

PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions to help you put together your perfect trip

Welcome to France	2
Map	4
15 Top Experiences	6
Need to Know	14
First Time	16
What's New	18
If You Like	19
Month by Month	22
Itineraries	25
Eat & Drink Like a Local	31
Travel with Children	36
Regions at a Glance	42



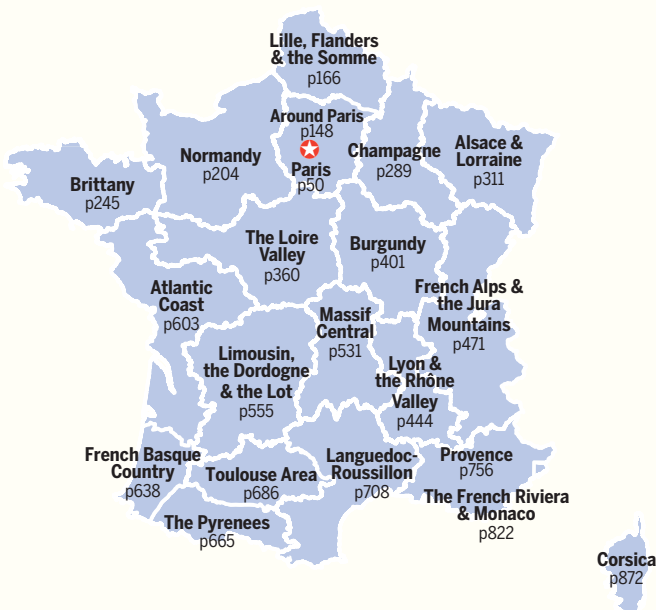
UNDERSTAND FRANCE

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

Learn about the big picture, so you can make sense of what you see

France Today	902
History	905
The French	921
Bon Appetit	926
French Wine	928
The Arts	932
Architecture	939
Lyrical Landscapes	944





Directory A–Z	952
Transport	968
Language	979
Index	988
Map Legend	1006



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**Oliver Berry, Stuart Butler, Jean-Bernard Carillet, Kerry Christiani,
Gregor Clark, Emilie Filou, Catherine Le Nevez**

➤ Every listing is recommended by our authors, and their favourite places are listed first

➤ Look out for these icons:



Our author's top recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required

PARIS50

AROUND PARIS148

Disneyland Resort Paris . . 151
Versailles 152
Fontainebleau 157

LILLE, FLANDERS & THE SOMME166

Lille 168
Calais 177
Côte d'Opale 180
Cassel 186
Battle of the Somme
Memorials 194

NORMANDY.....204

SEINE-MARITIME 207
Rouen 207
EURE 217
Giverny 218
CALVADOS 219
Bayeux 219
D-Day Beaches 222
MANCHE 238
Mont St-Michel 240

BRITTANY245

NORTH COAST 247
St-Malo 247
Dinan 258
FINISTÈRE 261
Roscoff 261
Presqu'île de Crozon . . 268
Quimper 270

MORBIHAN COAST 274
Belle Île 278
Vannes 280

EASTERN & CENTRAL
BRITTANY 282
Rennes 284

CHAMPAGNE.....289

Reims 291
Champagne Routes
of the Marne 297
Troyes 303

ALSACE & LORRAINE 311

ALSACE 313
Strasbourg 313
Route des Vins d'Alsace . 326
Colmar 334
LORRAINE 344
Nancy 344
Metz 350
Verdun 355

THE LOIRE VALLEY360

ORLÉANAIS 363
Orléans 364
BLÉSOIS 370
Blois 370
TOURAINE 375
Tours 375
Amboise 381
Château de Villandry . . 386
Chinon 389

ANJOU 391
Saumur 391
Angers 396

BURGUNDY401

CÔTE D'OR 404
Dijon 404
Côte d'Or Vineyards . . . 411
Beaune 415
YONNE 423
Auxerre 423
Vézelay 434

PARC NATUREL
RÉGIONAL DU MORVAN . 437
SAÔNE-ET-LOIRE 438
Autun 438

LYON & THE RHÔNE VALLEY ... 444

Lyon 446
North of Lyon 466
Downstream along
the Rhône 467

FRENCH ALPS & THE JURA MOUNTAINS.. 471

SAVOY 477
Chamonix 477
Annecy 490
DAUPHINÉ 506
Grenoble 506
Briançon 518
THE JURA MOUNTAINS . 520
Besançon 520
Parc Naturel Régional
du Haut-Jura 529

On the Road

MASSIF CENTRAL . . 531

CLERMONT-FERRAND . . . 533

Vichy 537

PARC NATUREL
RÉGIONAL DES
VOLCANS D'AUVERGNE . . 540

Le Mont-Dore 542

PARC NATUREL
RÉGIONAL LIVRADOIS-
FOREZ 547

LE PUY-EN-VELAY 548

LIMOUSIN, THE DORDOGNE & THE LOT 555

LIMOUSIN 558

Limoges 558

THE DORDOGNE 572

Périgueux 572

Sarlat-la-Canéda 580

Vézère Valley 584

THE LOT 594

Cahors 594

ATLANTIC COAST 603

UPPER

ATLANTIC COAST 606

Nantes 606

CENTRAL

ATLANTIC COAST 611

Poitiers 611

Cognac 620

LOWER

ATLANTIC COAST 622

Bordeaux 622

St-Émilion 632

FRENCH BASQUE COUNTRY 638

Bayonne 639

Biarritz 645

St-Jean de Luz

& Ciboure 654

THE PYRENEES . . . 665

Pau 667

Lourdes 670

Vallée d'Aspe 676

Cauterets 679

Vallée de l'Ariège 683

TOULOUSE AREA . . 686

Toulouse 688

Albi 697

Montauban 701

Condom 704

LANGUEDOC- ROUSSILLON 708

BAS-LANGUEDOC 709

Nîmes 709

Montpellier 719

Sète 726

Carcassonne 729

HAUT-LANGUEDOC 735

Gorges du Tarn 738

ROUSSILLON 745

Perpignan 746

PROVENCE 756

MARSEILLE REGION 760

Aix-en-Provence 773

ARLES &
THE CAMARGUE 780

LES ALPILLES 789

St-Rémy de Provence 789

THE VAUCLUSE 791

Avignon 791

THE LUBERON 808

Apt 808

NORTHEASTERN

PROVENCE 816

Gorges du Verdon 818

Parc National du

Mercantour 820

THE FRENCH RIVIERA & MONACO 822

NICE TO TOULON 826

Antibes & Juan-les-Pins . . 837

Cannes 840

Fréjus & St-Raphaël 851

St-Tropez 853

NICE TO MENTON 860

The Three Corniches 860

Monaco 861

CORSICA 872

BASTIA & CAP CORSE 875

LA BALAGNE 881

Île Rousse 881

PORTO TO AJACCIO 886

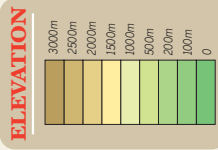
THE SOUTH 892

Bonifacio 892

Porto-Vecchio 895

CORTE AREA 897

Top Experiences >



Carnac

Cycle past mysterious
megaliths (p275)

Dune du Pilat

Climb Europe's largest
sand dune (p636)

Bay of
Biscay

Carcassonne

Linger in the spectacular
walled city (p729)

Lyon

Feast in France's
gastronomic capital (p446)

The Three Corniches

Drive a trio of coastal
cliff-hangers (p860)

To Corsica (50km,
see inset)

Provence

Meander markets and
hilltop villages (p756)

Pont du Gard

See the highest aqueduct
in the Roman Empire (p715)

ANDORRA LA VELLA

PYRENEES

Vignemale
(3298m)

PAU

St-Jean
de Baigorri

PAMPLONA

Monte Perdido
(3355m)

BARCELONA

Collioure

ROUSILLON

Perpignan

LANGUEDOC

Montpellier

MASSIF CENTRAL

St-Etienne

LYON

Roanne

PROVENCE

Nice

MONACO

Antibes

ITALY

Chamonix

JURA

Arbois

FRANCE

Paris

SPAIN

Zaragoza

ANDORRA

La Vella

PORTUGAL

Lisbon

UK

London

IRELAND

Dublin

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh

Wales

Cardiff

ENGLAND

Manchester

SCOTLAND

Glasgow

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Swansea

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Jean-Bernard Carillet

Normandy, Burgundy Paris-based (and Metz-born) journalist and photographer Jean-Bernard was delighted to research his own turf. He has clocked up countless trips to all French regions and written extensively about Provence, the Basque Country, Brittany, Alsace, Corsica and, of course, Burgundy and Normandy. As a hopeless French gourmand, he confesses a pronounced penchant for *cuisine du terroir* and robust tipples (Pernand-Vergelesses and Gigondas being two of his favourites). Just after completing this project he set off to Beaujolais and Marais Poitevin.



Kerry Christiani

Champagne, Alsace & Lorraine, French Alps & the Jura Mountains Kerry has been travelling to France since her school days to brush up her *français*, which she studied to MA level. The high-altitude pull of the Alps, Alsace's sweet eccentricities and Champagne's wineries draw her back time and again. Kerry has authored some 20 guidebooks and frequently contributes to magazines, including *Olive*, *Lonely Planet Magazine* and bbc.com/travel. She tweets at @kerrychristiani and lists her latest work at www.kerrychristiani.com.

Read more about Kerry at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/kerrychristiani



Gregor Clark

Lille, Flanders & the Somme, The Loire Valley, Lyon & the Rhône Valley, Massif Central Gregor's love affair with France started on the midnight streets of Paris at age 14, when, jetlagged and culture-shocked, he ordered a crêpe and discovered that his high school Franglais actually elicited a response. He's been feeding his France obsession ever since, picking fruit on summers off from university, leading bike tours, and writing for *Lonely Planet* since 2000. Highlights of this research

trip include sharing his daughters' enthusiasm for their rented Loire Valley troglodyte house, and hiking the Massif Central.

Read more about Gregor at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/gregorclark



Emilie Filou

Provence, The French Riviera & Monaco Emilie was born in Paris but spent most of her childhood holidays roaming the south of France. She left France when she was 18 to go travelling and never quite made it back. She now lives in London, where she works as a freelance journalist specialising in development issues in Africa. She still goes to the Côte d'Azur every summer. See more of Emilie's work on www.emiliefilou.com; she tweets at @emiliefilou.

Read more about Emilie at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/emiliefilou



Catherine Le Nevez

Paris, Around Paris Catherine first lived in Paris aged four and she's been returning at every opportunity since, completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, Masters in Professional Writing, and post-grad qualifications in Editing and Publishing along the way. Revisiting her favourite Parisian haunts and uncovering new ones is a highlight of this (and every) book. Catherine's writing on Paris includes numerous *Lonely Planet* guides to the city, country, continent and beyond.

Wanderlust aside, Paris remains her favourite city on earth.



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Nicola Williams

Coordinating Author, Plan Your Trip, Corsica, Understand, Survival Guide Author, travel writer and editorial consultant Nicola Williams has lived in France and written about it for more than a decade. From her hillside house on the southern shore of Lake Geneva, it's a quick and easy hop to the French Alps (call her a ski fiend...), Paris (art buff...), southern France (foodie...). She has worked on numerous titles for Lonely Planet, including *France*, *Discover France*, *Paris* and *Provence & the Côte d'Azur*. She blogs at tripalong.wordpress.com and tweets at @Tripalong.

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lonelyplanet.com/members/nicolawilliams



Oliver Berry

Limousin, the Dordogne & the Lot, The Pyrenees, Toulouse Area, Languedoc-Roussillon Oliver's French love affair began at the age of two, and he's since travelled right across L'Hexagone while contributing to several editions of Lonely Planet's *France* guide, amongst other books. Research highlights for this edition included hunting for truffles in the Dordogne, canoeing in the Gorges du Tarn and hiking to the Cirque de Gavarnie in the Pyrenees. He lives and works in Cornwall as a writer and photographer. You can see his latest work at www.oliverberry.com.

Read more about Oliver at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/oliverberry



Stuart Butler

Brittany, Atlantic Coast, French Basque Country Stuart's first encounters with southwest France came on family holidays. When he was older he spent every summer surfing off the beaches of the southwest until one day he found himself so hooked on the region that he was unable to leave – he has been there ever since. When not writing for Lonely Planet he hunts for uncharted surf on remote coastlines. The results of these trips appear frequently in the world's surf media.

His website is www.stuartbutlerjournalist.com.

Read more about Stuart at:
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OVER MORE
PAGE WRITERS

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

10th edition – Mar 2013

ISBN 978 1 74220 036 1

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

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