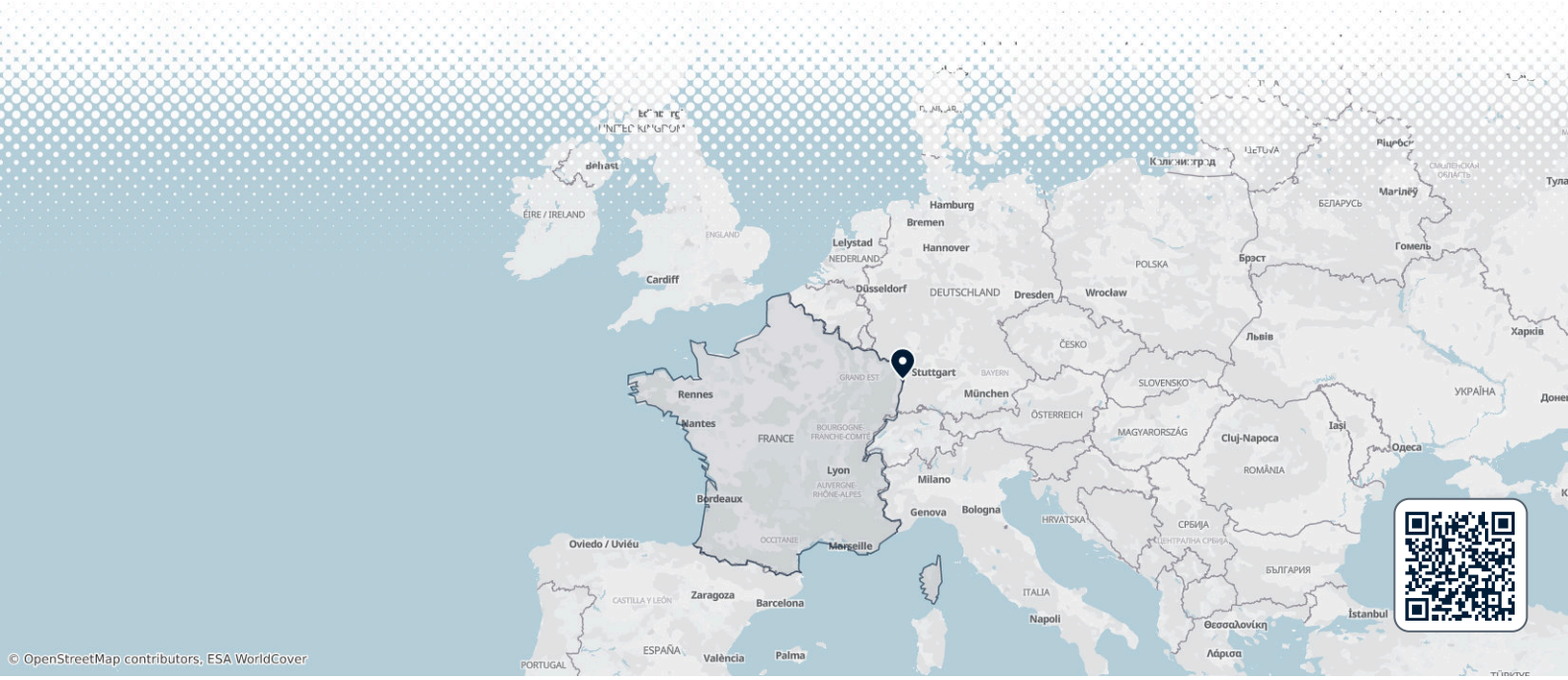


Strasbourg

Grand Est · France

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Strasbourg is the main city of Alsace, on the Rhine and the border with Germany. French and German influence shows in the buildings, the food and the local dialect. It is also a seat of European institutions, including the European Parliament and the Council of Europe.

The old centre is small, flat and easy to walk. Canals, half-timbered houses and a very large Gothic cathedral fill a few square kilometres. The city suits a trip of two or three nights, with good food, museums and day trips into the Alsace wine country. It is especially popular in December for its Christmas market.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is warm and good for walking and boat trips. Summer can bring storms. Winter is cold, with frost and some snow, but the city is at its most festive then.

The biggest event is the **Christmas market**. It runs from late November to 24 December in the old centre, around the cathedral and in several squares. Weekends in December are very crowded, so a weekday morning is easier.

Good Friday and 26 December are public holidays in Alsace, unlike most of France.

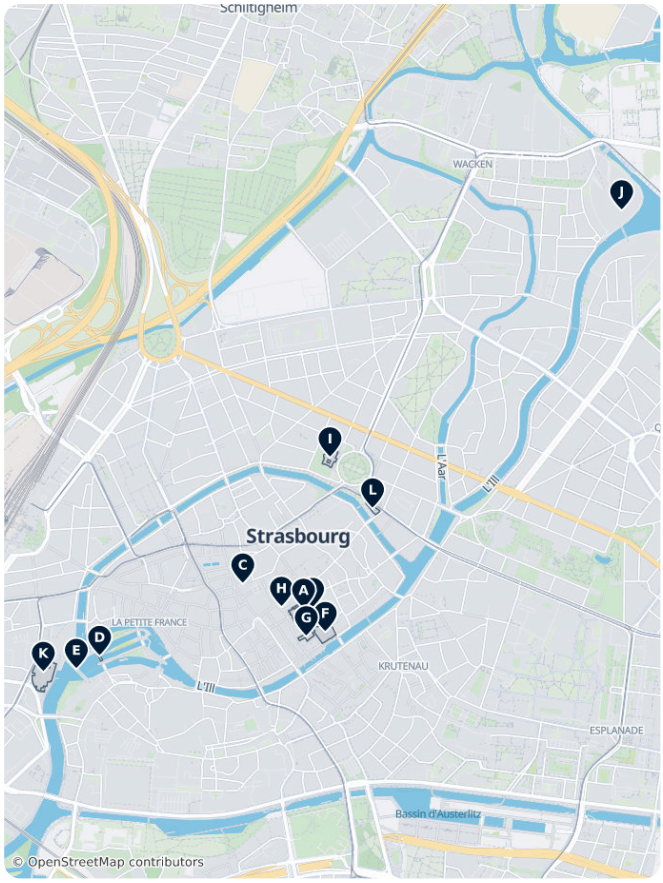
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like 1°	-1° / -9°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 15° Feels like 3°	-1° / -9°	Dry air
March	Good Good for cycling	12° / 20° Feels like 8°	2° / -4°	Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	16° / 24° Feels like 13°	5° / -1°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	9° / 4°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	13° / 8°	13 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 33°	15° / 10°	13 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 34°	15° / 10°	13 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 30°	11° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	17° / 24°	7° / 1°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for cycling	10° / 17° Feels like 7°	3° / -3°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 12° Feels like 1°	0° / -7°	13 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, July, August, September

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

Top sights

The historic centre sits on an island in the river Ill. Almost all main sights are within a 15-minute walk of each other.



- **A** Cathedral of Our Lady is the symbol of the city. Its spire is 142 m high and was finished in 1439. For over 200 years it was the tallest building in the world. You can climb to a viewing platform at about 66 m.
- **B** Horloge astronomique de Strasbourg is inside the cathedral. Its figures parade at 12:30, except on Sundays. Buy a small ticket and queue early, as the crowd is large.
- **C** Grande Île is the UNESCO-listed historic centre, listed in 1988. Walk its lanes and squares without a plan.
- **D** Covered Bridges are in Petite France, the old quarter of tanners, millers and fishermen. Half-timbered houses from the 16th and 17th centuries line the canals.
- **E** Barrage Vauban is a dam built between 1686 and 1690. Its terrace gives a free view over the bridges and the old town.
- **F** Palais Rohan is a baroque palace from the 1730s and 1740s. It holds the fine arts, decorative arts and archaeology museums.
- **G** Musée de l'Œuvre Notre-Dame shows original cathedral sculptures and stained glass. It helps you understand what you see on the building outside.
- **H** La Maison Kammerzell is a richly carved timber house next to the cathedral, with a stone ground floor from 1427. Today it is a restaurant.
- **I** Palais du Rhin is the grand centrepiece of the Neustadt, the German district built after 1871. The district joined the UNESCO list in 2017.
- **J** Parlement européen hosts the monthly sessions of the European Parliament. Outside session weeks, visitors can enter the hemicycle for free. Bring a passport or national ID card.
- **K** Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art is a large modern and contemporary art museum, close to the Barrage Vauban.
- **L** Tomi Ungerer Museum is about the illustrator *Tomi Ungerer*, who was born in Strasbourg. It suits families and art fans.

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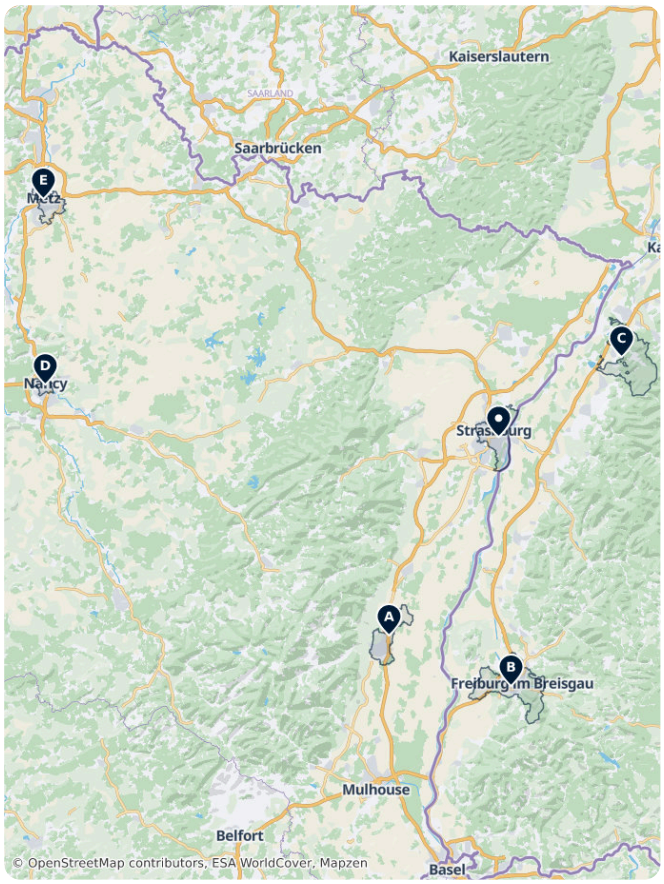
Scan to download the app

What to experience

- **Take a boat trip on the canals.** Boats leave from the old centre and circle the Grande Île on the river Ill. A trip lasts about an hour and passes the Petite France locks and the European quarter.
- **Visit the Christmas market.** From late November to 24 December, wooden chalets fill the squares. The big tree stands on Place Kléber, and Petite France has its own market.
- **Cycle the canals and the Ill.** Rent a Vélhop bike and ride the paths along the water to the parks near the European institutions, such as Parc de l'Orangerie.
- **Walk to Germany.** Take tram line D to Kehl in about 20 minutes. Or cross the Rhine on the footbridge from Jardin des Deux Rives.

Day trips

Alsace has many small towns close by. Trains are frequent. Times below are one way and approximate.



- **Obernai** (about 30 min by train): a walled wine-road town with a pretty market square and half-timbered houses.
- **Sélestat** (about 30 min by train): a historic town with a famous Renaissance library. From here, a hilltop castle called Haut-Kœnigsbourg is a short drive away. It was rebuilt in the early 1900s.
- Ⓐ Colmar (about 35 min by regional train): canals, colourful houses and good museums. It is the most popular first choice for a day out.
- **Wine Road villages** such as Riquewihr and Eguisheim (about 1 h by car): small walled villages among vineyards. A car or a tour is easiest.
- Ⓑ Freiburg im Breisgau (about 1.5 h by train): a lively university city in Germany, at the edge of the Black Forest.
- Ⓒ Baden-Baden (about 1 h 15 by train): a spa town in Germany with thermal baths.
- Ⓓ Nancy and Ⓔ Metz (about 1.5 h by train each): Nancy has the grand Place Stanislas, and Metz has a cathedral with huge stained-glass windows.

Where to explore

These larger destinations are within easy reach by train.

- **Alsace**: Colmar and Mulhouse. Colmar is the better choice for a day out. Mulhouse is known for its car, train and technology museums.
- **Lorraine**: Nancy and Metz.
- **Across the Rhine in Germany**: Freiburg im Breisgau and Baden-Baden.

Getting there

- **By air**: Strasbourg Airport (SXB) is about 10 km west of the centre. A regional train runs from Entzheim-Aéroport station to the main station in about 10 minutes. For more flight choice, fly to Paris Charles de Gaulle. It has direct high-speed trains to Strasbourg.
- **By train**: Trains arrive at Gare de Strasbourg, a historic building from 1883 under a glass canopy. High-speed trains from Paris Gare de l'Est take about 1 h 50. Direct trains also run to Lyon, Lille and Marseille, and to Frankfurt and Stuttgart in Germany. Regional trains reach Basel in about 1 h 20, and also serve Colmar, Mulhouse and Metz. Book French trains on SNCF Connect.

Getting around

- **Tram and bus**: The CTS network has six tram lines and many buses. A single ticket is valid for one hour, including transfers. You can tap a contactless bank card or phone on the purple validators on tram platforms and in buses. Tap before you board a tram. More details on the CTS website.
- **Cycling**: The city is flat and has more than 500 km of bike paths. The Vélhop scheme rents bikes.
- **On foot**: The old centre is compact. Most sights are a short walk apart. Use the tram for the European quarter and the station.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old centre is compact and mostly flat, and many streets are pedestrian-only. Most main sights are within a 15-minute walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Flat terrain, more than 500 km of bike paths and a public bike-rental scheme make cycling easy.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not for the city. The centre is small, and trams are fast. A car is useful for the Alsace Wine Road and the castles.
- **Parking**: Use the park-and-ride car parks at the tram terminals. A day costs about 4 €, and the ticket includes tram and bus travel for up to seven people. Street parking in the centre is paid Monday to Saturday, 9:00 to 19:00, and is expensive.
- **Restrictions**: A low-emission zone covers the whole city area. You need a Crit'Air sticker, and vehicles with no sticker or with class 4 or 5 are not allowed. Order the sticker online before you travel. Parts of the old centre are pedestrian zones.

Food & drink

Alsatian food mixes French and German traditions. Look for *tarte flambée* (a thin tart with cream, bacon and onions), *choucroute* (sauerkraut with pork and sausages) and *baeckeoffe* (a slow-baked meat and potato casserole). Sweet choices include *kougelhopf*. At Christmas, look for small biscuits called *bredele*. Local white wines such as Riesling and Gewürztraminer, and sparkling Crémant d'Alsace, go with most dishes.

For a traditional meal, look for a *winstub*, a cosy tavern with regional dishes. They cluster in Petite France and in the streets around the cathedral. The Krutenau quarter, east of the old centre, is a relaxed area for casual meals. Book ahead on weekends and in December.

For a famous setting, try La Maison Kammerzell. It serves Alsatian dishes in a house from 1427.

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

Strasbourg is a safe city for visitors. The main risk is pickpocketing in crowded places. Watch your bag around the cathedral, the station and the Christmas market. Lock your bike well, because bike theft is common.

In winter, wet cobblestones can be slippery. At the Christmas market, expect bag checks at entrances.

History

Strasbourg began as a Roman military camp called Argentoratum. In 842, the Oaths of Strasbourg were sworn here, in early forms of French and German. The city later became a free imperial city, and it adopted the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century. Église protestante Saint-Thomas is one of its main Protestant churches.

Printing also grew here. *Johannes Gutenberg* worked in Strasbourg in the 1430s and 1440s.

France took the city in 1681. Soon after, *Vauban* built the dam you can still cross at the Barrage Vauban. Alsace then changed hands four times between 1871 and 1945. After 1871, the German empire built the Neustadt. Palais du Rhin was built there as an imperial palace, and La Place de la République was part of the new city plan.

After the Second World War, the city became a symbol of reconciliation. The Council of Europe was set up here in 1949. Its home today, Palais de l'Europe, stands near the European Parliament.

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

Walks

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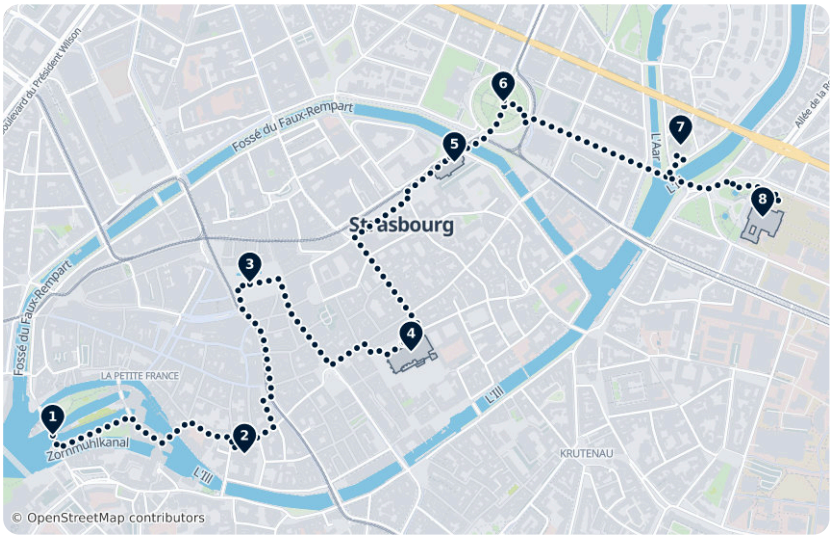
Best of Strasbourg

1h 16min · 3.6 km · 8 stops



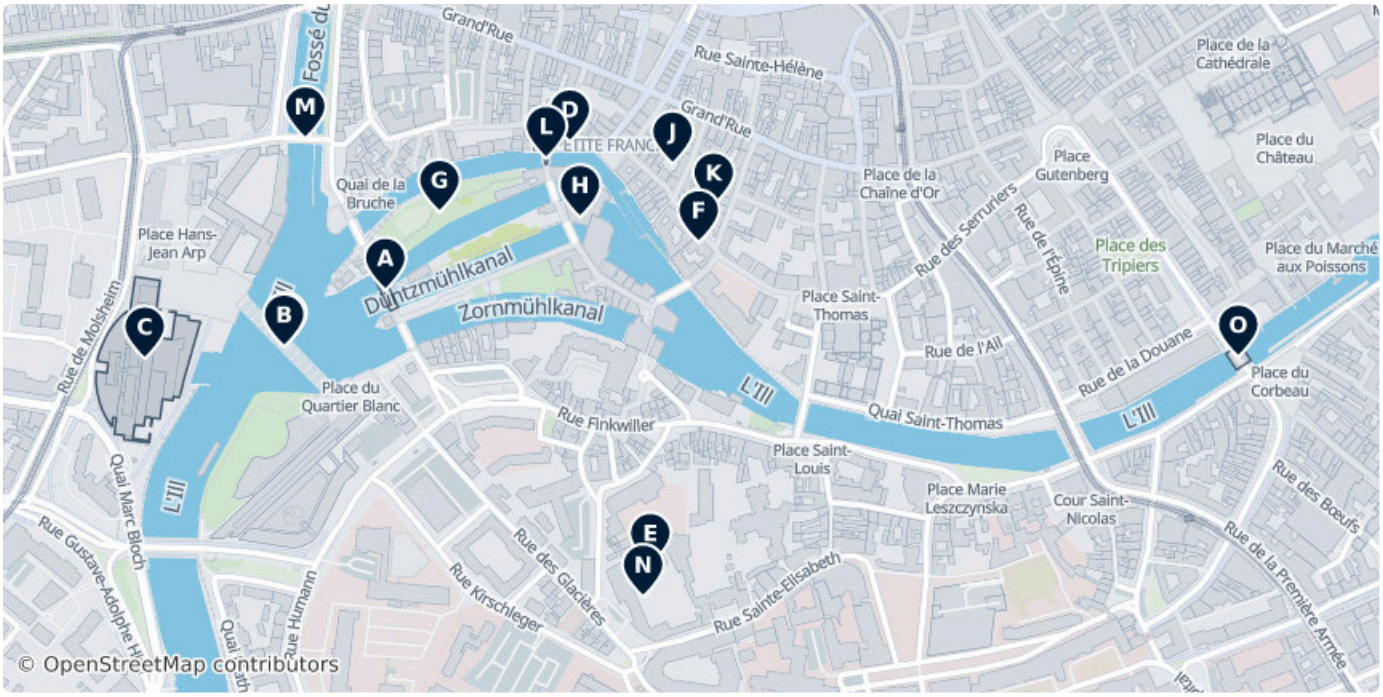
1. Petite France and the Covered Bridges
2. Saint Thomas Church
3. Place Kléber
4. Strasbourg Cathedral
5. Place Broglie and the Opera
6. Place de la République
7. Saint Paul's Church
8. Palais Universitaire

Strasbourg is two cities in one: a medieval river town on the Grande Île, and the grand quarter the Germans built after 1871. This walk takes in both, moving west to east through the half-timbered canals of Petite France, the Gothic cathedral, and the monumental squares and churches of the Neustadt. Eight stops, about an hour and three quarters on foot. The walk starts at the Covered Bridges in Petite France, a short walk west of Place Kléber, the city's central square.



Strasbourg Unmissables

Explore the architectural evolution of Strasbourg through its most significant landmarks. This selection spans from the 13th-century defensive towers of the Ponts Couverts and the 17th-century Vauban Dam to the industrial heritage of the former municipal ice factory. The list highlights the timber-framed structures of Petite France, including the 1572 Maison des Tanneurs, alongside the 18th-century royal stables of the Haras National and the contemporary galleries of the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art.





A Covered Bridges

The Ponts Couverts are a set of three bridges and four towers that make up a defensive work erected in the 13th century on the River Ill in...

1 Ponts Couverts, Strasbourg 67000, France
(48.58009, 7.73934)



B Vauban Dam

The Barrage Vauban, or Vauban Dam, is a bridge, weir and defensive work erected in the 17th century on the River Ill in the city of...

Ponts Couverts, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.57959, 7.73798)

+33 388 522 828



C Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art

The Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de Strasbourg is an art museum in Strasbourg, France, which was founded in 1973 and opened in its...

Place Hans-Jean Harp 1, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.57948, 7.73611)

Tu–Fr	10:00–13:00, 14:00–18:00
Sa–Su	10:00–18:00

musees.strasbourg.eu/musee-d-art-m... , +33 3 86 98 50 00



D Tanners' House

Built in 1572, this timber-framed house in the Petite France district originally served as a tannery. Its open-air galleries under the roof were designed for drying hides. It now operates as a restaurant specializing in traditional Alsatian choucroute.

42 Rue du Bain aux Plantes, Strasbourg 67000, France
(48.58141, 7.74181)

Tu–Sa	12:00–13:45, 19:30–21:45



E Brasserie Les Haras

Fancy a meal in former stables with tasteful decor and nice service? Brasserie Les Haras is a place for you then, originally a historical...

1 Rue des Greniers, Strasbourg 67000, France
(48.57765, 7.74289)

Mo–Su	12:00–14:00, 19:00–22:00

les-haras-brasserie.com, +33 3 88 24 00 00

F Les Délices de Mireille

A small shop with homemade gingerbread with a wide variety of types to choose from.

14 rue des Dentelles, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.58051, 7.74354)

Mo	10:00–19:00
Tu–Sa	09:00–19:00
Su	10:00–19:00

mireille-oster.com, +33 3883 23334



G Square Louise Weiss

A riverside park in the Petite France district providing views of the Ponts Couverts and the Vauban Dam. It is named after the French journalist and European politician Louise Weiss.

9 Impasse du Bain aux Plantes, Strasbourg 67000, France
(48.58078, 7.74006)



H Anciennes glacières de Strasbourg

A former industrial ice factory from the late 19th century. The site preserves original machinery once used to produce ice for the city's breweries and food markets.

12 Rue des Moulins, Strasbourg 67000, France
(48.58073, 7.74195)

glacest.org/v2/



I Barrage Vauban

The Barrage Vauban, or Vauban Dam, is a bridge, weir and defensive work erected in the 17th century on the River Ill in the city of...

Passage Georges Frankhauser, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.57960, 7.73800)

+33 388 522 828

J Ancien Hôtel de Rathsamhausen

An 18th-century private mansion featuring a traditional courtyard and architectural details that transition from Renaissance to Baroque styles.

Rue Escarpée, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.58121, 7.74319)

K Ancienne Maison Baer

A historic timber-framed building in the Petite France district, representing the city's well-preserved medieval and Renaissance residential architecture.

Rue du Bouclier, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.58084, 7.74374)

L Pont du faisan

A hydraulic swing bridge in the Petite France district that rotates horizontally to allow tour boats to navigate the narrow canal.

4 Rue des Moulins, Strasbourg 67000, France
(48.58126, 7.74149)

M Pont de l'Abattoir

A stone bridge over the River Ill that connects the historic center to the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art.

Pont de l'Abattoir, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.58143, 7.73827)



N Haras national de Strasbourg

A former royal stud farm established in 1752. The complex features classic 18th-century architecture and historically served the French cavalry.

Rue Sainte-Elisabeth, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.57737, 7.74279)

les-haras.fr



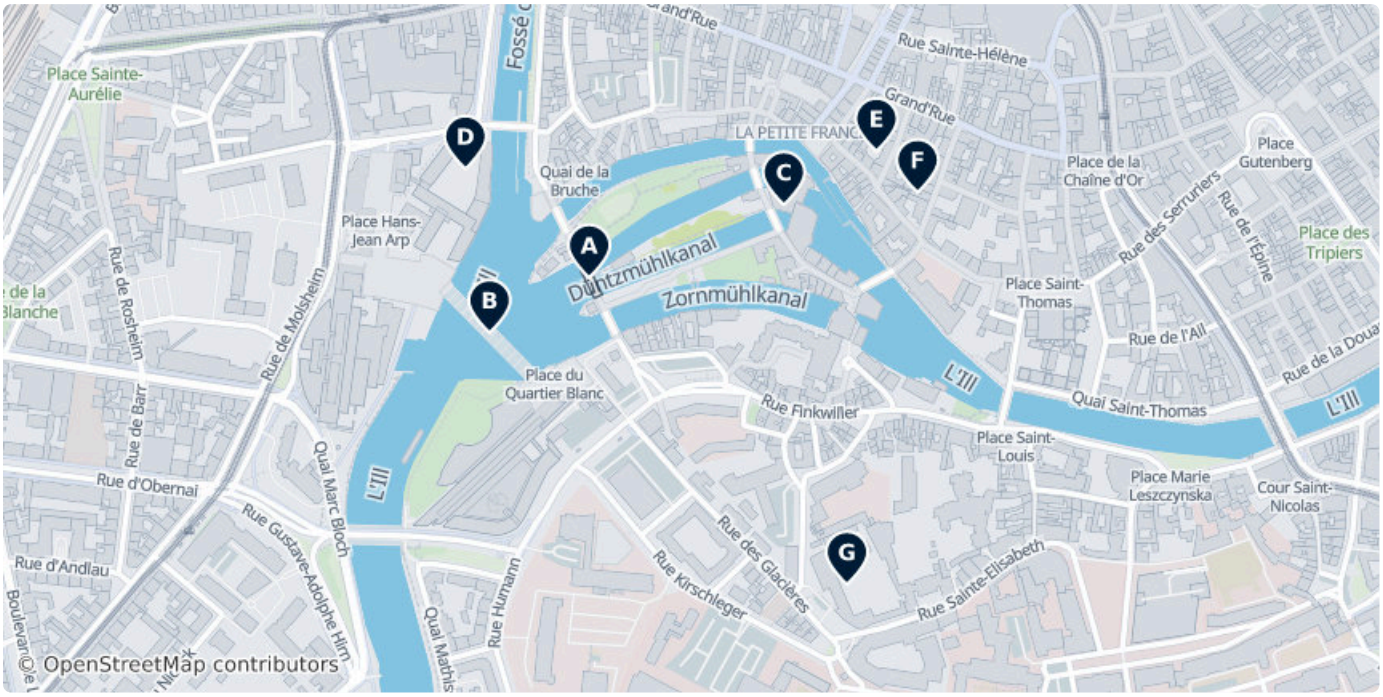
O Pont du Corbeau

A historic bridge connecting the Grande Île to the Krutenau district. In the Middle Ages, it was the site where criminals were publicly punished in cages lowered into the river.

25 Quai Saint-Nicolas, Strasbourg 67000, France
(48.57950, 7.75077)

Strasbourg's Regional Heritage

This collection of historic sites highlights Strasbourg's evolution from a medieval stronghold to an industrial and administrative center. It features the 13th-century Covered Bridges and the 17th-century Barrage Vauban, which once secured the city's defenses on the River Ill. The list also includes the former ice factory in Petite France, the 14th-century Commanderie Saint-Jean—now home to the ENA—and the 18th-century National Stud Farm. These landmarks showcase a diverse range of architectural styles, from half-timbered industrial structures to grand Renaissance mansions.





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Passage Georges Frankhauser, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.57960, 7.73800)

+33 388 522 828



C Anciennes glacières de Strasbourg

A 17th-century ice factory located in the Petite France district. This protected monument historically produced ice for local breweries and hospitals using hydraulic power from the River Ill.

12 Rue des Moulins, Strasbourg 67000, France
(48.58073, 7.74195)

glacest.org/v2/



D Ancienne commanderie Saint-Jean

A former 14th-century commandery of the Knights Hospitaller. The historic complex underwent significant restoration and now serves as the headquarters for the École Nationale d'Administration (ENA).

1 Rue Sainte-Marguerite, Strasbourg 67000, France
(48.58105, 7.73768)

E Ancien Hôtel de Rathsamhausen

A 16th-century private mansion showcasing Renaissance architectural elements. It is recognized as a historic monument within the city's central district.

Rue Escarpée, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.58121, 7.74319)

F Ancienne Maison Baer

A historic building and protected monument located in Strasbourg's city center.

Rue du Bouclier, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.58084, 7.74374)



Haras national de Strasbourg

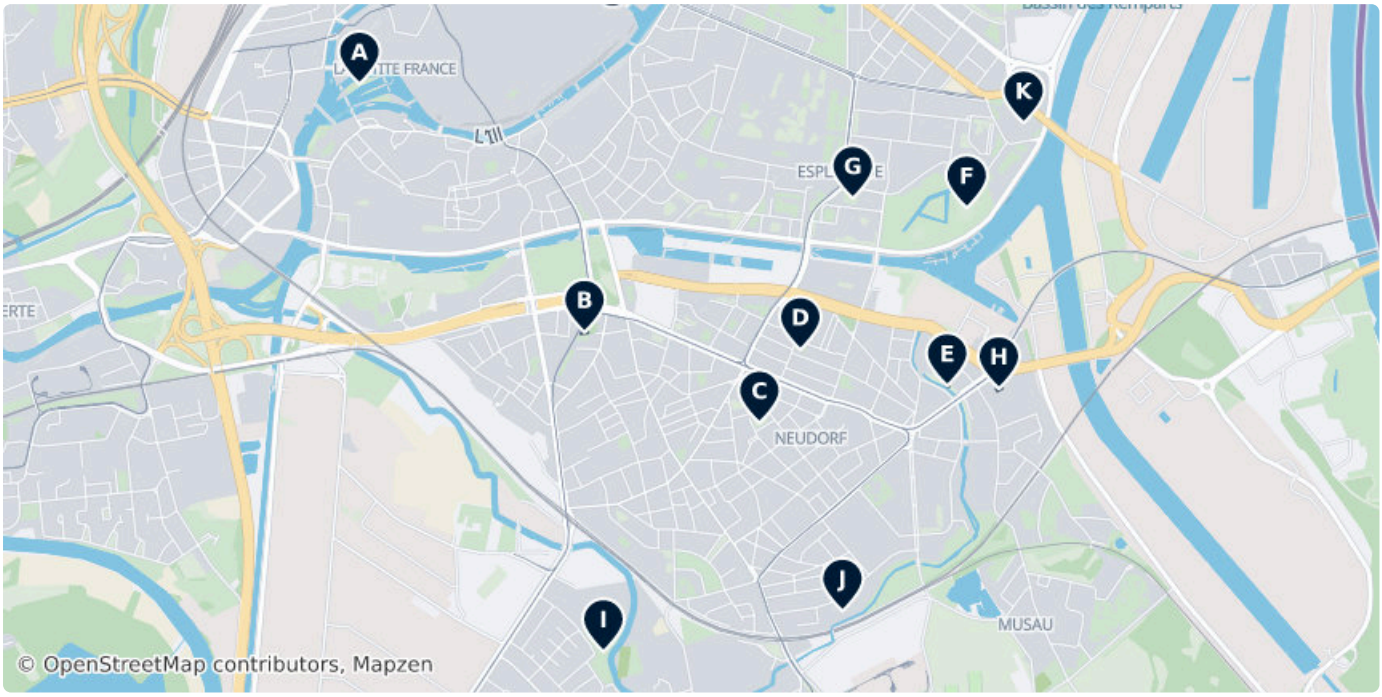
Built in the mid-18th century, this former national stud farm features a grand courtyard and historic stables. The site is now a heritage-listed complex housing a hotel and restaurant.

Rue Sainte-Elisabeth, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.57737, 7.74279)

les-haras.fr

Parks and Playgrounds

Strasbourg offers a diverse range of green spaces, from the historic Square Louise Weiss in the Petite France district, overlooking the Ill River and Ponts Couverts, to the expansive Parc de la Citadelle, built within the remains of a 17th-century Vauban fortress. This collection includes numerous accessible playgrounds in the Neudorf and Bruckhof neighborhoods, alongside dedicated sports facilities like the grass soccer pitches at Stade Emile Stahl and Stade Langhaag.





A Square Louise Weiss

Located in the historic Petite France district, this park offers views of the Ill River and the medieval Ponts Couverts.

9 Impasse du Bain aux Plantes, Strasbourg 67000, France
(48.58078, 7.74006)

B Grand Couronné

Playground in the Neudorf district featuring wooden climbing structures and accessible play equipment.

1A Rue du Grand Couronné, Strasbourg 67100, France
(48.57091, 7.75361)

C Square de Chalampé

Accessible neighborhood playground located in the Neudorf-Musau area.

(48.56730, 7.76413)

D Square de la ménagerie

Wheelchair-accessible playground situated near the Parc de la Citadelle.

43 Rue de la Ménagerie, Strasbourg 67100, France
(48.57022, 7.76660)

Mo–Su 08:00–21:00

E Aire de jeu du Bruckhof

Local neighborhood play area in the Bruckhof district.

9 Quai de la Tuilerie, Strasbourg 67100, France
(48.56878, 7.77543)

F Aire de jeu de la Citadelle

Large accessible playground located within the historic Parc de la Citadelle, built around the remains of a 17th-century fortress.

(48.57585, 7.77661)

G Square Robert Heitz

Accessible playground located between the Esplanade and Neudorf districts.

Rue d'Istanbul, 67000 Strasbourg, France
(48.57623, 7.76975)

H Bruckhof

Accessible playground area in the Bruckhof neighborhood.

60 Rue de Gerstheim, Strasbourg 67100, France
(48.56866, 7.77855)

I Parc de l'Extenwoerthfeld

Large public park in the Neuhof district featuring open grass fields and walking paths.

(48.55820, 7.75475)

J Stade Langhaag

Sports facility in the Neudorf area featuring a natural grass soccer pitch.

(48.55981, 7.76913)

K Stade Emile Stahl

Sports stadium in the Vauban area, home to ASPTT Strasbourg, featuring a grass soccer field.

(48.57923, 7.78003)

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