

# STRASBOURG

THE GUIDE

EN



# → FOREWORD

Strasbourg is a unique city, to such an extent that it has been recognized as one of the finest cities on the “Old Continent”. It belongs to the tightly closed circle of those few rare cities, which, once visited, leave a lasting impression that time cannot remove.

Throughout the centuries from the Middle Ages up to today, Strasbourg has forged its distinctive character, based on its two major influences - French and German.

The rich heritage of the city is breathtakingly beautiful. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the urban ensemble made up of the *Grande-Île* (the historic city centre) and the *Neustadt* (the Imperial German quarter developed after 1870) forms an exceptional historical landscape built with remarkable continuity from the beginnings of the city to the present day. With a structure centred on the cathedral - a major masterpiece of Gothic art - it is a harmonious ensemble of constructions reflecting major significant periods of European history, with an extraordinary degree of stylistic diversity.

Visually, the style of the city is unique and surprisingly diverse. The purpose of this guidebook is to provide a simple means of discovering its main “wonders”.

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## DISCOVERING THE RICHES OF THE EUROMETROPOLIS 32

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**PLACE DES HALLES**

**GARE ROUTIÈRE**

**TRAM A/D Ancienne Synagogue-Les Halles**

**TRAM B/E Parc du Contades**

**TRAM C/E/F Gallia**

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**PLACE D'AUSTERLITZ**



## ➔ HIGHLIGHTS

From the “jewel in the crown” of the cathedral to the amazing Petite France district, the imposing imperial district or the extremely modern European district, Strasbourg offers rare cultural diversity.

All of its cultural riches are to be found within a limited area. It is easy to walk round the city on foot and this is definitely the best way to see and take in the city.  
Follow the guide...



WEST FAÇADE © CHRISTOPHE HAMM

# Notre-Dame Cathedral<sup>1</sup>

**YOUR FIRST VISIT TO THIS AWE-INSPIRING CATHEDRAL CANNOT FAIL TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION. JUST GET AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO IT ON THE FORECOURT AND LOOK UP AT THE SINGLE SPIRE TO REALIZE HOW GIGANTIC IT IS. THE SPLENDOUR OF THE BUILDING'S PINK SANDSTONE CONSTRUCTION IS BEST DISPLAYED DURING SUMMER SUNSETS. THE RELIEF OF ITS NUMEROUS SCULPTURES BETWEEN THE SHADE AND THE LIGHT IS EXTRAORDINARY.**

## SIZE AND OUTSIZE

Construction of this lacy masterpiece of Gothic art extended over slightly more than four centuries, from 1015 to 1439. The 142 meter-high cathedral remained the highest building in Christendom up till the end of the Nineteenth Century.

The platform is built at a height of 66 metres, and the spire at the top is 132 metres high. Excluding the spire's point, the upper part of the cathedral is therefore exactly the same height as the lower part. Even from a distance, this balance is not

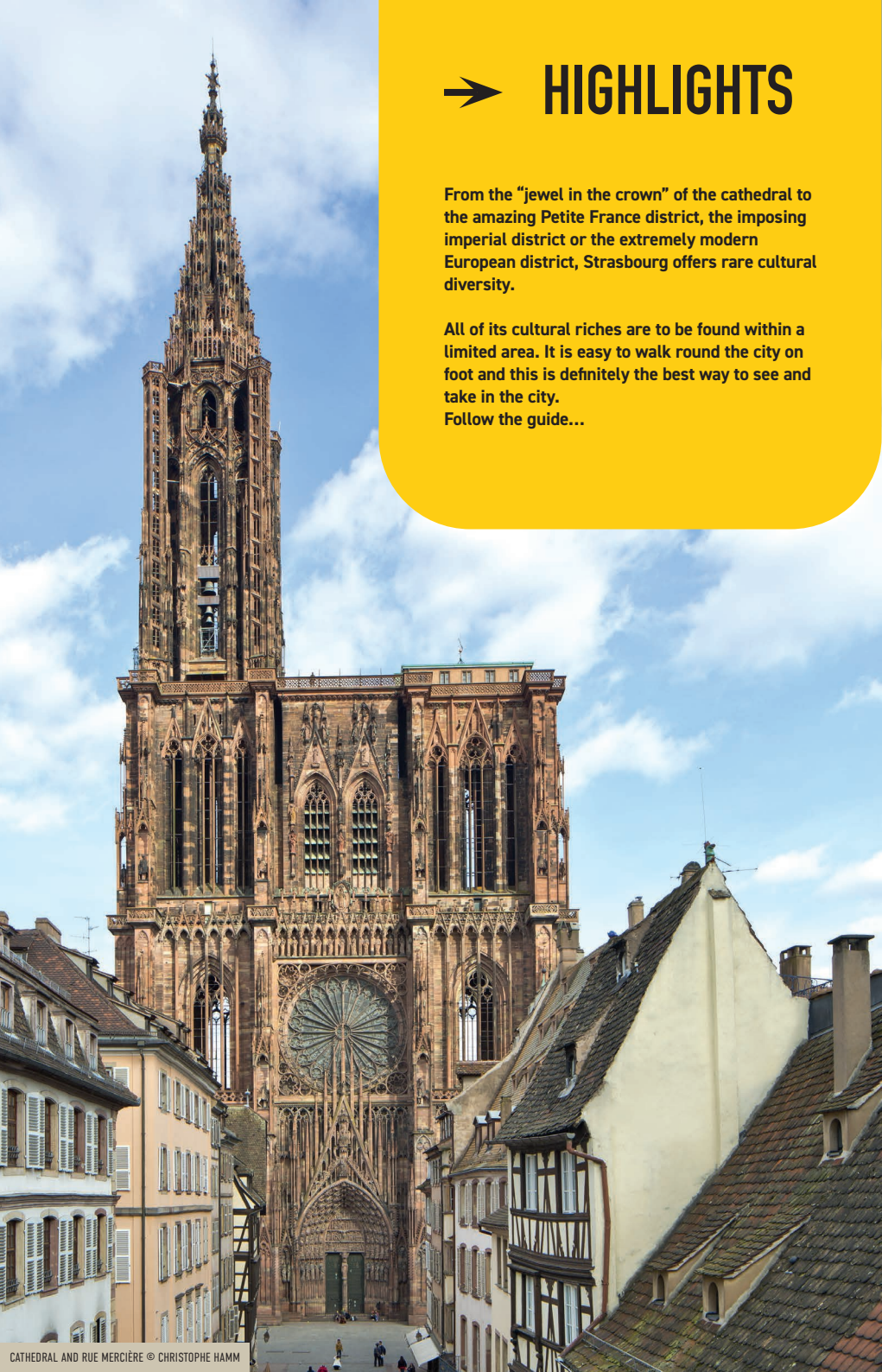
easy to discern, because the spire seems so light and airy... In any case, it demonstrates a great sense of proportion.

The platform is accessible via the 330 steps leading up to it. Those who venture upwards should be sure that they are fit to make the effort, which is considerable. The view from the platform is superb and extends across the whole city, particularly the typical traditional roofs in the centre, to the Alsace Plain, the Vosges and the Black Forest.

## A FEW OF THE AMAZING SIGHTS THAT ARE NOT TO BE MISSED...

### THE WEST (OR MAIN) FAÇADE:

➔ **The three Doors.** Their sculptural richness is exceptional. The arch over the Central Door depicts the Passion of the Christ. The North Door depicts “virtues overcoming vices” (on the left hand side). The “wise virgins” and “foolish virgins” adorn the right hand side of the South Door.



CATHEDRAL AND RUE MERCIÈRE © CHRISTOPHE HAMM



- ➔ **The rose.** Its decoration, featuring 32 ears of corn, symbolizes the riches of the city during the Middle Ages. It is easier to grasp its dimensions (13.90 meters diameter) and beauty from inside the cathedral.
- ➔ **The “Apostles’ Gallery”.** This is located just above the rose and depicts the twelve disciples in a disciplined line.

#### THE INTERIOR

- ➔ **The Great Organ** (in the nave). Of „swallow’s nest” construction, its distinctive features are its ornaments and three automata (at the foot of the organ), dating from the Fourteenth Century, which are still in working order.
- ➔ **The Pulpit.** An intricately woven stone construction. It is practically unsurpassed by any other flamboyant Gothic construction. A small dog may be seen lying in its entrance. It seems that it belonged to Geiler de Kaysersberg, the Fifteenth Century preacher. If you stroke it, your wish will be granted...

- ➔ **The Astronomical Clock** (to the right of the Choir Stalls). Its case has superb Renaissance decoration and dates from the Sixteenth Century. Jean- Baptiste Schwilgué renovated the Clock from 1838 to 1842. Its mechanism is unique in the world and was constructed as an application of a scientific theory. Its numerous dials are worth observing and supply a multitude of information. Every day at 12.30 p.m. its automata come to life in the fascinating “Apostle’s Parade”. The Astronomical Clock is a complete work of art, combining the talent of Renaissance artists with the genius of Schwilgué.
- ➔ **The “Angel Pillar”** (next to the Astronomical Clock). This work is considered a masterpiece of vertical construction. It was a technical prodigy of its day, presenting twelve magnificent sculptures, including that of Christ, enthroned at the top. A few traces of colour remain on some of the statues. To the left of the astronomical clock a man may be seen leaning on a balustrade. Legend has it that this man does not understand how the pillar is able to hold up the vault and is waiting for the whole thing to come down...



PLACE DU CHATEAU © PHILIPPE DE REXEL

## The Cathedral’s Surroundings

THE CATHEDRAL HOLDS MANY PEOPLE’S ATTENTION, BUT THE HEART OF THE CITY IS ALSO REMARKABLE TO VISIT. IT CONTAINS MANY TREASURES, SOME OF WHICH ARE FAMOUS, OTHERS LESS SO, BUT ALL OF WHICH ARE WORTHY OF INTEREST. REVIEW OF THE TREASURES AND CURIOSITIES...

### THE MAISON KAMMERZEL 2

A stone’s throw from the cathedral, the most famous building in Strasbourg will amaze you. It is Renaissance in style and dates from the Fifteenth Century. Its steeply sloping roof will attract your attention, as will its beams, with their carvings of secular subjects, and its “bottleneck” windows and stone ground floor. It was formerly a merchant’s house and is now a restaurant of renown. The restaurant’s rooms on the different floors offer intimate surroundings and decors from another age with remarkable wooden features, vaults and frescoes.

### THROUGH THE STREETS AND ALLEYS...

Most of these narrow, friendly places are alive with commercial activities. Here you may discover the famous *winstubs*, or wine bars, where liqueurs and other equally excellent Alsatian specialities are served. The *winstubs* are known for their friendly atmosphere. Most of the tables are side by side, so contacts are quickly made between guests. The *winstubs* are a real institution that cannot be ignored by visitors to Strasbourg. As it happens, a few of this world’s “great” citizens have stopped by there.

If you walk towards the left of the cathedral (on the same side as the Maison Kammerzell), you will discover the shopping district. The *rues des Hallebardes, des Orfèvres, du Dôme* and *des Juifs* are mostly made up of shops. The *Place du Marché Gayot 3* is a good place to stop for refreshment, away from the city’s noise, as it is closed to traffic. Its terraces overflow as soon as the fine weather arrives. This site is a meeting place for many residents of Strasbourg.



Access to the platform  
> [www.oeuvre-notre-dame.org](http://www.oeuvre-notre-dame.org)

Astronomical Clock  
> [www.cathedrale-strasbourg.fr](http://www.cathedrale-strasbourg.fr)

ROSE AND ORGAN © PAUL PRIM



If you walk towards the right of the cathedral, you will be in an area with more tourist attractions. Going to **Place du Château 4**, you can explore two architectural marvels: the building (medieval and Renaissance) of the **Œuvre Notre-Dame Museum** and the sumptuous **Palais Rohan** (Eighteenth century).

Back on the cathedral square, go down the narrow Rue du Maroquin, catching sight of the **Œuvre Notre-Dame Gothic Garden** in the middle of it. The street leads to the picturesque **Place du Marché-aux-Cochons-de-Lait 5**, where a fine group of half-timbered houses may be admired. The nearby **Place du Marché-aux-Poissons** and the **Place de la Grande-Boucherie** are also charming places to visit.



PLACE DU MARCHÉ-AUX-COCHONS-DE-LAIT © ELSA\_CYRIL

Go back up the Rue du Marché aux Poissons, to **Place Gutenberg 6**, where you'll find a fine building that is rigorously symmetrical. It dates from the end of the Sixteenth Century and today houses the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This was the first building in Strasbourg to be built in dressed stone (apart from the cathedral), which was a daring choice at the time, since it stood out from the usual local architectural style (half-timber) and caused controversy.

As you walk down the **Rue des Grandes-Arcades** that connects Place Gutenberg to Place Kléber, you'll notice number 33, a building that is representative of the Art Nouveau of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with its

glass and metal façade (in the past, a department store was housed in the building). Strasbourg had a total of 700 "Art Nouveau" buildings at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. Only around fifty of them remain, mainly in the imperial district.

**Kleber Square 7**, which is a city centre square par excellence, is surrounded by the Aubette building, built completely of pink sandstone... and completely longitudinally. This military building dates from the end of the Eighteenth Century and originally housed a corps of Guards.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY © CHRISTOPHE HAMM



MAISON DES TANNEURS © PAUL PRIM

## La Petite France 8

**THE PETITE FRANCE IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE MOST FAMOUS DISTRICT IN STRASBOURG, REVEALING A UNIQUE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE. THIS IS A HAVEN OF REAL PEACE AND QUIET, BATHED IN THE WATERS OF THE ILL RIVER, WHICH WRAPS ITS FIVE BRANCHES AROUND IT. TIME SEEMS TO STAND STILL HERE... A MUST FOR VISITORS!**

The history of the **Petite France** district is paradoxical. It was, in the past, a poor district, ignored by the residents of Strasbourg. Today it is one of the city's most frequently visited sites and is largely responsible for its reputation.

The origins of the **Petite France** district go back to the Middle-Ages, to the Fourteenth Century, to be precise. Three of the downward flowing Ill's branches (the downward drop is 1.8 meters) lead to considerable waterfalls, which gave rise to the construction of mills. Business activities were set up, first of all by flour millers, then tanners, who in turn filled the district, making their mark indelibly. The boom of the **Petite France** district was born out of this. The river, like a nursing

mother, birthed the development of river trading. The district resembled a port... as barrels of wine from the Upper Alsace region and other such cargo was unloaded onto the docks. For centuries this was a labourers' area, full of foul stench, and so unattractive that not even a church could be established in it. The advent of the industrial age swept aside all former activities... From the second half of the Twentieth Century onwards, the booming tourist industry turned the spotlight on the **Petite France** district and highlighted its charms.

The **Saint-Martin Bridge**, located to the left of the Rue des Dentelles, a street marking the beginning of the **Petite France** quarter, offers a fine view of the river (flowing rapidly here due to waterfalls) and its banks, lined with half-timbered buildings. This is an enchanting place. The picturesque **rue des Dentelles** (don't hesitate to go into the open courtyards) takes us down to **Benjamin-Zix Square** at the heart of **Petite France**. The "jewel in the crown" of this square, the **Tanners' House**, can only be admired... The **rue du Bain-aux-Plantes** immediately attracts our eyes, leading on from the square. Houses with their timbers



and white frontages line this street that has no equal, where the half-timbered houses outline the story of the past.

After a few steps we cross one of the branches of the river via the **Pont du Faisan** (a small revolving bridge allowing pedestrians and tour boats to pass alternately). This takes us to the long stretches of land between the water and we notice the three massive square watch towers of the Covered Bridges ("**Ponts Couverts**") **9**. These are the last traces of the wall that surrounded the city in the Middle Ages (five towers remain). We stroll a few meters across the pavement. From the Covered Bridges we discover the Ill River, splitting into five branches here, like the fingers of a hand resting on the city, and **Vauban's Dam 10**, built during the reign of Louis Fourteenth according to the plans of the most prolific of French military architects. The river flows peacefully under its thirteen arches. For

information, the dam was built to strengthen the city's defences. When the arches were closed the river water was diverted to flood the land South of the town, causing enemy armies to flounder in it. From its panoramic terrace, you'll enjoy a superb view of the Petite France quarter.

A short distance from the Petite France district, **Saint-Thomas' Church 11** may be seen, along with its imposing and sumptuous Mausoleum of the Marshall of Saxony, an Eighteenth Century sculpture of major importance. The marble mausoleum, remarkable for its balance and energy, displays magnificent work on perspective by its architect, Jean-Baptiste Pigalle, a master sculptor of his era (a famous area of Paris bears his name).



QUAI DES BATELIERS © VINCENT MULLER

## The Banks of the Ill River

**THE ILL RIVER COMPLETELY ENCIRCLES THE HEART OF STRASBOURG (WHICH IS WHY THIS AREA IS CALLED THE "GRANDE-ÎLE"). THE RIVER IS A DELIGHT FOR THOSE WHO LIKE WALKING ALONG THE WATER'S EDGE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO WHEN WALKERS HAVE INTERESTING ENCOUNTERS ALONG THE RIVER BANKS...**

On leaving the Petite France district, it is possible to reach the river at the Saint-Martin Bridge or Saint-Thomas Church. Walking along its banks, sometimes close to the water and sometimes on the quayside, visitors will quickly come across the former Customs House ("**Ancienne Douane**") **12**, dating back to the Fourteenth Century. This building was almost entirely destroyed during the Second World War and identically rebuilt at the end of it. Its originality stems from its gabled walls. The building precedes the Pont du Corbeau, a place where intensely cruel practices plunged people into the water during the Middle-Ages (see the notice at the entrance).

The magnificently vaulted historic wine-cellar of the Strasbourg Hospital **11** is two minutes' walk away. Founded in

1395, it depicts the hospital's history and prestigious wine production. It holds fabulous masterpieces of barrel-making, and even a wine dating back to 1472... the oldest barrelled white wine in the world! This extraordinary heritage has existed since 1995 thanks to the drive of reputable Alsatian wine producers. Here, the best Alsatian vintage wines are carefully selected in accordance with very strict quality standards, matured in oak barrels and aged to be then poured into bottles and labelled "cave des hospices". This cellar is unique as it is situated in a hospital.

A visit to the **Cour du Corbeau** (Crow Court) **13**, a few meters away from the bridge, is a must. Enter via no. 1, Quai des Bateliers, a crow, perched on the corner of the frontage, marks the spot. After the Maison Kammerzell, the Cour du Corbeau is the finest set of Renaissance architecture in the city and dates from the Seventeenth Century. Its history is unique... For three centuries the Cour du Corbeau served as a postal relay and hotel. Amongst its guests were the Marshall of Turenne, Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, Joseph the Second, Emperor of Austria and also Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Alexandre Dumas.



QUAI DE LA PETITE FRANCE © CHRISTOPHE HAMM



From 1852 to 1982 it housed a glass business. During this period its activity slowly died away and led to its total abandon. Unoccupied, it fell into serious decay, almost complete destruction. In 2007 it was taken in hand and completely renovated to its former splendour... and its former vocation, since it houses a prestigious (four-star) hotel. The building is remarkably consistent, with exceptional passageways featuring wooden balustrades. A journey through time...

On leaving the Cour du Corbeau, walk along the **Quai des Bateliers**, a magnificent pedestrian riverbank area perfect for leisurely strolls. After about a hundred metres, you'll see the rear façade of **Palais Rohan 09** (whose entrance is located on Place du Château). Its subtly refined architecture is inspired by that of the grand Parisian hotels of the time. The rue **Sainte-Madeleine**, opposite, has always been particularly characterized by the highly original small shops lining it...

A little further on, the **Quai des Pêcheurs** offers a fine viewing point, where the Ill River forms an attractive "crow's foot". A few barges are

moored here. Sip a glass of wine or have a snack on one of them. This very open, charming place is adorned by **Saint Paul's Church**, which resembles a small cathedral, the imposing neo-Classical style **Esca Building**, (with a rounded frontage) and weeping willows. We are on the edges of the Imperial District. For lovers of architecture, the **School of Decorative Arts ("École supérieure des Arts décoratifs") 14**, a stone's throw away, has an "Art Nouveau" façade made up of ceramic tiles portraying allegorical figures representing science, architecture, painting and sculpture, etc...

Extend your walk along the **Quai Lezay-Marnesia**, along which are scattered extremely fine houses... Follow the river to the **Quai Schoepflin**. The **Saint-Pierre-le-Jeune Church 15** is very close by. It is more than worth taking the trouble to visit it. This protestant church, built at the same time as the cathedral and probably the finest in Strasbourg, is an open book... displaying numerous frescos (Fourteenth Century) and paintings. Its choir screen is superb and the same may be said for its cloister - a silent haven right in the heart of the city! Wonderful!



SAINT-PIERRE-LE-JEUNE CHURCH © PHILIPPE DE REXEL



PLACE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE © VILLE ET EUROMÉTROPOLE DE STRASBOURG - ELYXANDRO CEGARRA

## Neustadt: the German Imperial Quarter

**AFTER COMING TO POWER IN 1870, THE REICH DECIDED TO MAKE STRASBOURG A SHOWCASE FOR THE EMPIRE. IN THE SPACE OF LESS THAN HALF A CENTURY, THE CITY BOOMED CONSIDERABLY, TO THE POINT WHERE ITS SURFACE AREA TREBLED! THIS "NEW CITY" (NEUSTADT) IS A MODEL, BOTH IN TERMS OF URBAN PLANNING AND IN TERMS OF ARCHITECTURAL STYLE. REMARKABLY WELL PRESERVED, IT IS PART OF THE AREA LISTED AS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE.**

### THE PLACE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE...

Structured around a circular garden (with superb spring-flowering magnolias), this square features the most important architectural symbols from the period of German governance. The different buildings lining the square are all in neo-classical style, displaying various influences.

The **Rhine Palace (1889) 16**, a blend of neo-Renaissance Florentine and neo-baroque Berlin styles, is the most imposing building. This palace is an anachronism, having been built at great cost to receive the emperor and his imperial suite during his occasional short stays in Strasbourg... It was almost demolished during the Fifties.

Opposite the Palace the façade of the **National University Library (1895) 17**, built in Italian neo-Renaissance style, reveals medallions to the glory of illustrious European personalities from the world of literature and philosophy. The "BNU", as locals call it, contains 55 kilometres of shelves and over 3 million documents (it is the second largest library in France).

The **Strasbourg National Theatre (1892) 18**, next to the "BNU" has a massive, perfectly symmetrical façade with an "Italian-style" roof. The building originally housed the "Regional Delegation" (*Landesausschuss*). Today it is the only national theatre in the region. It houses auditoriums, a troupe of actors and a School of Dramatic Art.



The poignant **war memorial** by Drivier (inaugurated by Albert Lebrun, President of the Republic, in 1936) in the centre of the square, shows a mother crying (Strasbourg), holding her two dying children in her arms, one of whom had fought for the French and the other for the Germans. This is a tribute to the people of Alsace killed on the battlefield for both countries. With its simple inscription "*To our dead*", it is one of the very few pacifist war memorials in France.

## ... AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS

The Place de la République affords a few fine views across the avenues leading into it. One of them (avenue de la Liberté) leads to the **Palais Universitaire** (1884) **19**, a few hundred meters away. This Italian neo-Renaissance style building holds a superb amphitheatre, bordered along two of its edges by richly decorated arcades. This has been a University centre since

its beginnings and has never lost its primary purpose, continuing to receive students in History, Archaeology and History of Art...

A few meters before the Palais Universitaire, the spires of **Saint Paul's church 20** (Late Nineteenth Century), originally a German garrison church, rise 76 meters towards the sky. It is the tallest church in Strasbourg, after the cathedral.

The **Opera building 21**, near to the Place Broglie was built in 1821 (in neo-classical style). It was restored and modified in 1888 after being partially destroyed by German bombs in 1870. Six iconic columns crowned with muses adorn its frontage. Since 1870 the famous "*Christkindelsmärik*" (the historical Christmas market) has been held on this site.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, ARCHITECTURE STUDIO © LENA67

# Europe at Heart

**WHEN EUROPE WAS LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO DEMONSTRATE ITS UNIFICATION, STRASBOURG, AS A CITY TORN BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY FOR DECADES, SEEMED AN OBVIOUS CHOICE. THE CITY'S EUROPEAN DESTINY EMERGED IN 1949, WITH THE CREATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. THE EUROPEAN DISTRICT, WHICH HAS GROWN CONTINUOUSLY DURING THE YEARS, HAS DIFFERENT BUILDINGS WITH REMARKABLE CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE.**

## THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT **22**

This outstanding building made of glass and metal was completed in 1999. Its elegance and vast dimensions are impressive. You fully grasp this as soon as you enter the heart of its unfurnished elliptical 60-meter tower, which is cut open on the side facing the cathedral. The total surface area of the European Parliament is 220 000 sqm! It includes a hemicycle of more than 800 seats, 1 133 offices and 18 committee

rooms used by the European Deputies elected within the 27 Member States of the European Union. The European Parliament is the largest parliamentary assembly elected by direct universal suffrage in the world.

A visit to the parliamentary debating chamber is an unrivalled opportunity to soak up the unique atmosphere of this large transnational parliament. The chamber hosts the most important debates and has provided the backdrop for many historic votes. All visits of the Parliament also include the *Parlamentarium Simone Veil*. The dynamic and interactive exhibition gives citizens of all ages a practical insight into the role of the European Parliament, its political groups and the work of its Members.

➔ Visits (for individuals and groups): [www.europart.europa.eu/visiting/en](http://www.europart.europa.eu/visiting/en)



PALAIS UNIVERSITAIRE © PHILIPPE DE REXEL



## THE PALAIS DE L'EUROPE 23

The Council of Europe sits here. The representatives of the 47 Member States meet here to work on defending human rights and strengthening political stability in Europe, but also looking for common solutions for societal problems (corruption, organized crime, terrorism, discrimination, etc...).

Built in 1977, it is one of the oldest great European buildings. Its architecture, representing a forming pyramid, is the symbol of the strength of unity... Its 64 000 sqm surface area is home to 1 000 offices, 17 meeting rooms and 600-seater chamber.

➔ Visits (for individuals and groups):  
[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

## THE HUMAN RIGHTS BUILDING 24

This architecturally daring building was built in 1995. Its two metal cylinders, "a clear-cut" architectural choice, symbolize the scales of justice. The façade at the entrance is made of glass, representing the transparency of justice ... The building is the work of Sir Richard Rogers (who also has a number of leading projects to his credit, including the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Millennium Dome in London). It radiates a real sense of power - vertically from the front and horizontally from

the back and the sides and fits perfectly into the meander in the river.

The European Court of Human Rights has jurisdiction over 800 million Europeans. The 47 judges (one per Member State) hear the requests brought by Member States or individuals concerning violations of the civil and political rights laid down in the European Human Rights Convention. The Court issues an average 1 500 decrees per year.

A stretch of the Berlin Wall, tagged with an unusual form of graffiti, may be seen at the entrance, in the gardens (which are open to the public).

## THE LIEU D'EUROPE 25

The Lieu d'Europe, villa Kayserguet - situated just at the edge of the European quarter - gives a clearer understanding of the content and history of the European idea: it was one of its key objectives when it opened in 2004. Entire families, friends or groups from across Europe visit to (re)discover the values of peace and democracy through exhibitions and animations which are fun yet educational. The slogan of the Lieu d'Europe: "Europe, it is what we decide to do with it all together".

➔ [lieudeurope.strasbourg.eu](http://lieudeurope.strasbourg.eu)



ORANGERIE PARK © PHILIPPE DE REXEL

# Parks and Gardens

**STRASBOURG POSSESSES SEVERAL FINE GARDEN SETTINGS WHERE YOU MAY TAKE A BREATHER... OR CATCH YOUR BREATH. ALL OF THEM HAVE SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC, NATURAL OR CULTURAL POINTS OF INTEREST. GOING GREEN...**

## THE ORANGERIE PARK 26

This park, the oldest and largest park in Strasbourg (26 hectares) is the favourite place for the city's residents to take a stroll. It goes back to 1740 (or thereabouts). It was, at that time, a French-style classical garden with a grand "Allée Le Nôtre". In the Nineteenth Century the garden was integrated into an English-style park. Magnificent trees, centuries old, a lake with a romantic atmosphere, a zoo, a mini-farm for small children and the "Josephine Pavilion" are all part of its attractiveness.

The "Josephine Pavilion" dates from the very beginning of the Eighteenth Century. In 1801 the State gave the city of Strasbourg a collection of 138 splendid orange trees from the grounds of Bouxwiller Castle. This collection had been confiscated by Republicans during the Revolution. The Pavilion, built as an orangery and as a royal residence, was dedicated to Empress Josephine in 1806, hence its name.

## THE BOTANICAL GARDEN 27

This garden, with its luxuriant vegetation, is a real haven of peace, opened in 1884 during the time of the German Empire. As soon as you go through the gates, you quickly forget that you are in the middle of the city. Only the few fine buildings around it betray this.

The Botanical garden, whose surface covers 4 hectares, counts 500 trees, 1 500 shrubs and 6 000 species of plants from the entire world. At the heart of the garden is a very fine low 12-sided glasshouse, known as "Bary's" Glasshouse (a listed historical monument). It houses giant Amazonian water lilies in its 7-meter diameter heated pool. It is the only historic glasshouse remaining from the 1884 garden. The original large glasshouses were destroyed in 1963 after a violent hailstorm and replaced by the current glasshouses. Total change of scenery guaranteed...

### Access to Orangerie Park

- > Tram (line E)
- > "Droits de l'Homme" stop

### Access to the Botanical Garden

- > Tram (lines C, E, F)
- > "Université" or "Observatoire" stops



### Access to the district of the European Institutions

- > Tram (line E), "Parlement européen" or "Droits de l'Homme" stops

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, ARCHITECTURE STUDIO © PAUL PRIM





TWO SHORES FOOTBRIDGE, MARC MIMRAM © PHILIPPE DE REXEL

## POURTALÈS PARK

This 24-hectare park is a little way from the city centre in the Robertsau district of North Eastern Strasbourg. The highly flowery surroundings make it a charming place. Here, we are a long way from the noisy city... The main point of interest in the park is Pourtalès Castle, dating back to the Eighteenth Century.

In the Nineteenth Century the castle was the residence of Countess Melanie, organizer of grand receptions and wife of Count Edmond de Pourtalès. This period was the castle's time of glory and the elite and nobles of the whole of Europe visited it. But there's more to discover when strolling around, such as the amazing "Arborigènes" (figures covered in moss, hidden in the trees) large bronze ears and many other modern artworks. Here, nature and culture live in perfect harmony!

## THE TWO SHORES GARDEN

The Two Shores ("Jardin des Deux Rives") garden is a cross-border initiative on the part of the cities of Strasbourg and Kehl. It was inaugurated in 2004 and symbolizes Franco-German friendship. Its design is modern and it extends over an area covering both sides of the Rhine. The magnificent footbridge is a real work of art by architect Marc Mimram, allowing walkers and cyclists to cross the river and enjoy a unique view. The crossing is an exceptional experience, as the majestic power of the Rhine unfolds beneath the bridge. Cultural events are organized on a regular basis in the garden.

### Access to Pourtalès Park

- > By bike or car (northeast of Strasbourg, Robertsau district)

### Access to the Two Shores Garden :

- > Bus 2, "Jardin des Deux Rives" stop
- > Tram (D Line), "Port du Rhin" stop
- > Car: towards Kehl (Germany)

# → INNER ENRICHMENT

Although Strasbourg's spectacular UNESCO-listed heritage can be discovered from the outside first, it's a city that can also be explored indoors. Just step inside!

The city has ten municipal museums whose rich heritage is practically unrivalled in France, outside of Paris. These museums contain fascinating collections with many treasures.

The city's cultural reputation is well established, often extending far beyond France's borders, with the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Opéra National du Rhin, the National Theatre of Strasbourg, and more. As the seasons go by, the cultural life of Strasbourg is shaped by concerts, theatre productions, exhibitions and festivals. And don't forget about the wonderful Christmas Market of Strasbourg, a tradition of over 550 years, delighting visitors each year with its constantly renewed enchantment! Follow the guide...







AUBETTE 1928 © M. BERTOLA, MUSÉES DE STRASBOURG

# Museums and Discovery Spaces

**STRASBOURG BOASTS A VAST NETWORK OF MUNICIPAL MUSEUMS – IN FACT, IT'S ONE OF THE LARGEST MUSEUM NETWORKS IN FRANCE. ADD TO THAT OTHER INSTITUTIONS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, AND YOU'VE GOT A DIVERSE, SOPHISTICATED CULTURAL SCENE THAT OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

## AUBETTE 1928 <sup>1</sup>

Place Kléber

In 1922, André and Paul Horn, who were in demand respectively as architect and promoter in the context of urban renewal, hired the right wing of the Aubette building to make it into leisure complex. In 1926, they asked Theo Van Doesburg, Hans-Jean Arp and Sophie Taeuber-Arp to take on responsibility for decoration, furniture and basic design. The three artists created one of the major artistic works of the Twentieth Century. The decorations, which have been restored since 2006, having been partly destroyed before the Second World War, are surprisingly modern... Must be seen!

## ENGRAVING AND DRAWING OFFICE <sup>2</sup>

5 place du Château

An inestimable collection consisting of approximately 200,000 works in a wide variety of fields and techniques. Some are extremely rare (silverwork, ornament, architecture). Strictly for informed enthusiasts...  
→ *By reservation only.*

## ALSATIAN MUSEUM <sup>3</sup>

23 - 25 quai Saint-Nicolas

This museum of local art and traditions unfolds the daily life of citizens in rural Alsace during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries (costumes, furniture, pottery and toys...). The visit takes you through reconstructions of typical interiors and craft workshops on a journey through time... A museum full of charm.

## MUSEUM OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART <sup>4</sup>

1 place Hans-Jean-Arp

Tram stop "Musée d'art moderne" (B line)

Inaugurated in 1998, it presents collections from 1870 up to our era, enriched with several works placed here by institutions or individuals. Here you may admire works by Hans-Jean Arp (a considerable number), Braque, Monet, Gauguin, Dufy, Kupka, Kandinsky, Picasso, Ernst and Magritte... as well as a very large collection dealing with German contemporary art.

## STRASBOURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM <sup>5</sup>

2 rue du Vieux-Marché-aux-Poissons

This museum, located in the Ancienne Boucherie (1587), depicts the urban, political, economic and social history of Strasbourg throughout the period from the Middle Ages to the creation of the European institutions, with rich collections of paintings, works of graphic art, scale models (the 1727 map showing the city and the surrounding countryside in 1:600 scale), arms, military uniforms and objects from daily life... Travel through time!



MUSEUM OF MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART  
A. FAINSLBER © PHILIPPE DE REXEL

## ŒUVRE NOTRE DAME MUSEUM <sup>6</sup>

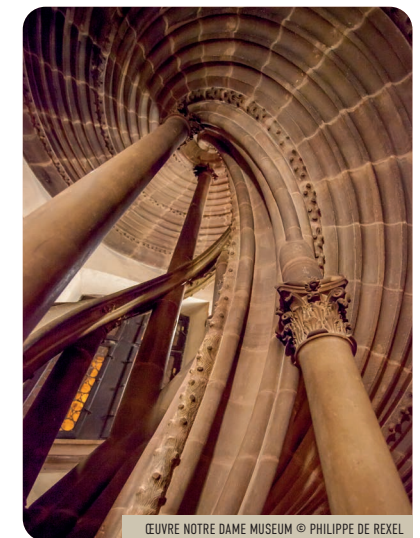
3 place du Château

Take a stroll in an outstanding setting and discover seven centuries of art in Strasbourg and the Upper Rhine region (housing rich Mediaeval and Renaissance collections). A number of statues - masterpieces from the cathedral may be seen here. Simply a must!

## TOMI UNGERER MUSEUM <sup>7</sup> INTERNATIONAL ILLUSTRATION CENTRE

Villa Greiner, 2 avenue de la Marseillaise  
Tram stop "République" (B, C, E and F lines)

Tomi Ungerer, designer and illustrator, was born in 1931 in Strasbourg. This artist of worldwide renown donated all of his work to his hometown in a fund of several thousand drawings. This fund is on permanent display, by rotation (drawings for children's books, satirical books, advertising, erotic works...). Tomi Ungerer's view of the world was often incisive. This work is magnificent, surprising and sometimes full of humour. A visit is a must ...



ŒUVRE NOTRE DAME MUSEUM © PHILIPPE DE REXEL



## ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM <sup>8</sup>

29 boulevard de la Victoire

Tram stop "University" (C, E and F lines).

This museum, built in the Eighteenth century on the basis of elements from Jean Herman's (doctor and Alsace naturalist) Natural History Office, presents the complete range of animal diversity through a collection that is one of the richest in France. All along the vast galleries, total wonderment is the watchword, particularly for children...

➔ *Closed due to renovations (reopening scheduled for 2024).*

## PALAIS ROHAN <sup>9</sup>

(Home to 3 museums) – 2, place du Château

### ➔ Archaeological Museum (Basement)

This is one of the richest of its kind in the field of French "National Antiquities". Here, the far distant past of Alsace from the pre-historic period to the dawn of the Middle-Ages is revealed.

### ➔ Decorative Arts Museum (Ground floor)

Here, the visitor may stroll through the sumptuous apartments used by Rohan's Cardinals and discover Strasbourg's Decorative Arts collections over the period from 1681 to the middle of the Nineteenth Century.

### ➔ Fine Art Museum (1<sup>st</sup> floor)

This museum presents a fascinating panorama of the history of painting in Europe from its beginnings in 1870 onwards: Italian and Flemish Primitive Art, Renaissance and Mannerism, Baroque, Naturalism and Classicism (from the Seventeenth to Nineteenth Centuries). An art lover's paradise...



Free entrance on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.  
[www.musees.strasbourg.eu](http://www.musees.strasbourg.eu) / +33 (0)3 68 98 50 00

DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM © M. BERTOLA

## THE 5<sup>e</sup> LIEU <sup>10</sup>

5 place du Château

If you're interested in architecture and heritage, a trip to the 5<sup>e</sup> Lieu is a must. The *Journey through Strasbourg* exhibition presents a vast, fascinating panorama of the city's urban history.

➔ [5elieu.strasbourg.eu](http://5elieu.strasbourg.eu)  
Tél. : + 33 (0)3 88 23 84 65

## THE HISTORIC WINE CELLAR OF STRASBOURG HOSPITAL <sup>11</sup>

1 place de l'Hôpital

Founded in 1395, the Historic Wine Cellar of Strasbourg Hospital boasts some fabulous treasures: masterpieces of barrel making, and even a wine from 1472 - the world's oldest white wine still stored in a barrel!

➔ [www.vins-des-hospices-de-strasbourg.fr](http://www.vins-des-hospices-de-strasbourg.fr)  
Tél. : +33 (3) 88 11 64 50

## CHÂTEAU MUSÉE VODOU <sup>12</sup>

4 rue de Koenigshoffen

Tram stop "Porte Blanche" (F line)

Located in a former water tower built in 1878, this museum features the largest private collection of West African voodoo objects in the world. You'll learn everything you ever wanted to know about divination, ancestor worship and witchcraft. Or almost...

➔ [www.chateau-vodou.com](http://www.chateau-vodou.com)  
Tél. : +33 (0)3 88 36 15 03

## LE MUSÉE DU CHOCOLAT BY SCHAAL

Rue du Pont-au-Péage – 67118 Geispolsheim

Tram stop "Graffenstaden" (A line)

Take a journey into the past and present of chocolate at the Schaal chocolate factory: from Ecuador to Alsace and from the cocoa bean to chocolate. Come have a delicious gourmet experience!

➔ [www.musee-du-chocolat.com](http://www.musee-du-chocolat.com)

## MMPARK MILITARY MUSEUM

4, rue Gutenberg - La Wantzenau (north of Strasbourg)

It is one of the largest museums in Europe devoted to the Second World War. With its unique collection of uniforms, weapons, military vehicles and machinery, this museum is fascinating for history buffs, and exciting for kids, too!

➔ [www.mmpark.fr](http://www.mmpark.fr)  
Tél. : +33 (0)3 88 59 25 43

## THE PLANETARIUM <sup>13</sup>

13 rue de l'Observatoire

Tram stop "Observatoire" (C, E, F lines)

Designed to raise awareness among all audiences (especially the youngest) about astronomy, the Planetarium offers sessions to discover the night sky full of stars, immersive films about astronomy and space, and guided tours of the big dome of the Astronomical Observatory (with its historic telescope).

*In French.*

➔ [jardin-sciences.unistra.fr](http://jardin-sciences.unistra.fr)  
Tél. : +33 (0)3 68 85 24 50

## LE VAISSEAU <sup>14</sup>

1bis rue Philippe-Dollinger

Tram stop "Winston Churchill" (C, E, F lines)

Explore the world of science, with lots of different areas to discover (construction, water, the human body, the animal kingdom, etc.) with more than 130 interactive elements that children, accompanied by an adult, can touch, test and explore. A unique way to discover science while having fun!

➔ [www.levaisseau.com](http://www.levaisseau.com)  
Tél. : +33 (0)3 69 33 26 69

Find all the practical information you'll need (prices, opening times, etc.) in the brochure "The whole town in your pocket", available from the Tourist Office and at [www.visitstrasbourg.fr](http://www.visitstrasbourg.fr).



OPÉRA NATIONAL DU RHIN © ALBAN HEFTI, VILLE ET EUROMÉTROPOLE DE STRASBOURG

## A Thriving Cultural Scene

**STRASBOURG HAS A WORLD-CLASS CULTURAL SCENE WHEN IT COMES TO MUSIC, THEATRE, ART AND LITERATURE, WITH RENOWNED CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND A WIDE, ABUNDANT VARIETY OF FESTIVALS. A SPECIAL SELECTION.**

### STRASBOURG, THE VIRTUOSO

Strasbourg boasts great facilities offering eclectic, top-notch cultural programming. The biggest names in French and international entertainment perform on the stages of the Palais de la Musique et des Congrès, the Laiterie, the Zénith and other venues. But the city is especially celebrated for its offerings in opera and classical music. Here's a closer look at two world-class institutions...

➔ **The Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Founded in 1855, it is one of the oldest symphonic orchestras of Europe and the oldest one in France. It owes its reputation to the famous conductors who have led it. Comprising 110 musicians, the OPS has achieved international renown, through its numerous tours abroad, recordings and TV performances. It gives 30 concerts a year in Strasbourg. [philharmonique.strasbourg.eu](http://philharmonique.strasbourg.eu)

➔ **The Opéra National du Rhin**  
Created from a merger between the opera houses of Strasbourg, Colmar and Mulhouse, the ONR has a choir of 44 singers and a ballet company of 33 dancers. It also has a branch devoted to young singers, called the Opéra Studio, as well as its own scenery and costume workshops. A major institution on the French and international opera scenes, it became a "National Opera" in 1997. Every season, the ONR presents nearly 200 performances, including operas, ballets, recitals and youth shows. [www.operanationaldurhin.eu/fr](http://www.operanationaldurhin.eu/fr)

### ON STAGE!

In Strasbourg, there are countless ways to do theatre. It's showtime!

➔ **The National Theatre of Strasbourg**  
The only national theatre outside of Paris, the TNS has a permanent troupe of actors and performs in two venues, with scenery and costumes created in-house. About fifteen shows are presented every season at 170 performances. [www.tns.fr](http://www.tns.fr)

➔ **The Maillon**  
The Maillon, a European stage renowned well beyond France's borders, explores the most contemporary forms of live performance. Constantly striving for modernity, it offers varied programming, at the crossroads of the disciplines of theatre, dance, the circus arts, music and the visual arts. [www.maillon.eu](http://www.maillon.eu)

➔ **The TJP**  
Particularly, but not exclusively, aimed at young audiences, the TJP - National Centre for Dramatic Arts of Strasbourg-Grand Est - is a place of creation devoted to puppetry. Focusing primarily on the theme of body-object-image, it has set itself the task of encouraging new playwriting and inventing a whole multitude of theatrical forms. [www.tjp-strasbourg.com](http://www.tjp-strasbourg.com)

### FESTIVAL FUN!

Throughout the year, cultural life in Strasbourg is shaped by festivals. Music, literature, cinema, visual arts... A rich, colourful array of events offering something for everyone.

When it comes to music, the most iconic festivals include **Musica** (contemporary music), **Jazzdor** (contemporary jazz), **Sacrées Journées** (sacred music), **Stras'Orgues** (organ festival of Strasbourg), **l'Ocosphère** (electronic music and visual arts) and **Contre-Temps** (electro-groove).

Of course, the city where Gutenberg invented the printing press has to celebrate books, which is why lots of literary events take place year-round here, such as the **Bibliothèques Idéales**, the **Rencontres de l'Illustration** and **Strasbulles**.

Although there are lots of other high points during the year, let's focus on the **big summer happening**, when, for two months, many free events take place, such as a big sound and light show around the cathedral, outdoor cinemas and concerts, street art, and more. And of course, in wintertime, there's the all-important "Strasbourg, Capital of Christmas" (see p. 28).

### ART IS LIFE...

The rich and varied arts culture of Strasbourg is evident in more than 25 art galleries, over 60 contemporary artworks installed in the public space and numerous venues devoted to modern art.

This vibrant art scene also includes France's second-largest contemporary art fair, **ST-ART**, which is held annually. This show is a key event for art enthusiasts and collectors, attracting hundreds of French and international art galleries. [www.st-art.com](http://www.st-art.com)

**With so much to discover, you're sure to find something you'll love!**



GREAT SUMMER SHOW © ALBAN HEFTI, VILLE ET EUROMÉTROPOLE DE STRASBOURG





CHRISTMAS MARKET, PLACE DE LA CATHÉDRALE © PHILIPPE DE REXEL

## Strasbourg, Capital of Christmas

**DATING BACK TO 1570, STRASBOURG'S CHRISTMAS MARKET IS ONE OF THE OLDEST IN EUROPE. ITS REPUTATION KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES. EVERY YEAR, THE MARKET LASTS A GOOD MONTH, DURING WHICH TIME VISITORS EXPERIENCE THIS AWESOME TRADITION DATING FROM FIVE CENTURIES AGO.**

If the *Christkindelsmärik* (Market of the Infant Jesus) in Place Broglie was the only site for this enchanting event up to a few years ago, things have really changed since then. Today its small wooden huts are spread throughout the whole city, at about ten different sites. In December Strasbourg is totally „nimbed“ (haloed) and is the most illuminated city in Europe. This lighting not only gives the city a warm atmosphere, but also reveals its extraordinary architectural heritage. Every street corner is enchanting, with sparkling decorations everywhere.

On the Place Kléber visitors discover not only the massive, majestic Christmas Tree (around 30 meters high!) but also choirs singing a cappella... Because “Strasbourg, Capital of Christmas” is much more than just a Christmas market! The city also organises numerous spiritual and humanist events: concerts in churches, entertainment, exhibitions and actions of solidarity.

The Strasbourg Christmas market is a feast for the eyes and for the soul... It is unique!

### STRASBOURG, CAPITAL OF CHRISTMAS

> Dates and program:  
[www.noel.strasbourg.eu](http://www.noel.strasbourg.eu)

## → THE CITY FROM ANOTHER ANGLE

In terms of environmental conservation, Strasbourg and its urban area have always been a step ahead... A vast pedestrian sector, a tram that serves the town and a large portion of the Eurometropolis from East to West and North to South, peripheral car parks (linked to the tram network) to avoid traffic congestion in the city itself and a network of cycling paths of unrivalled density... Soft methods of transport are given increasing preference and Strasbourg is demonstrably one of the most pleasant cities to visit, since its town centre is practically car free. Follow the guide...







RHINE PALACE © ELSA\_CYRIL

# Strasbourg, Leading in Soft Mobility

**ALTHOUGH CARS ARE NOT COMPLETELY FORBIDDEN ON THE GRANDE-ÎLE, THEY ARE MAINLY HEADING FOR ... THE CAR PARK ENTRANCES! FOR A BRIEF VISIT, THEY FIT THE BILL PERFECTLY. FOR LONGER PERIODS A TRAM IS A BETTER CHOICE, USING THE PARK AND RIDE FACILITIES ALL-ROUND THE EDGE OF THE TOWN CENTRE. LET'S GET GOING...**

## GETTING AROUND TOWN ON FOOT

The Grande-Île, at the heart of the city, has the enormous advantage of being fairly concentrated. Without question, walking is the best way to get around, because when you're on foot, you can wander through the old town admiring its architectural masterpieces. Strasbourg has set up a pedestrian plan guaranteeing space and safety... Why not take advantage of it!

## CYCLING AROUND TOWN...

There are a particularly large number of cycle paths in Strasbourg - no less than 600 kilometres within the conurbation! The town is a pioneer when it comes to cycling: it's the second most bike-friendly city in France. So to experience Strasbourg like the locals do, hop on a bike to explore the town! It's also an opportunity to get off the beaten path and discover all the riches of the Eurometropolis (see p. 32).

### HOP ON! A VÉLHOP!

With conventional bikes, electric bikes, cargo bikes, tandem bikes, or kids' bikes, long- or short-term and one-off or regular hire, Vélhop meets everyone's needs!

Bicycles may be hired in shops or (for conventional bikes) at automatic stations.  
[www.velhop.strasbourg.eu](http://www.velhop.strasbourg.eu) / +33 (0)3 67 70 70 70

## THE CITY BY TRAM

Featuring 6 tram lines and 2 bus rapid transit lines, the tram system is the backbone of Strasbourg's transport network. It is the biggest tram system in France, with 70 km of track, and the only integrated one. It features park and ride facilities: a clever way to combine cars with public transport for an extremely low price. It's a very affordable way to come spend the day in Strasbourg.

Fun fact: the Strasbourg tram system even crosses the border to go to the neighbouring city of Kehl, Germany. Perfect for a cross-border excursion!

### PARK AND RIDE FACILITIES

For less than €5, park your car for the day and get a return tram ticket for everyone in the car (up to 7 people). \*

\* Rate as of 1/1/22. You may not park for more than one day at a time, and you must make the return journey on the same day.

Tram and park and ride information:  
[www.cts-strasbourg.eu](http://www.cts-strasbourg.eu)



© PHILIPPE DE REXEL



# ➔ DISCOVERING THE RICHES OF THE EUROMETROPOLIS

For visitors who feel like getting off the beaten path, enjoying green tourism, or just broadening their horizons, the Eurometropolis has so many treasures, often overlooked and sometimes out of the ordinary, just waiting to be discovered.

For fascinating excursions within easy reach of Strasbourg, there's so much to choose from, including remarkable heritage, exciting cultural opportunities, abundant nature, vibrant local traditions and sports and leisure activities. Here's a selection...



JEWISH RITUAL BATH MUSEUM © NICOLAS TARGET, VILLE DE BISCHHEIM

## A RICH HERITAGE

Thanks to its central geographic position, Alsace has been a crossroads of Europe for centuries. Its complex, fascinating history is still evident in the architectural heritage of the towns in the Eurometropolis. Catholic and Protestant churches, synagogues, places of pilgrimage steeped in legend, castles and luxury mansions from the 17th and 18th centuries and military and industrial heritage sites are juxtaposed with humble artefacts of rural life in the past. It's a journey through the centuries, a discovery of history, writ large and small.

A gem of the Middle Ages, **St Trophimus' Church** makes a trip to Eschau well worth the detour. Built around the year one thousand, this vestige of a highly renowned abbey is one of the finest examples of Romanesque art in the Bas-Rhin area. Visitors will admire its refined simplicity, which is so conducive to reflection...

A testament to the rich multicultural fabric of Alsace, the **Musée du Bain Rituel Juif** (Jewish Ritual Bath Museum) in **Bischheim** explores the unique characteristics of Alsatian Judaism and presents a very fine *mikveh* (ritual bath) from the late 18th century. As the region has been at the centre of numerous conflicts, it also has a significant military heritage: the ring of fourteen forts built around Strasbourg after the Franco-Prussian War reflects this agitated history. Some of the forts have been refurbished and can be visited (Fort Ducrot in Mundolsheim, Fort Frère in

Oberhausbergen, Fort Rapp in Reichstett and Fort Kléber and its park in Wolfsheim); an exciting opportunity for young and old alike.

Hops are grown in Alsace, and the region also boasts a significant beer brewing heritage that can be explored by visiting **Schiltigheim**, aptly nicknamed the "city of brewers".

But the towns of the Eurometropolis have much more to be discovered...

## EXCITING CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

Although Strasbourg itself boasts numerous renowned cultural institutions, the Eurometropolis also has plenty going on to fill a rich, varied cultural programme, year round.

With its programming of major shows and internationally renowned performers, the **Zenith Strasbourg Europe** in **Eckbolsheim**, the largest indoor arena in France, designed by Massimiliano Fuksas, attracts a wide variety of people who come from well beyond the limits of the city and the region.

There are lots of other performance halls in the Eurometropolis, including the **Cheval Blanc** in **Schiltigheim**, the **Illiadé** in **Illkirch**, the **Préo** in **Oberhausbergen**, the **Salle du Cercle** in **Bischheim**, the **Point d'Eau** in **Ostwald**, and many more. Locals go to these venues to enjoy high quality shows and concerts, with an intimate ambiance that lends itself to a sense of proximity to the performers.





HOUSE IN SCHILTIGHEIM © BLACK THL

The Eurometropolis also features major annual festivals that fit in nicely with the major festivals of Strasbourg. For over 20 years, the **Printemps des Bretelles** festival in Illkirch has been celebrating the accordion, on a musical voyage around the world. It's a festive moment awaited eagerly every year by fans who like to kick up their heels! As for the **Wolfjazz** festival, it brings some of the biggest names in the international jazz scene to unique surroundings, at Fort Kléber in Wolfisheim, for an outdoor celebration of the beginning of summer. A festival not to be missed by jazz fans! But there's more than music to be enjoyed: kids of all ages should head on over to **Schiltigheim** for **Schilick'on carnet**, a friendly, family-oriented fair for illustration and children's books, where visitors get to meet authors and illustrators.

There are so many great reasons to venture outside of Strasbourg for a cultural outing!

## DISCOVERING LOCAL TRADITIONS

Alsace is fiercely proud of its roots. Strasbourg and the surrounding region uphold certain vibrant traditions - be they culinary, festive or religious - and, every year, Alsations relish participating in lots of different events that keep this folklore alive.

When it comes to food and drink festivals, there's so much to choose from! Among the most popular, there's the very jovial **Beer Festival** in Schiltigheim, the **Potato Festival** in Vendenheim and the **Sauerkraut Festival** in Geispolsheim. As for the **Carnaval du Bouc Bleu**, a parade that goes through Hoenheim,

**Bischheim** and **Schiltigheim**, it's a not-to-be-missed event for young and old alike. Christmas traditions run very deep in Alsace: most of the towns in the Eurometropolis take delight in celebrating by putting up lights and decorations and organising their own **Christmas markets** with a friendly, easy-going atmosphere.

For an experience of religious traditions, **Geispolsheim** is the place to go, during the **Feast of Corpus Christi**. The village is decked out with flowers and decorations, and the residents put on their traditional Alsatian costumes to greet the procession, one of the last great traditional religious processions in Alsace.

For a first-hand experience of genuine Alsatian traditions, visitors don't need to venture far outside of Strasbourg, for a real change of scenery!

## FOR NATURE LOVERS

The Eurometropolis boasts a very rich natural environment featuring a multitude of places where visitors can go to get back to nature. For example, the **Forest of La Wantzenau**, partially listed as a national nature reserve for its biodiversity, will enchant nature lovers, botanists, bird watchers and other budding explorers. As for the **Hausbergen hills**, the highest point in the Eurometropolis, they're delightful for their breathtaking views of the Plain of Alsace, the Black Forest and the Vosges. In summer, locals like to go there for picnics at sunset...

The Eurometropolis is also very proud of its exceptional parks and gardens and of its peaceful ponds, such as the **Vogelau Ponds** in **Hoenheim**. A romantic stroll, through the **gardens of the castle of Kolbsheim**, is a must. The site, which has been awarded the "Remarkable Garden" label and is also a Historical Monument, is enchanting for its variety of landscape designs - a French formal garden, an English style garden - set out in terraces, overlooking the Plain of Alsace. Botanical enthusiasts will enjoy the collections of the **Rose Garden** in **Schiltigheim** (featuring over 390 different rose varieties), as well as the monastic garden of the abbey church of Eschau, also awarded the "Remarkable Garden" label, with over 400 medicinal plants, highlighting the fascinating history of medicinal plants.

## FAMILY SPORTS AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Nothing could be better than an excursion in the Eurometropolis to satisfy the boundless curiosity of kids, and whet their appetite for adventure.

The little ones will be overjoyed to see and pet lots of free-roaming animals at the **Friedel Animal Park** in Illkirch. For fearless little adventurers (and parents who aren't afraid of heights), the high ropes course of the **Natura Parc** in **Ostwald** is a thrilling experience. Gourmets will enjoy the

**Chocolate Museum** in **Geispolsheim**. And as for history buffs and fans of role playing and heavy machinery, they'll be amazed by the military museum, **MM Park** in **La Wantzenau**, which displays an enormous World War II collection, unique in Europe.

Very close to Strasbourg, lots of water areas are enjoyed by Alsations, to cool off and have fun in summertime: **La Ballastière** in **Bischheim**, **Achard Lake** and **Baggersee Lake** in **Illkirch**, the water areas of **Reichstett** and **Plobsheim** (with a water sports centre), and more. The hard part is deciding where to go! Another great option is to head to one of the urban area's municipal swimming pools, such as the one in **Lingolsheim**, featuring a retractable dome roof, which makes it an ideal spot for fun, year-round.

Golfers will enjoy renowned courses, such as the ones in **Illkirch**, **Plobsheim** and **La Wantzenau**. And horse racing fans will love the **Pentecost horse races** in **Eckwersheim**, a tradition dating back to the 19th century.

Finally, to get some fresh air and go sightseeing, it's fun to rent a bike and ride on the **Forts Trail** (*Piste des Forts*) or the **Bruche Canal Trail**. These two bike paths, which run alongside water and through woods and fields, are very pretty and peaceful. Cyclists can plan a route to explore the Eurometropolis at their own pace, and discover its many treasures.

It's time to get pedalling!



More information at  
> [www.visitstrasbourg.fr](http://www.visitstrasbourg.fr)  
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VOGELAU PONDS © VILLE DE HOENHEIM



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