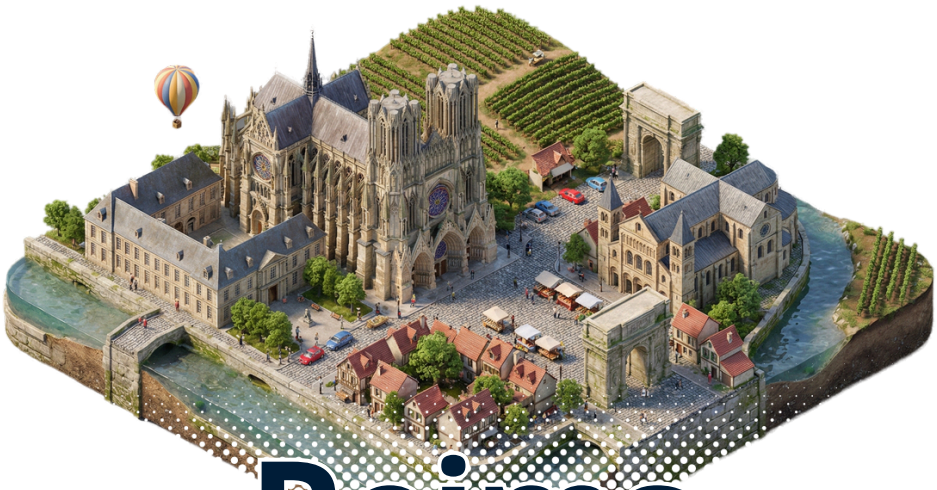
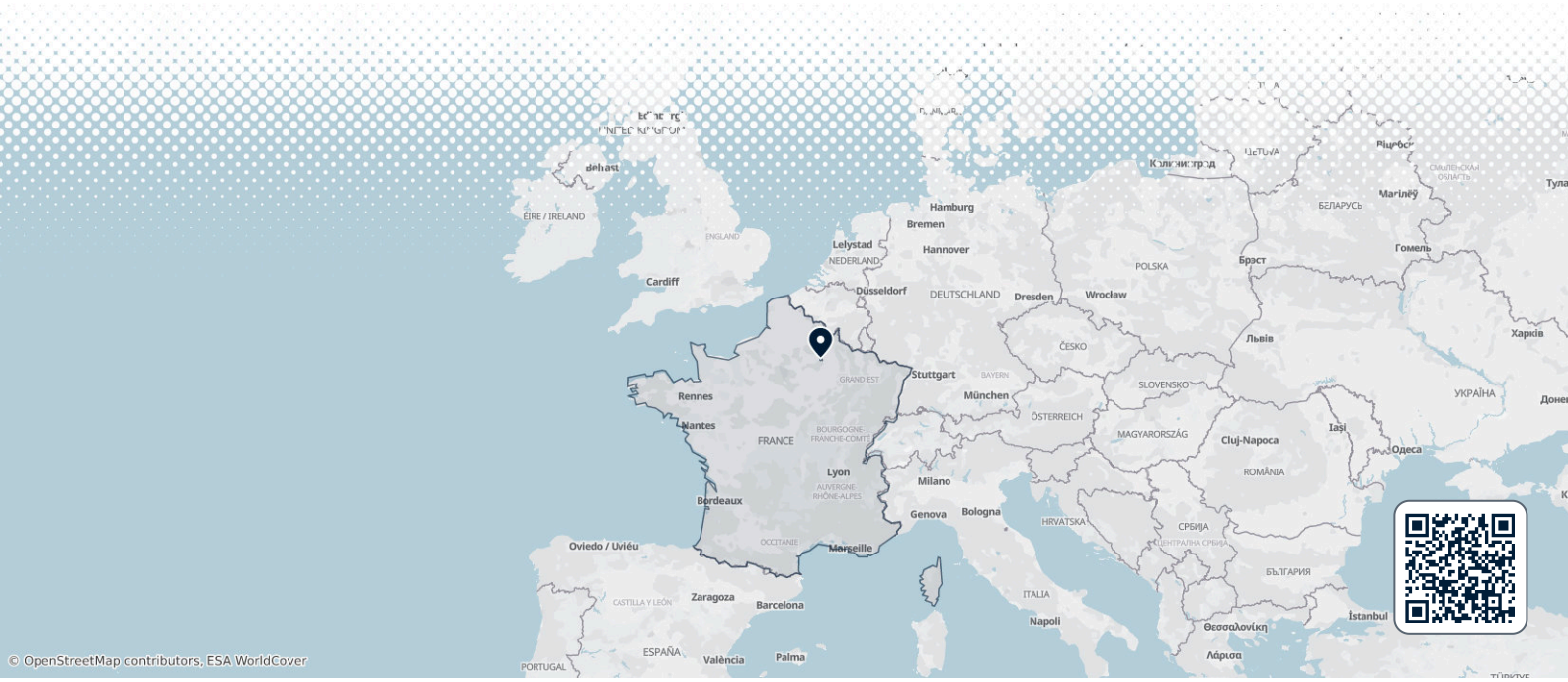


Reims

Grand Est · France

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Reims is the largest city in the Champagne region, about 45 minutes from Paris by fast train. For centuries it was the city where French kings were crowned. UNESCO lists its cathedral, the former abbey of Saint-Remi and the Palais du Tau.

Today the city is also the home of many large champagne houses. Their cellars run through chalk under the streets. The city was badly damaged in the First World War and rebuilt in the 1920s, so the centre has many Art Deco buildings. Reims suits a short trip of one to three nights built around history, champagne and easy day trips.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the best times. The days are mild and the sights are not crowded. Summer is warm and good for evening events. The cellars are cool all year, so champagne visits work in any season. Winter is cold and grey, but the Christmas market gives the city a festive mood.

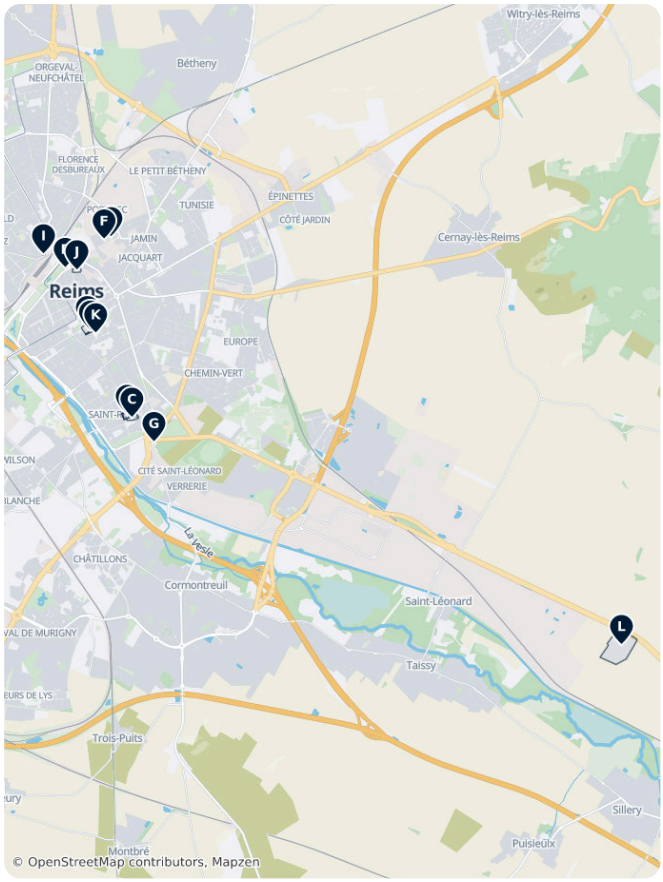
The main event is the Fêtes Johanniques in June. The city celebrates Joan of Arc, who brought Charles VII here for his coronation in 1429. Check dates on the Reims Tourisme site.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 11° Feels like 0°	0° / -8°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 13° Feels like 2°	0° / -6°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 18° Feels like 7°	2° / -4°	Dry air
April	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 22° Feels like 11°	4° / -2°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	8° / 3°	13 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 29°	12° / 7°	12 rainy days · Dry air
July	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 30°	13° / 9°	12 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 32°	13° / 9°	12 rainy days
September	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 28°	10° / 6°	Dry air
October	Fair Fair for sightseeing	16° / 22° Feels like 13°	7° / 1°	13 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° / -6°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, July, August, September

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

Top sights



- A Cathédrale Notre-Dame is the reason most people come. Work began in 1211 and the Gothic building became the church of royal coronations. Look for the Smiling Angel statue on the north portal and the windows by *Marc Chagall* at the east end. Entry to the church is free.
- B Palais du Tau is the former archbishop's palace next to the cathedral. It is closed for renovation and is expected to reopen in 2027.
- C Basilique Saint-Remi is a large Romanesque church from the 11th century. It stands over the tomb of Saint Remi, the bishop who baptised *Clovis*. It is calm and much quieter than the cathedral.
- D Musée Saint-Remi is the museum in the old abbey buildings beside the basilica. It shows archaeology and local history.
- E Porte de Mars is a Roman triumphal arch from the early 3rd century. It is about 32 m wide and was one of four gates of the Roman town.
- F Champagnes G.H. Mumm & Cie and G Veuve Clicquot are two of the big champagne houses in the city. Visits include the cellars and a tasting. Book ahead, as tours often sell out.
- H Chapelle Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix is a small chapel from 1966. The Japanese-French painter *Tsuguharu Foujita* painted its walls and designed its windows.
- I Musée de la Reddition is in the school building where Germany signed its surrender on 7 May 1945. The map room is kept as it was.
- J Halles du Boulingrin is a market hall from 1929 with a thin concrete vault. It is a good example of the city's Art Deco rebuilding.
- K Bibliothèque Carnegie is a library from the 1920s. It is a public library with Art Deco decoration.
- L Musée du Fort de la Pompelle is a First World War museum in a fort south-east of the

city. It is best reached by car or taxi.

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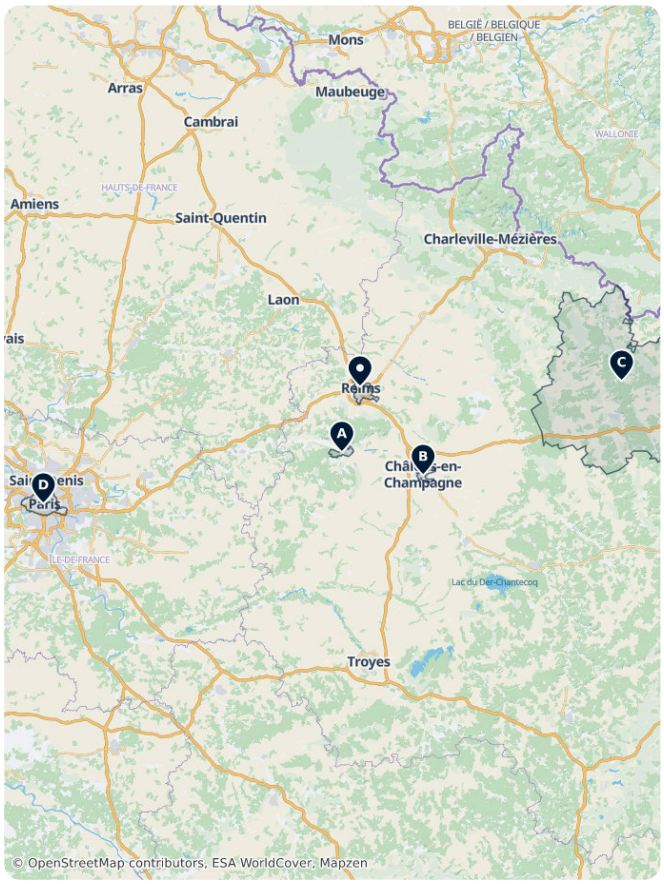
What to experience

- **Fêtes Johanniques**: This June festival honours Joan of Arc and the 1429 coronation of Charles VII.
- **Summer light event**: In summer the city hosts an evening light event called Luminiscence.
- **Summer music**: The Flâneries Musicales d'Été festival is a summer series of concerts.
- **Art Deco walk**: Guided walks show how the city was rebuilt in the 1920s after the war.
- **Harvest day**: At harvest time some champagne producers offer a day as a grape picker.
- **Christmas market**: The market is held in the weeks before Christmas.

Day trips

Reims is a good base for day trips in Champagne and beyond. Trains are the easiest option for the first two.

- A Épernay is the second champagne capital, about 35 minutes by train. Its main street is lined with large champagne houses. From there, Hautvillers is a short drive or taxi ride. It is the village where the monk *Dom Pérignon* worked.
- B Châlons-en-Champagne is a calm town of canals and timber houses, about 30 to 40 minutes by train.
- Laon is a medieval hilltop town with a Gothic cathedral, about 45 minutes by car.
- C Verdun is the site of the great First World War battle. It is about 1.5 hours by car and best for a full day.
- D Paris is about 45 minutes by fast train. It works for a long day, but a night there is better.



Where to explore

More places in and near Champagne:

- Épernay and Châlons-en-Champagne are the nearest towns.
- Troyes is a historic town to the south.
- Verdun is to the east.
- Metz, Nancy and Strasbourg are larger cities further east.
- Paris is the capital, west of Reims.

Getting there

- **By air**: The practical gateway is Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG), about 30 minutes from Reims by fast train. The fast trains leave from Champagne-Ardenne TGV station.
- **By train**: Fast trains from Paris take about 45 minutes. They also link Reims with Strasbourg, Metz and Nancy. There are two stations. Reims-Centre is in the town centre. Champagne-Ardenne TGV is in Bezannes, about 5 km out, with a tram into town. Book on SNCF Connect.
- **By regional train**: TER trains run to Épernay and other towns in the region.
- **By car**: The A4 and A26 motorways serve the city.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The cathedral, the old centre and the main shopping streets are close together. The basilica is about 20 minutes away on foot.
- **Tram and bus**: A tram line links the centre with Champagne-Ardenne TGV station. Buses cover the rest. Tickets are sold at tram stop machines and on buses. Timetables and fares are on the Grand Reims Mobilités site. The Reims Epernay Pass includes public transport.
- **Bikes**: Self-service Zebullo bikes can be taken at the park-and-ride sites. Many TER trains accept bikes.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The cathedral, the old centre and the shops are close together, and the tram covers longer trips.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The city is mostly flat and bike share is available, but the main sights are easy on foot.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city. Everything central is walkable or on the tram. A car helps for the vineyards and villages around Épernay and the Montagne de Reims.
- **Parking**: Six central car parks hold about 2,800 spaces. Three park-and-ride sites at the city edge link to the tram and buses.
- **Restrictions**: Reims has a low-emission zone. Check the Crit'Air sticker rules before you drive in.

Food & drink

Champagne is the obvious choice here. Most big houses offer cellar tours and tastings. Book ahead and bring a light jacket, as the cellars are cool. If you drive to vineyards, plan a driver.

Local foods to try include the pink biscuits of Reims, Reims ham in pastry and Reims mustard. Good areas for restaurants are Place Drouet d'Erlon and Place du Forum. For local produce, visit the market at the Halles du Boulingrin, which runs on several days each week.

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

Reims is generally safe for visitors. Pickpockets work in crowded places such as the cathedral square, the station and the busy shopping streets. Keep bags closed and do not leave items in parked cars. After dark, stay on main streets near the station.

History

Reims began as a Gallo-Roman town and became the capital of the Remi tribe. The Porte de Mars is a remaining Roman gate.

Around 496 the bishop Remi baptised *Clovis*, king of the Franks. This event made Reims the city of French coronations. Kings were crowned in Cathédrale Notre-Dame from the 11th century to 1825. Basilique Saint-Remi grew up around Remi's tomb. In 1429 Joan of Arc led Charles VII here for his coronation.

In September 1914 German shells set the cathedral roof on fire. The city was badly damaged and was rebuilt in the 1920s, often in Art Deco style. The cathedral reopened in 1938. On 7 May 1945 Germany signed its surrender in the city, now remembered at the Musée de la Reddition.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for France at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



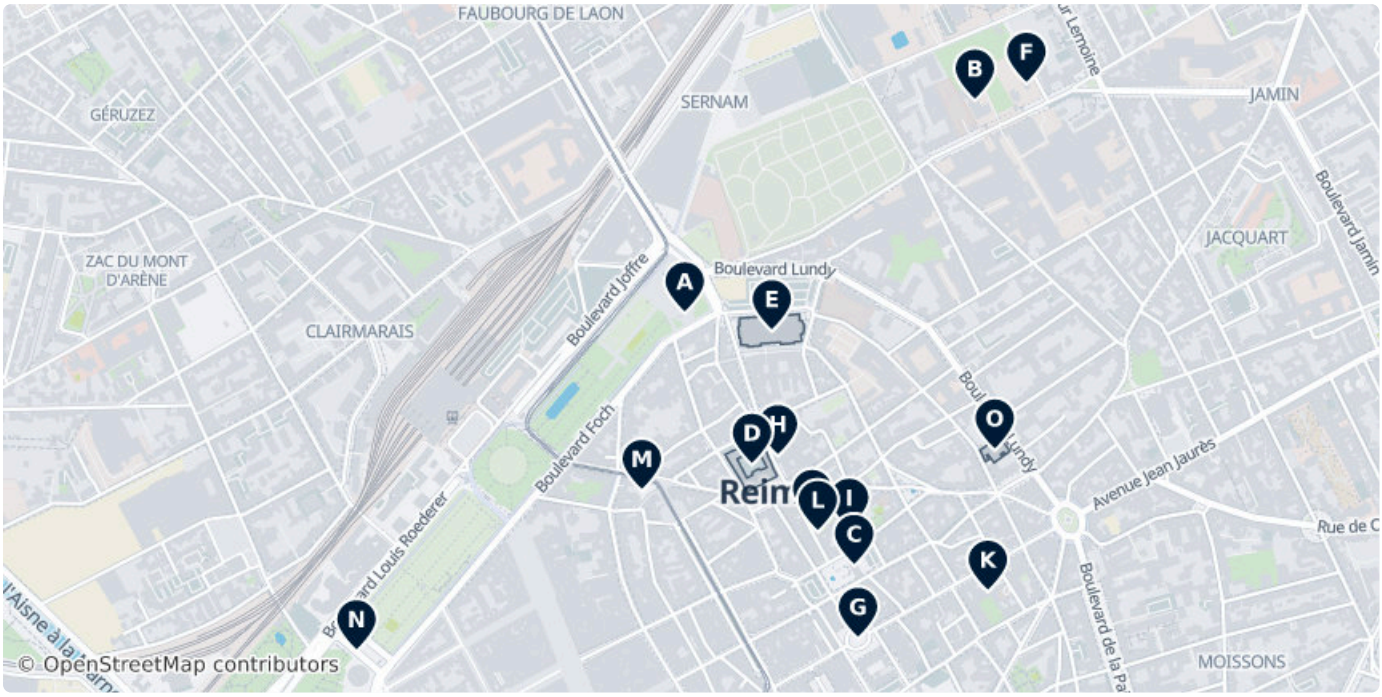
Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Reims Must-Sees

Reims showcases a rich architectural timeline, from the 3rd-century Roman Porte de Mars and Cryptoportique to the 13th-century Gothic Maison des comtes de Champagne. The city's identity is deeply tied to Champagne production, represented by the vast cellars of Maison Mumm and the historic Ancien Cellier d'expédition. Other notable landmarks include the Art Deco-style Halles du Boulingrin market, the Neoclassical Place Royale, and the 20th-century Foujita Chapel, which features frescoes by artist Tsuguharu Foujita.





A Porte de Mars

Porte de Mars is an ancient Roman triumphal arch in Reims, France. It dates from the third century AD, and was the widest arch in the Roman...

5 Boulevard Désaubeau, La Neuvillette 51100, France (49.26061, 4.02995)

reims-tourisme.com/porte-mars/reims/pcucha051v503i80



B Mumm Champagne House

Visit the cellars of one of the largest Champagne producers where the premium champagne is made.

29 Rue du Champ de Mars, 51100 Reims, France (49.26393, 4.03691)

mumm.com, +33 3 26 49 59 69



C Cryptoportique

A 3rd-century subterranean gallery that once supported the Roman forum. It is one of only three such structures discovered in the Roman world.

12 Place du Forum, Reims 51100, France (49.25666, 4.03401)



D Hôtel de Ville, Reims

The Hôtel de Ville is the town hall in Reims, France. Previously housing a museum, the city archives, a savings bank, a library, the city...

5 Rue du Général Sarrail, La Neuvillette 51100, France (49.25824, 4.03157)

reims.fr



E Halles du Boulingrin

Built in 1929, this Art Deco covered market features a distinctive reinforced concrete vault and continues to host traditional local food markets.

Rue de Mars 50, 51100 Reims (49.26033, 4.03204)

We	07:00–13:00
Fr	07:00–13:00, 16:00–20:00
Sa	06:00–14:00

marcheduboulingrin.fr, +33 6 43 18 19 00



F Foujita Chapel

The chapel of Our Lady Queen of Peace, or Foujita Chapel, was constructed in 1965–1966 at Reims, France.

33 Rue du Champ de Mars, Reims 51100, France (49.26420, 4.03814)

musees-reims.fr/fr/musees/la-chapelle-foujita/



G Place Royale, Reims

Place Royale is a square in Reims, France. A bronze statue of king Louis XV of France stands in its center, commissioned by the city from...

Place Royale, 51100 Reims, France (49.25552, 4.03411)



H Ancien Cellier d'expédition Mum

A former champagne processing and shipping facility for Maison Mumm, now repurposed as a municipal cultural center for art exhibitions and events.

4B Rue de Mars, Reims 51100, France (49.25837, 4.03219)

I Musée Le Vergeur

Housed in a 13th to 16th-century residence, this museum displays the private collections of Hugues Krafft, including original woodcuts by Albrecht Dürer.

Rue du Marc, 51100 Reims, France (49.25722, 4.03389)

museelevergeur.fr



J Maison des comtes de Champagne

One of the few remaining 13th-century Gothic residences in Reims, once owned by the Counts of Champagne and currently owned by the Taittinger Champagne house.

22 Rue de Tambour, Reims 51100, France (49.25736, 4.03301)



K Hôtel Ponsardin

A Neoclassical private mansion built in 1780 for Nicolas Ponsardin, a former mayor of Reims and father of the famous Barbe-Nicole Clicquot-Ponsardin.

Rue du Général Baratier, 51100 Reims, France (49.25625, 4.03722)



L Maison des Musiciens

A reconstruction of a 13th-century facade featuring five statues of musicians, originally part of a medieval townhouse destroyed during World War I.

17 Rue de Tambour, Reims 51100, France (49.25719, 4.03314)



M Fontaine des Boucheries

An 18th-century stone fountain originally located in the meat market district before being moved to Place Jules-Lobet in the 1930s.

3 Place Jules Lobet, La Neuvillette 51100, France (49.25783, 4.02892)

N Porte de Paris

An 18th-century monumental gate that historically marked the entrance to the city on the main road from Paris.

49 Boulevard du Général Leclerc, La Neuvillette 51100, France (49.25532, 4.02209)

O Protestant Church of Reims

The Protestant Church of Reims is a large Protestant church in Reims, France, built in 1921–1923 to replace an earlier building that had...

13Ter Boulevard Lundy, Reims 51100, France (49.25846, 4.03739)

Reims Heritage Trail

Discover the historical evolution of Reims through its architectural landmarks, spanning from the 3rd-century Roman Porte de Mars and Cryptoportique to the 13th-century Gothic Maison des comtes de Champagne. This trail highlights significant civic structures like the 17th-century Hôtel de Ville and the neoclassical Place Royale, alongside private mansions like the 15th-century Hôtel de Bézannes. Each site, from medieval residences to 20th-century war memorials, represents a distinct chapter in the city's rich heritage and urban development.





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(49.26061, 4.02995)

reims-tourisme.com/porte-mars/reims/pcucha051v503i80



B Cryptoportique

A well-preserved 3rd-century underground gallery that served as a foundation for the ancient Roman forum. It is one of only a few such structures remaining from the Roman world.

12 Place du Forum, Reims 51100, France
(49.25666, 4.03401)



C Hôtel de Ville, Reims

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D Place Royale, Reims

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Place Royale, 51100 Reims, France (49.25552, 4.03411)



E Maison des comtes de Champagne

A rare 13th-century Gothic residence featuring large stone-mullioned windows. It once served as the home for the Counts of Champagne during their visits to the city.

22 Rue de Tambour, Reims 51100, France (49.25736, 4.03301)



F Pavillon de Muire

A 16th-century Renaissance structure built in 1545. It is noted for its distinctive architectural style and historical status as a protected monument in the city center.

6 Rue Linguet, Reims 51100, France (49.25873, 4.03387)



G Chapelle Sainte-Croix

A 17th-century chapel that originally served the city's hospital. It is recognized for its historical significance and classic religious architecture.

(49.26179, 4.03163)



H Hôtel Ponsardin

A neoclassical private mansion built in 1780 for Nicolas Ponsardin, a prominent local merchant and politician. The building features a refined 18th-century facade and courtyard.

Rue du Général Baratier, 51100 Reims, France
(49.25625, 4.03722)



I Maison des Musiciens

A 13th-century house famous for its facade decorated with five life-sized statues of musicians playing instruments. The original statues are now preserved in the Musée Saint-Remi.

17 Rue de Tambour, Reims 51100, France
(49.25719, 4.03314)



J Fontaine des Boucheries

An 18th-century stone fountain designed in 1770. It was originally located in the meat market district before being moved to its current location in the early 20th century.

3 Place Jules Lobet, La Neuvillette 51100, France
(49.25783, 4.02892)

K Porte de Paris

An ornamental gate built in 1776 to mark the entrance to the city on the road from Paris. It was constructed for the coronation of King Louis XVI.

49 Boulevard du Général Leclerc, La Neuvillette 51100, France (49.25532, 4.02209)

L Hôtel de Bézannes

A 15th-century residence featuring a mix of late Gothic and early Renaissance architectural elements, including a notable interior courtyard and timber-framed sections.

Cours Jean-Baptiste Langlet, 51100 Reims, France
(49.25580, 4.03146)

M Maison natale de Jean-Baptiste de la Salle

The 16th-century birthplace of the patron saint of teachers. This private mansion, also known as Hôtel de La Salle, features a distinctive Renaissance facade.

(49.25672, 4.03231)

N Monument aux morts de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale et de la Résistance

A civic memorial dedicated to the victims of World War II and the members of the French Resistance who fought in the Reims region.

14 Boulevard Joffre, La Neuvillette 51100, France
(49.25989, 4.02786)

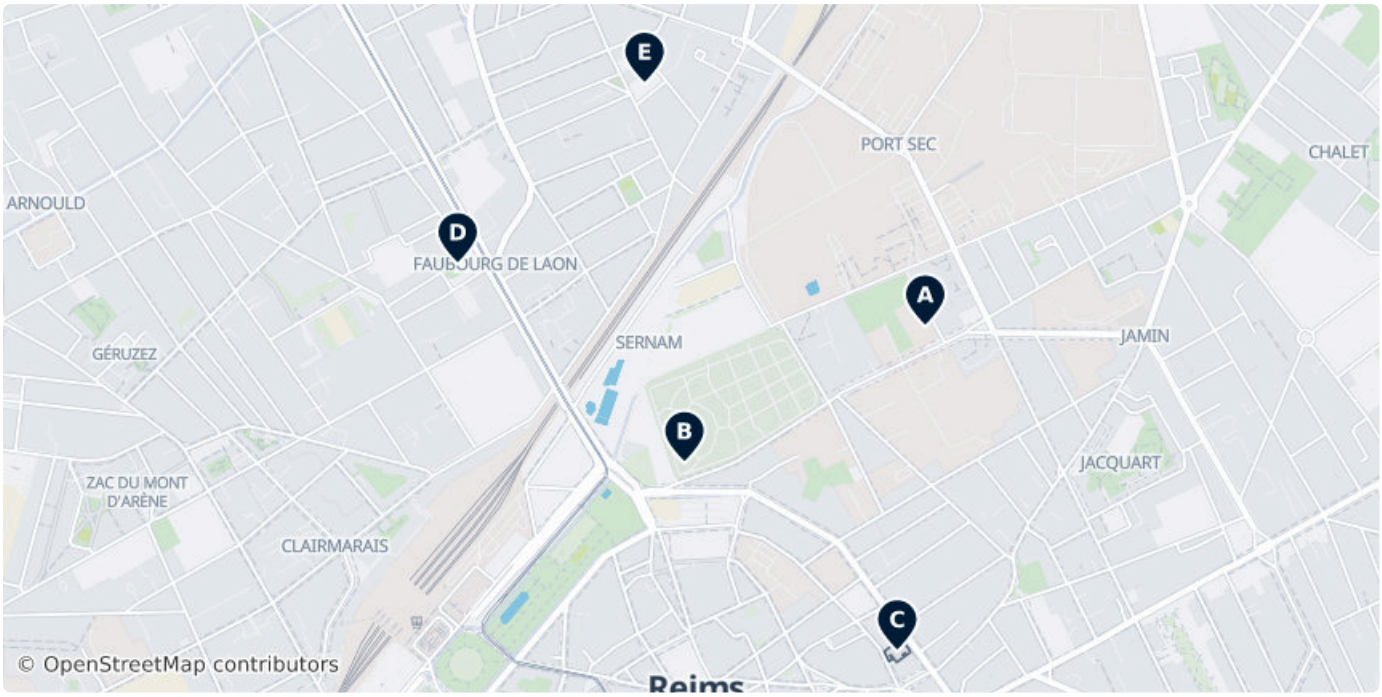
O Monument 213 RI

A commemorative monument honoring the soldiers of the 213th Infantry Regiment who served during the First World War.

12 Place Léon Bourgeois, Reims 51100, France
(49.25799, 4.03513)

Reims Religious Heritage

This collection highlights the diverse architectural and spiritual heritage of Reims beyond its central cathedral. It includes the mid-20th-century Foujita Chapel, renowned for its frescoes by Japanese-French artist Tsuguharu Foujita, and the neo-Gothic Église Saint-Thomas, which houses the tomb of Cardinal Gousset. The list also features the Protestant Church of Reims, rebuilt in the 1920s following wartime destruction, and the historic Chapelle Sainte-Croix, illustrating the city's religious evolution from the 17th century to the modern era.





A Foujita Chapel

The chapel of Our Lady Queen of Peace, or Foujita Chapel, was constructed in 1965–1966 at Reims, France.

33 Rue du Champ de Mars, Reims 51100, France
(49.26420, 4.03814)

musees-reims.fr/fr/musees/la-chapelle-foujita/



B Chapelle Sainte-Croix

A 17th-century historic monument that originally served as a cemetery chapel. It is a rare example of pre-revolutionary religious architecture in this district of Reims.

(49.26179, 4.03163)

C Protestant Church of Reims

The Protestant Church of Reims is a large Protestant church in Reims, France, built in 1921–1923 to replace an earlier building that had...

13Ter Boulevard Lundy, Reims 51100, France
(49.25846, 4.03739)

D Église Saint-Thomas

A 19th-century neo-Gothic church constructed around 1847. It is notable for housing the tomb of Cardinal Gousset and its distinctive ecclesiastical architecture.

1 Rue Paul Vaillant-Couturier, La Neuvillette 51100, France
(49.26530, 4.02549)

E Église Saint-Benoit

An early 20th-century church rebuilt in the 1920s following the First World War. It serves the northern neighborhoods of the city with its traditional architectural style.

12 Rue Saint-Benoît, La Neuvillette 51100, France
(49.26848, 4.03055)

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