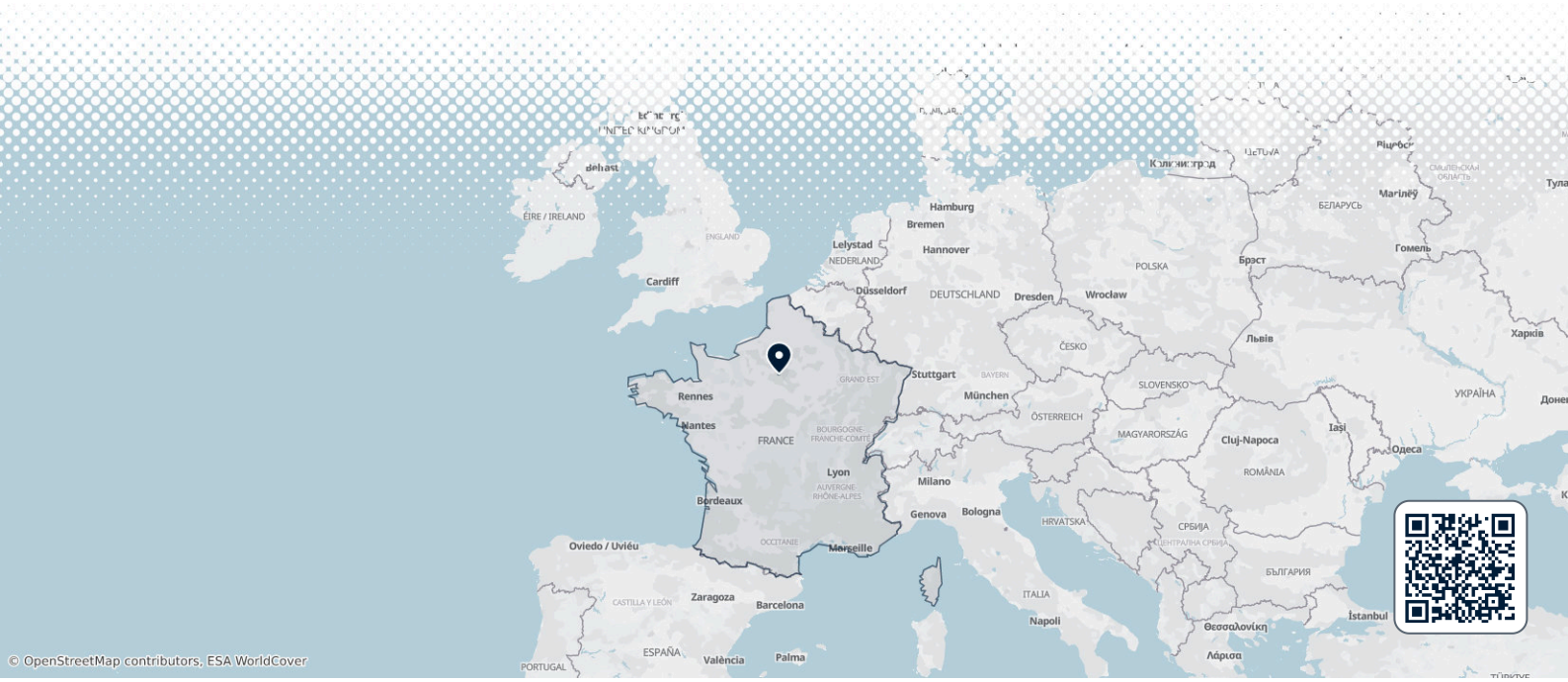


Versailles

Île-de-France · France

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Versailles is a town west of Paris, built around the palace of the French kings. The Palace of Versailles is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most visited sights in France. It has a huge royal garden, two smaller palaces and a farm-style hamlet for the queen.

Most people come for a day from Paris. It is also a good place to stay one or two nights. The town is calm in the evening, once the day visitors leave. It has a cathedral, a covered market, a royal kitchen garden and a small museum of local history. About 85,000 people live here.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the best times. The gardens are green, the days are mild and the fountain shows run. Summer is warm and the palace is very crowded, so go early. Winter is cold and grey, but queues are shorter and the gardens are free to enter.

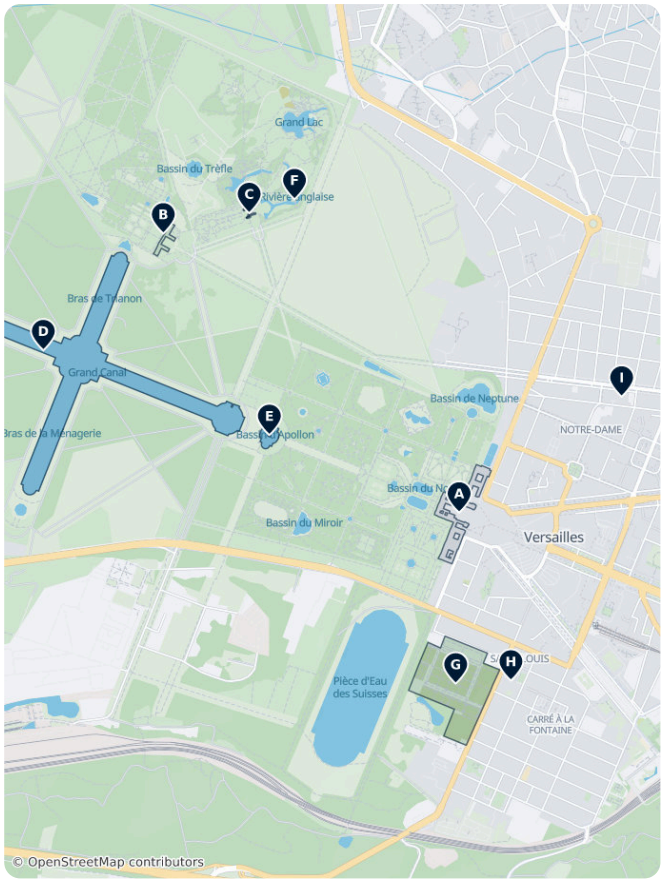
The main seasonal draw is the fountain season, from April to early November. On set days the Musical Fountains Show and the Musical Gardens bring the basins and groves to life. On summer Saturday evenings there is also a night fountain show. Check the palace calendar for dates.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 12° Feels like 1°	0° / -7°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Fair Fair for cycling	8° / 14° Feels like 3°	1° / -5°	Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	12° / 18° Feels like 7°	2° / -4°	Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 23° Feels like 11°	4° / -1°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	8° / 3°	12 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 28°	11° / 7°	Dry air
July	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 30°	13° / 9°	
August	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	13° / 9°	
September	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 28°	10° / 6°	Dry air
October	Good Good for cycling	17° / 22° Feels like 13°	8° / 2°	13 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for cycling	10° / 16° Feels like 6°	4° / -3°	13 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 13° Feels like 2°	1° / -5°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, July, August, September

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

Top sights



- A Palace of Versailles is the former royal palace and the reason to come. Its best-known room is the Hall of Mirrors. The palace is closed on Mondays, so plan around that. Go early or book a timed ticket to avoid long queues.
- B Le Grand Trianon is a low palace of pink marble. *Louis XIV* had it built in 1687 as a quiet retreat away from the court.
- C Le Petit Trianon is a small neoclassical château built in the 1760s. *Louis XVI* gave it to *Marie Antoinette*. The nearby Queen's Hamlet is a group of rustic cottages she had built in the 1780s.
- D Grand Canal de Versailles is the long cross-shaped canal at the end of the main garden axis. Its main arm is about 1.7 km long. It is a good place for a walk or a bike ride.
- E Bassin d'Apollon is the big fountain basin at the east end of the canal, showing the god Apollo in his chariot. It is the centre of the garden view from the palace.
- F Temple de l'Amour is a small round pavilion in the Trianon park, set among trees by a stream. It is a quiet corner away from the crowds.
- G Le Potager du Roi is the royal kitchen garden, made in the 1670s to feed the court. It is still a working garden, with fruit trees and vegetable beds, and it is open from April to October.
- H Cathédrale Saint-Louis is the Baroque cathedral of the town, built in the 18th century.
- I Musée Lambinet is the town museum. It is in an 18th-century mansion and tells the story of Versailles outside the palace.

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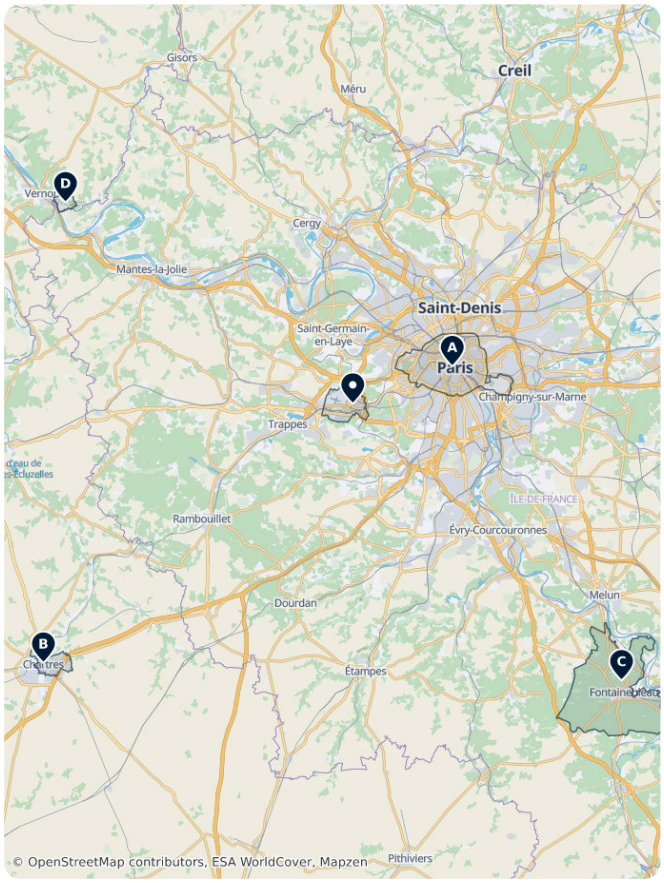
What to experience

- **Fountain shows**: From April to early November, on weekends and some other set days, the fountains run to music. Garden entry needs a ticket on these days.
- **Musical Gardens**: On other days in the season, music plays in the groves without fountain displays. Garden entry needs a ticket on these days.
- **Night fountain show**: On Saturday evenings in summer, the fountains and lights run after dark. Check the palace site for dates and tickets.
- **Picnic by the Grand Canal**: Bring food from the Notre-Dame market and eat by the water on a sunny day.
- **Walk the Trianon park**: Go to the Petit Trianon and the Queen's Hamlet. This far corner of the estate is calm, even in high season.

Day trips

Versailles has good day trips by train and by car. They are listed from nearest to farthest.



- **Saint-Germain-en-Laye**: about 25 min by car. A town with a royal château that holds the national archaeology museum, and a long terrace with views of the Seine valley.
- **Paris**: about 30 to 45 min by RER C. See Ⓐ Paris.
- **Rambouillet**: about 30 min by train from Versailles-Chantiers. A town with a former royal château, now a summer residence of French presidents, and a large forest for walks.
- **Chartres**: about 1 hour by train. A Gothic cathedral famous for its medieval stained glass. See Ⓑ Chartres.
- **Fontainebleau**: about 1 hour by car. A large royal château and forest. By train, you must go via Paris and the trip is longer. See Ⓒ Fontainebleau.
- **Giverny**: about 1.5 to 2 hours by car or public transport. The house and gardens of the painter *Claude Monet* are open in the warm months. See Ⓓ Giverny.

Where to explore

More places to visit around Paris:

- Paris is the capital, a short train ride east.
- Fontainebleau is the town of another large royal château, south-east of Paris.
- Chartres is a cathedral town south-west of Versailles.
- Giverny is the village of Monet's garden, in Normandy.
- Chessy is the home of Disneyland Paris, on the far side of Paris.

Getting there

- **By train from Paris**: This is how most visitors arrive. Versailles has three stations. **Versailles-Château-Rive-Gauche** is the one for the palace, about 10 min on foot. It is the end of RER C, which crosses central Paris and stops near the Eiffel Tower, Invalides and Musée d'Orsay. **Versailles-Chantiers** has trains from Paris-Montparnasse and regional trains. **Versailles-Rive-Droite** has trains from Paris-Saint-Lazare. Book regional and long-distance trains on SNCF Connect.
- **By air**: The main airports are Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG) and Paris Orly (ORY). Both link to Versailles through Paris or the RER network. Allow about 1.5 to 2 hours. A taxi is faster but costs more, and traffic around Paris is heavy.
- **By car**: Versailles is about 17 km from central Paris by road. The drive takes 30 to 60 min, depending on traffic.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town, the palace, the cathedral and the Notre-Dame market are all close together. Rive-Gauche station is about 10 min from the palace gates. The garden is large, so the walk to the Trianon palaces and the Grand Canal is long.
- **Local buses**: Buses cover the wider town and link the stations. Check ticket types on the Île-de-France Mobilités site.
- **Trains to Paris**: A plain metro ticket is not valid on the RER to Versailles. Buy a ticket that covers Versailles, or use a Navigo pass that includes the outer zones.
- **In the garden**: The walk from the palace to the Trianon area and the Grand Canal is long. Check the Château de Versailles site for transport and rental options in the park.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town, the stations and the palace are close together, but the park is large.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The town is fairly flat and bike lanes exist, but the palace park is the main place to ride.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: No, not for a visit to the palace. Trains from Paris are faster and easier than the roads. A car helps only if you plan to visit several places in the area.
- **Parking**: There are paid underground car parks near the palace, the Notre-Dame market and the stations. They fill early on summer weekends.
- **Restrictions**: Traffic near the palace and in parts of the old town is limited. Follow the signs for car parks.

Food & drink

Versailles is a good place for a classic French meal. The restaurants around place du Marché Notre-Dame and the streets near the cathedral are the best areas to look. Many serve a fixed lunch menu, which is cheaper than dinner. Cafés inside the palace gardens are expensive, so many visitors bring a picnic.

The covered halls and market stalls at place du Marché Notre-Dame sell cheese, bread, fruit and ready-made food. The boutique of the royal kitchen garden, Le Potager du Roi, sells fruit, preserves and juice from its own harvest.

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

Versailles is a safe town for visitors. The main risk is petty theft.

- Pickpockets work in the palace queues, on the RER and around the stations. Keep bags closed and phones out of back pockets.
- Buy tickets only from the official palace site or the palace ticket desks, not from sellers outside.
- In summer, the garden has little shade. Bring water and a hat.
- Emergency number: 112.

History

Versailles was a small village until the 17th century. *Louis XIII* built a hunting lodge here in the 1620s. His son *Louis XIV* turned it into a huge palace and in 1661 ordered a great garden by *André Le Nôtre*. The court and government moved here for good on 6 May 1682. The town grew around the palace, with the Notre-Dame and Saint-Louis quarters built for the court. The Baroque Cathédrale Saint-Louis was built in the 1740s and 1750s.

The French Revolution began here in 1789. The Estates-General met in Versailles in May. On 20 June, deputies of the Third Estate swore the Tennis Court Oath in the royal tennis court, the Salle du Jeu de Paume, in the old town. In October, a crowd from Paris marched to Versailles, and the royal family and court left for Paris. In 1783, treaties between France, Britain and Spain were signed here as part of the peace that ended the American Revolutionary War. In 1871, the German Empire was proclaimed in the Hall of Mirrors. The Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I, was signed there in 1919.

The palace became a museum of French history in 1837. UNESCO listed the palace and park in 1979. The nearby Le Petit Trianon was built in the 1760s and later became linked with *Marie Antoinette*.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for France at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

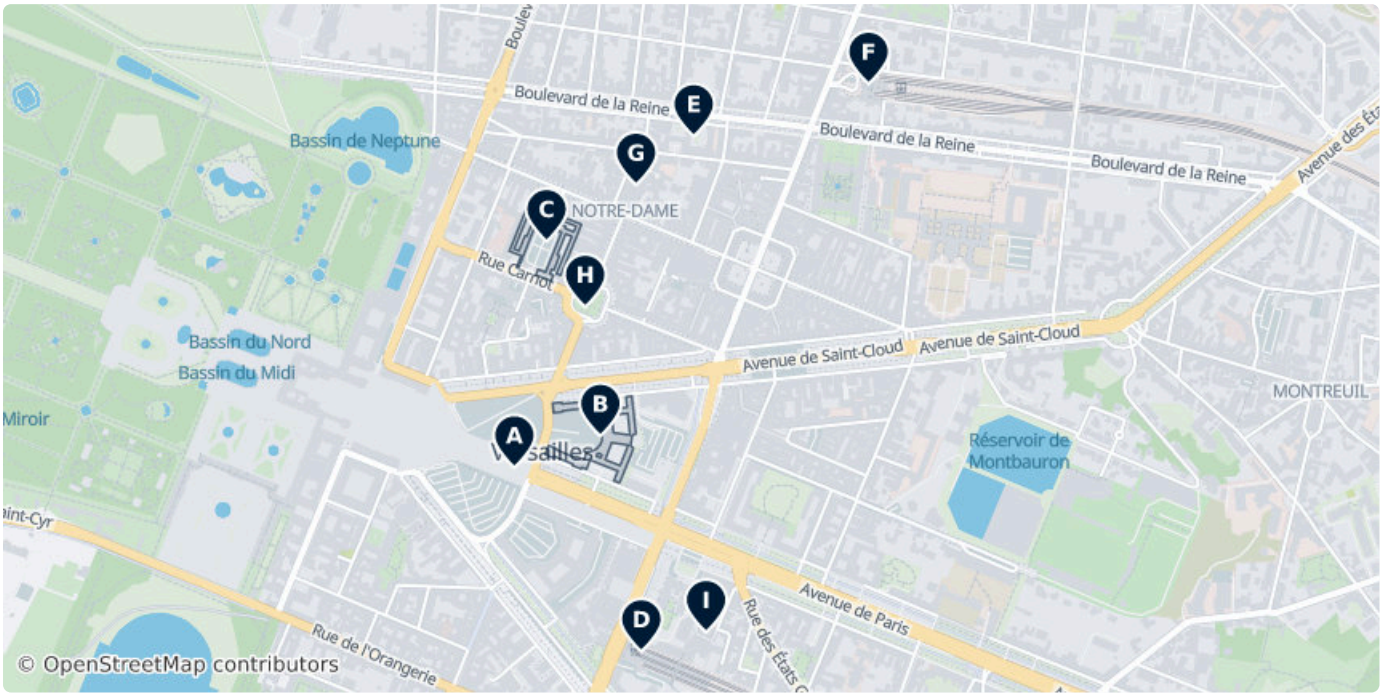
French

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Versailles Unmissables

Versailles extends beyond its palace gates to a town shaped by royal service and 17th-century urban planning. This collection features the Grande Écurie and King's Stables, which housed the royal horses, and the Musée Lambinet, an 18th-century mansion detailing local history. Significant religious sites include the parish Church of Notre-Dame and the neoclassical buildings of Place Hoche. The list also covers the city's key transport links, the Rive Gauche and Rive Droite stations, which have connected Versailles to Paris since the 19th century.





A Equestrian statue of Louis XIV

The equestrian statue of Louis XIV is a bronze equestrian statue of the King of France Louis XIV, located on the Place d'Armes in front of...

Place d'Armes, 78000, France (48.80330, 2.12599)



B Grande Écurie

The Grande Écurie is a building located in Versailles, on the Place d'Armes, opposite the Palace, between the avenues of Saint-Cloud and...

78000, France (48.80382, 2.12816)



C Ecuries du Roi, puis de la Reine (anciennes)

Former royal stables located on Rue Carnot, originally built in the 17th century to house the king's and later the queen's horses and carriages. The complex is situated a short distance from the main palace grounds.

Impasse des Écuries, 78000 Versailles, France
(48.80704, 2.12680)



D Versailles Château Rive Gauche station

Versailles Château Rive Gauche station is a terminal railway station serving the city of Versailles, a wealthy suburb located west of...

12 Avenue du Général de Gaulle, 78000, France
(48.80026, 2.12918)

Mo–Su	00:00–00:45, 04:00–24:00



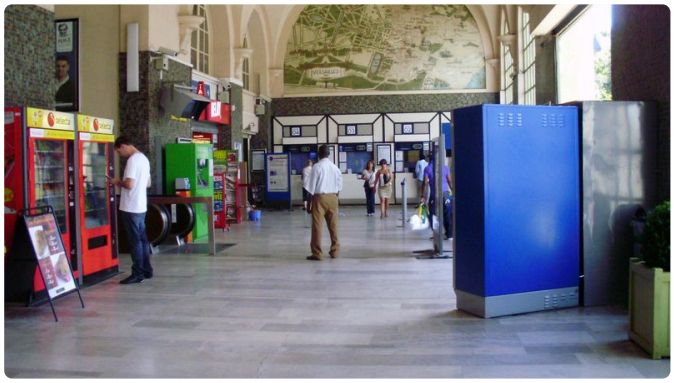
E Musée Lambinet

The Musée Lambinet is a municipal museum in Versailles telling the history of the town.

54 Boulevard de la Reine, Versailles 78000, France
(48.80878, 2.13050)

Mo–Th	14:00–18:00
Fr	Closed
Sa–Su	14:00–18:00

versailles-tourisme.com/decouvrir/pat... , +33 1 39 50 30 32



F Versailles-Rive Droite station

Historic railway terminal serving as a key commuter rail hub with connections to Paris and local attractions.

Passage Pilâtre de Rozier, 78000 Versailles, France
(48.80964, 2.13490)

en.chateauversailles.fr/plan-your-visit/practical-informati...



G Church of Notre-Dame, Versailles

The Church of Notre-Dame, Versailles, is a Roman Catholic parish church in Versailles, Yvelines, France, in the Rue de la Paroisse.

5 Rue Sainte-Geneviève, Versailles 78000, France (48.80797, 2.12906)

notredame-versailles.org



I Chapelle Notre-Dame des Armées

A 19th-century Catholic chapel situated on the Impasse des Gendarmes. Built in 1858, it was historically associated with the military community stationed in the city.

6 Impasse des Gendarmes, Versailles 78000, France (48.80058, 2.13081)

notredamedesarmees.com, +33 1 30 83 95 40

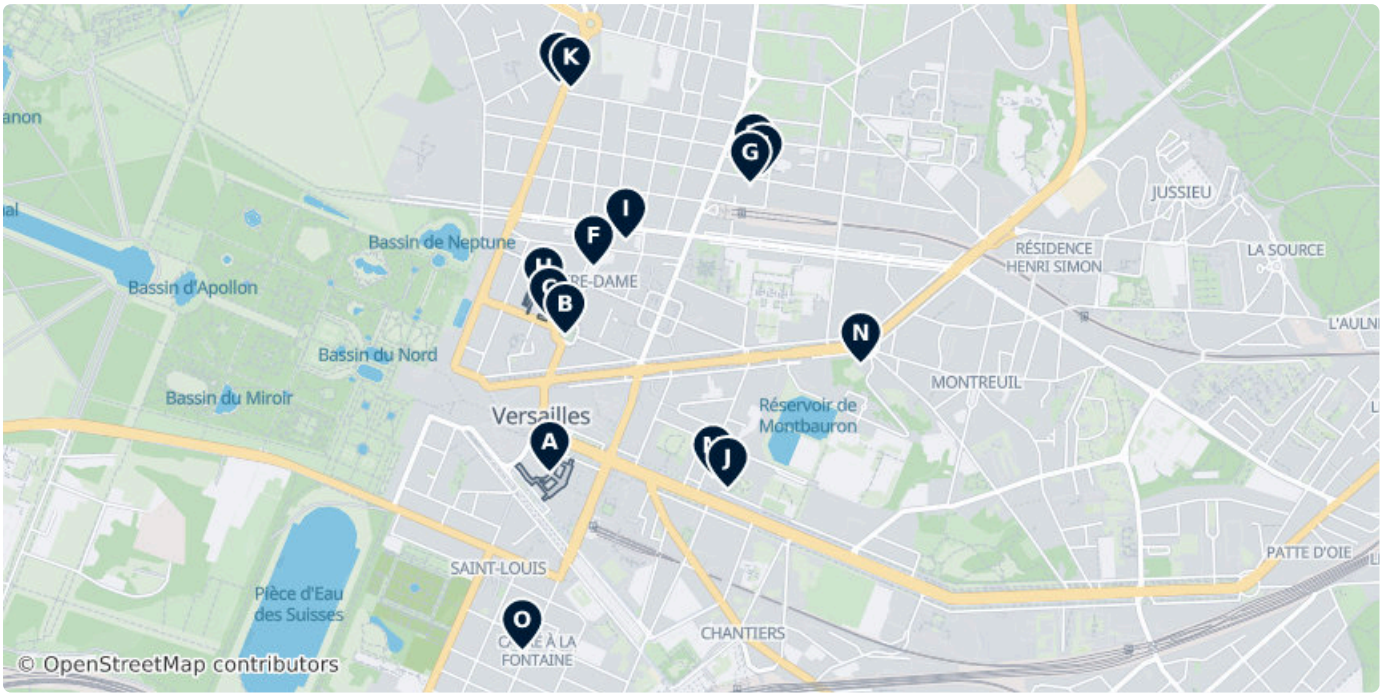
H Immeubles de la place Hoche

A series of uniform 18th-century neoclassical buildings surrounding an octagonal square. Designed by architect Richard Mique, the ensemble is a notable example of pre-Revolutionary urban planning.

8 Place Hoche, Versailles 78000, France (48.80595, 2.12778)

Versailles Heritage Sites

Beyond the iconic palace, Versailles preserves a rich architectural legacy spanning the 17th to the 20th centuries. This selection features the Petite Écurie designed by Jules Hardouin-Mansart, the neoclassical Hôtel de Madame du Barry, and significant religious sites like the 19th-century Versailles Synagogue. The list also highlights urban evolution through the 18th-century Place Hoche and modern landmarks like the Maison Cassandre, designed by pioneering architect Auguste Perret.





A Petite Écurie

The Petite Écurie is a monument located in Versailles, on the Place d'Armes, opposite the Palace of Versailles, between the Avenue de Paris...

5 Avenue de Sceaux, 78000, France (48.80188, 2.12708)

B Immeubles de la place Hoche

A series of uniform 18th-century residential buildings surrounding the octagonal Place Hoche, showcasing the city's neoclassical urban planning.

8 Place Hoche, Versailles 78000, France (48.80595, 2.12778)

C Domaine national : ancien Pavillon des Sources

A historical pavilion within the national domain, originally associated with the management of the royal estate's extensive water supply and fountains.

(48.80643, 2.12706)

D Villa Bomsel

A notable example of early 20th-century residential architecture, featuring distinct Art Deco design elements.

(48.81099, 2.13627)

E Maison Cassandre

A modernist residence designed in 1924 by architect Auguste Perret for the renowned graphic artist and poster designer Cassandre.

(48.81067, 2.13665)



F Church of Notre-Dame, Versailles

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5 Rue Sainte-Geneviève, Versailles 78000, France
(48.80797, 2.12906)

notredame-versailles.org



G Versailles Synagogue

The Versailles Synagogue is a Jewish congregation and synagogue, located at 10, rue Albert Joly in Versailles in the Yvelines department,...

10 Rue Albert Joly, Versailles 78000, France
(48.81044, 2.13609)

synaversailles.fr



H Ecuries du Roi, puis de la Reine (anciennes)

Former 17th-century royal stables located on Rue Carnot that once served the logistical and transportation needs of the French court.

Impasse des Écuries, 78000 Versailles, France
(48.80704, 2.12680)



I Musée Lambinet

The Musée Lambinet is a municipal museum in Versailles telling the history of the town.

54 Boulevard de la Reine, Versailles 78000, France (48.80878, 2.13050)

Mo–Th	14:00–18:00
Fr	Closed
Sa–Su	14:00–18:00

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J Hôtel de Madame du Barry

A grand neoclassical mansion commissioned in the 1770s for Comtesse du Barry, the last mistress of King Louis XV.

21 Avenue de Paris, Versailles 78000, France (48.80141, 2.13508)

K Pavillon de l'Octroi

A former municipal toll house used for the collection of taxes on goods entering the city limits of Versailles.

(48.81326, 2.12803)

L Pavillon de l'Octroi

One of the historic gate pavilions used for tax collection, marking the administrative boundaries of the city.

(48.81340, 2.12750)

M Hôtel de Police

An administrative building housed within a historical structure that reflects the city's 18th and 19th-century architectural heritage.

19 Avenue de Paris, Versailles 78000, France (48.80176, 2.13442)

N Villa Moricet

A private residence illustrating the 19th-century architectural development and suburban expansion of Versailles.

(48.80510, 2.14106)

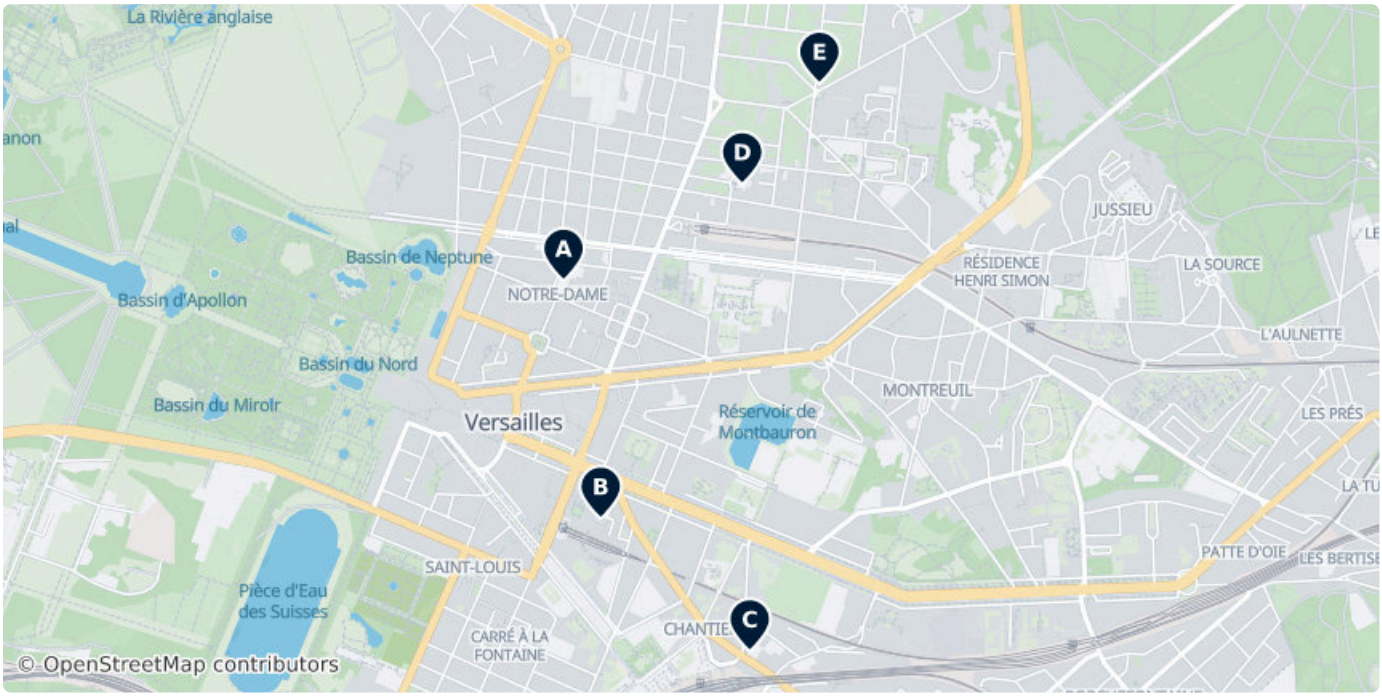
O Maison de quartier

A local community center operating within a preserved historical building in the Saint-Louis district.

50 Rue Royale, Versailles 78000, France (48.79661, 2.12585)

Historic Churches and Chapels

Versailles' religious architecture extends beyond the royal palace, featuring a collection of historic churches and chapels built to serve both the French court and local residents. This list includes the 17th-century Church of Notre-Dame, designed by Jules Hardouin-Mansart, and the Neo-Byzantine Église Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc. These sites showcase diverse architectural styles, from classical parish churches to 19th-century military chapels and 20th-century neighborhood parishes, reflecting the city's spiritual evolution from the monarchy to the modern era.





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5 Rue Sainte-Geneviève, Versailles 78000, France
(48.80797, 2.12906)

notredame-versailles.org



B Chapelle Notre-Dame des Armées

Built in 1877, this chapel is located on the Impasse des Gendarmes. It was originally established to provide spiritual support and charitable services to soldiers stationed in Versailles.

6 Impasse des Gendarmes, Versailles 78000, France
(48.80058, 2.13081)

notredamedesarmees.com, +33 1 30 83 95 40

C Église Sainte-Elisabeth de Hongrie

A 20th-century Catholic church located in the Chantiers district of Versailles, serving as a local parish center.

25 Rue des Chantiers, Versailles 78000, France
(48.79645, 2.13786)

sainteelisabeth-versailles.com/seh/



D Église Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc

A Neo-Byzantine style church constructed between 1923 and 1926 in the Clagny-Glatigny district. It was designed by architect Albert Guilbert and features a distinctive dome and mosaics.

3 Rue Jules Raulin, Versailles 78000, France
(48.81098, 2.13750)

jeannedarc-versailles.com

E Chapelle de Clagny

A small Christian shrine and chapel located in the northern Clagny district of Versailles.

18Bis Rue du Parc de Clagny, Versailles 78000, France
(48.81410, 2.14115)

DATA SOURCES

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