



Lyon & the Rhône Valley

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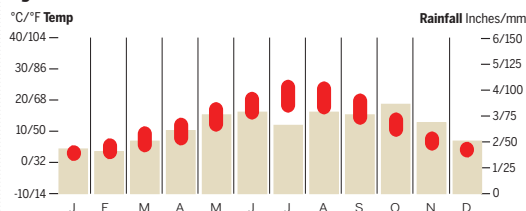
Why Go?

At the crossroads of central Europe and the Atlantic, the Rhineland and the Mediterranean, grand old Lyon is France's third-largest metropolis and its gastronomic capital. Savouring lavish dishes and delicacies in timeless, checked-tablecloth *bouchons* (small bistros) or cutting-edge eating spaces creates unforgettable memories – as do Lyon's majestic Roman amphitheatres, its cobbled Unesco-listed old town, the romantic parks and the rejuvenated riverfront, just for starters.

Beaujolais produces illustrious wines, while the picturesque hilltop village of Pérouges turns out traditional sugar-crusted tarts. Downstream, the Rhône forges past centuries-old Côtes du Rhône vineyards yielding some of France's most respected reds, Valence's *pâtisseries* filled with historic shortbread, and Montélimar's artisan nougat factories, eventually reaching the rugged Gorges de l'Ardèche, where the Ardèche River tumbles to the gates of Languedoc and Provence.

WhentoGo

Lyon



Jun-Jul Catch live performances at Vienne's jazz festival or Lyon's Nuits de Fourvière.

Mid-Nov Tapping of the first bottles of Beaujolais *nouveau*, the third Thursday in November.

Early Dec See Lyon spectacularly illuminated during the Fête des Lumières.

Lyon & the Rhône Valley Highlights

- 1** Delve into Lyon's hidden labyrinth of **traboules** (secret passageways;p454)
- 2** Bike the vine-ribboned hills of **Beaujolais**(p466)
- 3** See dramatic Gallo-Roman ruins, including a perfectly preserved Corinthian-columned **temple** (p467)inVienne
- 4** Hop on a boat downstream to the **Confluence**(p463), Lyon's newest neighbourhood near the meeting of the Rhône and Saône rivers
- 5** Learn about Lyon's silk-weaving heritage in **Croix Rousse**(p452)
- 6** Canoe beneath the stunning natural stone bridge Pont d'Arc along the **Gorges de l'Ardèche** (p469)
- 7** Catch a traditional **puppet show**(p461) featuring Lyon's charismatic little raconteur, Guignol
- 8** See Lyon through the eyes of a local expert on one of the superb **walking tours** (p454)organised by the tourist office



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