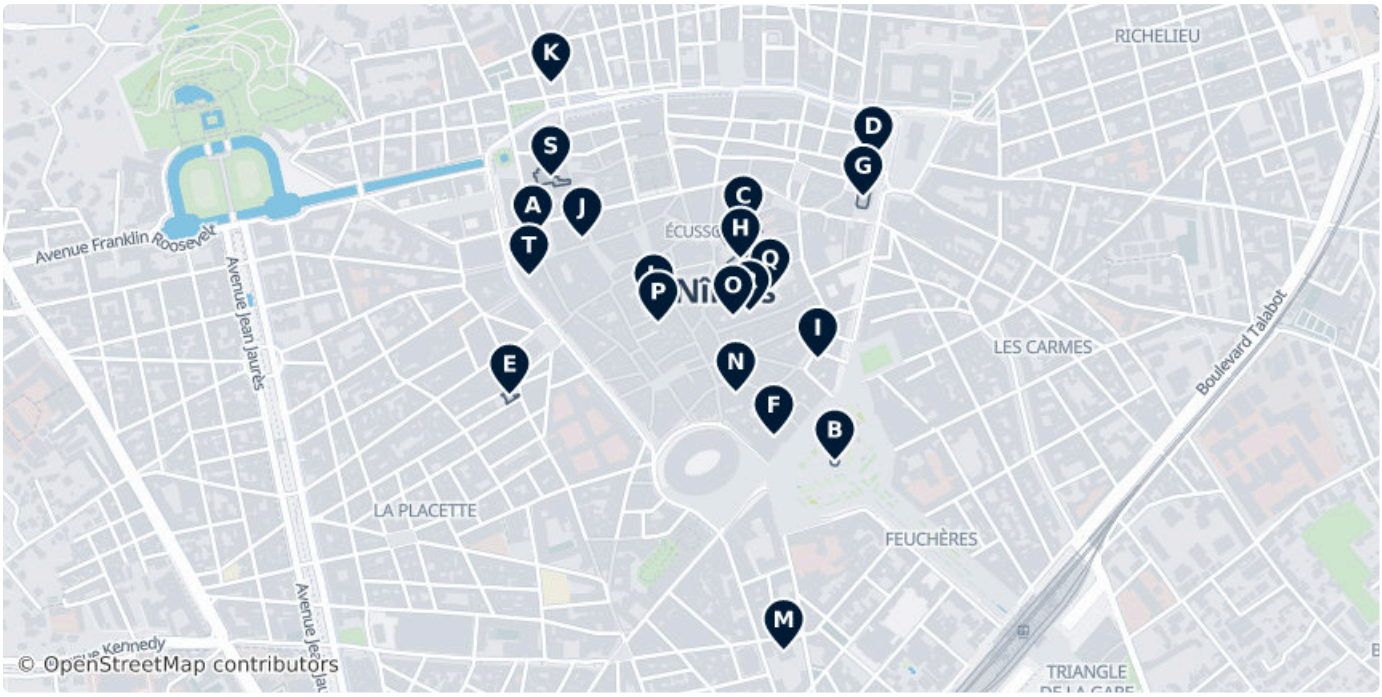
L Porte de France (Nîmes)

An ancient Roman gate dating back to the 1st century BC. Unlike the Porte d'Auguste, it consists of a single semicircular arch and was once a key entry point through the city's Roman fortifications.

56 Rue de la Porte de France, Nîmes 30900, France
(43.83267, 4.35777)

Nîmes Heritage Trail

Explore Nîmes through its architectural evolution, from the 1st-century BC Roman gates and the iconic Maison Carrée to the grand neoclassical Palais de Justice. This trail covers the city's religious diversity, featuring both the Catholic Cathedral and historic Protestant temples. A significant portion of the list focuses on 'hôtels particuliers'—elegant 17th and 18th-century private mansions that showcase the city's former wealth as a textile and administrative hub.





A Maison Carrée

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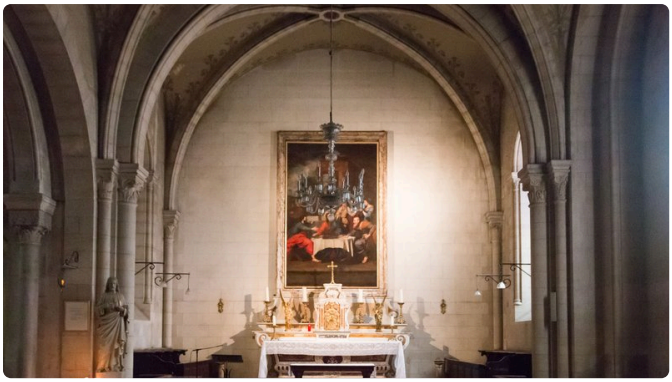
arenes-nimes.com/fr/decouverte-lieu/... , +33 4 66 21 82 56



B Fontaine Pradier

A monumental marble fountain on the Esplanade, inaugurated in 1851 and designed by sculptor James Pradier.

(Unnamed Road), Nîmes 30000, France (43.83491, 4.36236)

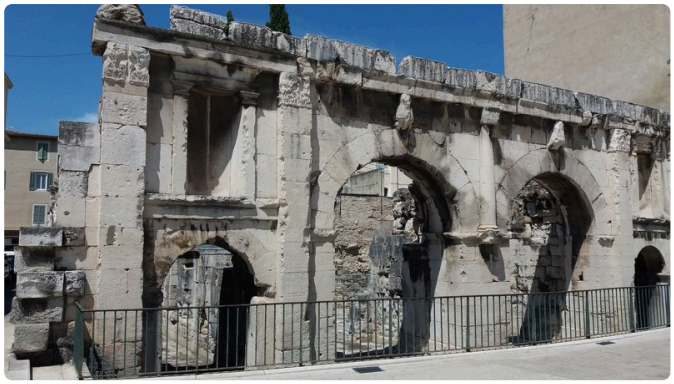


C Nîmes Cathedral

Nîmes Cathedral is a Roman Catholic church in Nîmes, France. The cathedral is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to the local Saint...

9 Rue Saint-Castor, Nîmes 30000;30900, France
(43.83840, 4.36046)

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D Porte d'Auguste

A 1st-century BC Roman gate that served as one of the main entrances to the city along the Via Domitia.

25B Boulevard Amiral Courbet, Nîmes 30000, France
(43.83944, 4.36315)



E Château Fadaise

A 17th-century civil building in the city center featuring a distinctive facade and historical regional architecture.

3A Rue du Château Fadaise, Nîmes 30900, France
(43.83589, 4.35563)



F Palais de Justice

An imposing neoclassical court building constructed between 1836 and 1846, featuring a grand colonnaded facade.

1 Place de la Libération, Nîmes 30000, France
(43.83528, 4.36110)



G Grand Temple des Dominicains

An 18th-century Protestant place of worship, formerly a Dominican church, known for its austere interior.

2 Rue Charles Babut, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83885, 4.36294)



H Musée du Vieux Nîmes

Housed in the former 17th-century episcopal palace, this museum documents local history and traditional crafts including denim production.

2A Place du Chapitre, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83792, 4.36041)

nimes.fr/que-faire-a-nimes/culture/les-musees-le-planeta...

I Hôtel de Chazel

An 18th-century private mansion, also known as Hôtel de Chazelles, located in the historic heart of the city.

3 Place de la Salamandre, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83643, 4.36200)

J Hôtel de Possac

A 17th-century private mansion featuring a notable courtyard and architectural details from the Renaissance period.

18 Rue de l'Horloge, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83823, 4.35713)

K Hôtel de Lagorce

An 18th-century civil building and former private residence located in the northern part of the historic center.

2 Rue Ménard, Nîmes 30000, France (43.84054, 4.35649)

L Hôtel Meynier de Salinelles

Also known as Hôtel Boudon, this historic private mansion dates back to the 17th and 18th centuries.

2 Rue de Bernis, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83723, 4.35861)

M Hôtel Colomb de Daunant

A 19th-century private residence, also known as Hôtel Foulc, showcasing mid-century neoclassical architectural style.

10 Rue Briçonnet, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83208, 4.36130)

N Hôtel de Rozel

An 18th-century private mansion located near the Roman ruins, typical of the city's noble residences.

1 Rue de la Violette, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83593, 4.36031)

O Hôtel de Brueys

An 18th-century private mansion, also called Hôtel André or Hôtel d'Aubais, known for its historic facade.

3 Rue Dorée, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83707, 4.36025)

P Hôtel de Bernis

A 17th-century private mansion featuring a traditional courtyard and architectural elements from the classical period.

3 Rue de Bernis, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83697, 4.35870)



Q Hôtel de Régis

An 18th-century private mansion (hôtel particulier) located within the city's historic district.

14 Rue du Chapitre, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83746, 4.36102)

R Hôtel Villard

An 18th-century private residence highlighting the city's growth during the textile boom era.

5 Rue Dorée, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83714, 4.36059)

S Petit temple de Nîmes

An 18th-century Protestant church, originally built for the Ursuline nuns before the French Revolution.

3 Rue Claude Brousson, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83914, 4.35648)

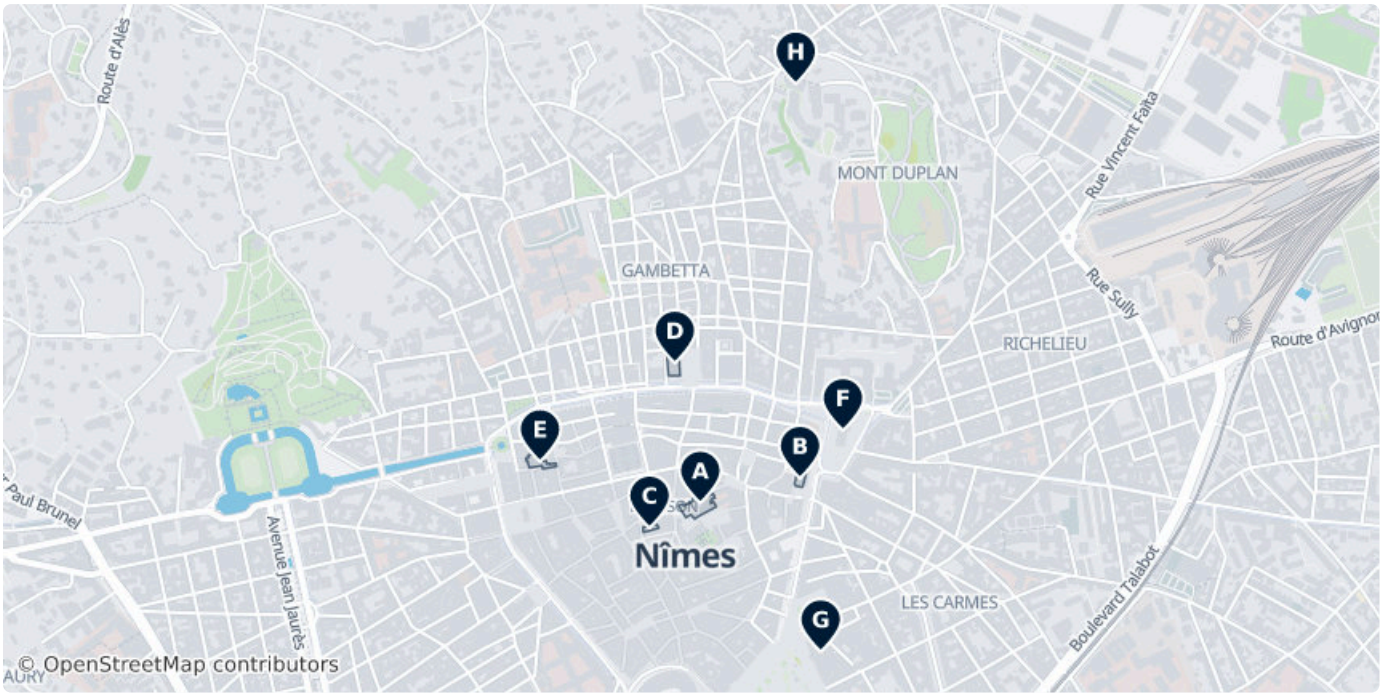
T Café Le Napoléon

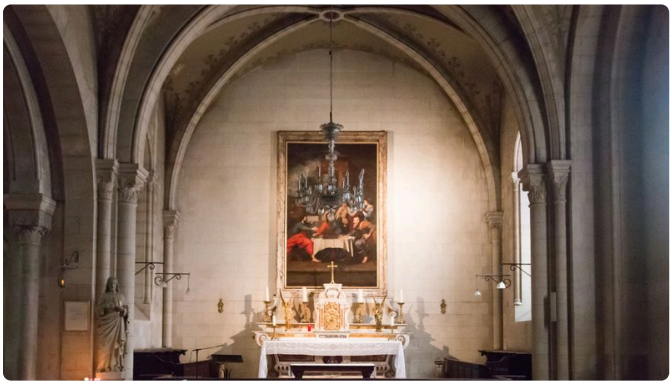
A historic 19th-century café featuring an authentic Empire-style interior and listed heritage status.

(43.83767, 4.35603)

Notable Religious Sites

Nîmes' religious landscape reflects a diverse mix of Romanesque, Gothic, and Neoclassical architecture. The collection includes the Nîmes Cathedral, dedicated to Saint Castor, alongside significant Protestant sites like the Grand Temple, a former Dominican church. Architectural styles range from the 19th-century Neo-Gothic spires of Saint-Baudile to the Second Empire eclecticism of Sainte-Perpétue. These sites document the city's complex history, including the transition of spaces between Catholic and Protestant worship following the Edict of Nantes.





A Nîmes Cathedral

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B Grand Temple des Dominicains

A place of worship for the United Protestant Church of France. Originally a Dominican church, this historic building was converted into a Protestant temple in the 18th century.

2 Rue Charles Babut, Nîmes 30000, France
(43.83885, 4.36294)

C Chapelle Sainte-Eugénie

A Catholic chapel with Romanesque origins located in the historic center. It stands as one of the oldest religious structures in Nîmes.

3 Rue Sainte-Eugénie, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83796, 4.35920)

D Église Saint-Charles

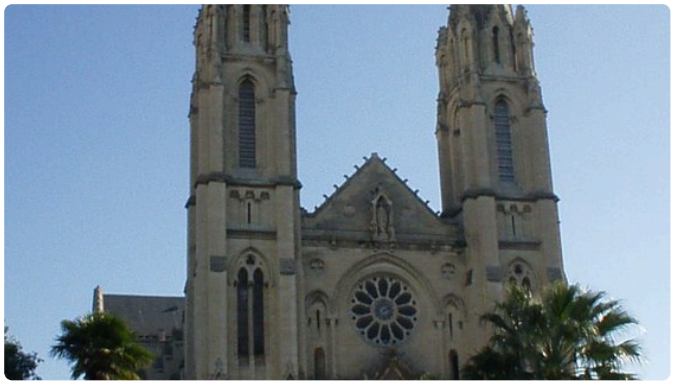
A 19th-century Catholic church designed in the Neoclassical style, featuring a distinctive pediment and columns.

2 Rue Robert, Nîmes 30000, France (43.84091, 4.35983)

E Petit temple de Nîmes

A Protestant temple housed in a former Ursuline convent chapel dating back to the 17th century.

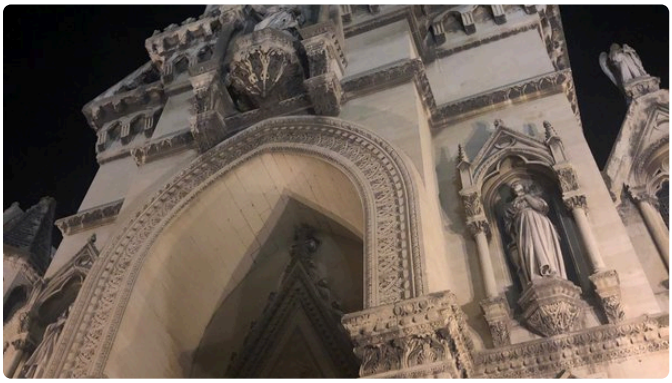
3 Rue Claude Brousson, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83914, 4.35648)



F Église Saint-Baudile

A 19th-century Neo-Gothic church featuring two prominent 70-meter-high spires. It is dedicated to Saint Baudile, the city's first martyr.

29 Boulevard Amiral Courbet, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83970, 4.36401)



G Église Sainte-Perpétue et Sainte-Félicité

An eclectic 19th-century church typical of the Second Empire style, noted for its tall spire and prominent position near the Esplanade.

4 Boulevard de Prague, Nîmes 30000, France (43.83574, 4.36346)

H Église Saint-Luc

A 19th-century Catholic parish church.

11A Avenue Peladan, Nîmes 30000, France (43.84591, 4.36284)

DATA SOURCES

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