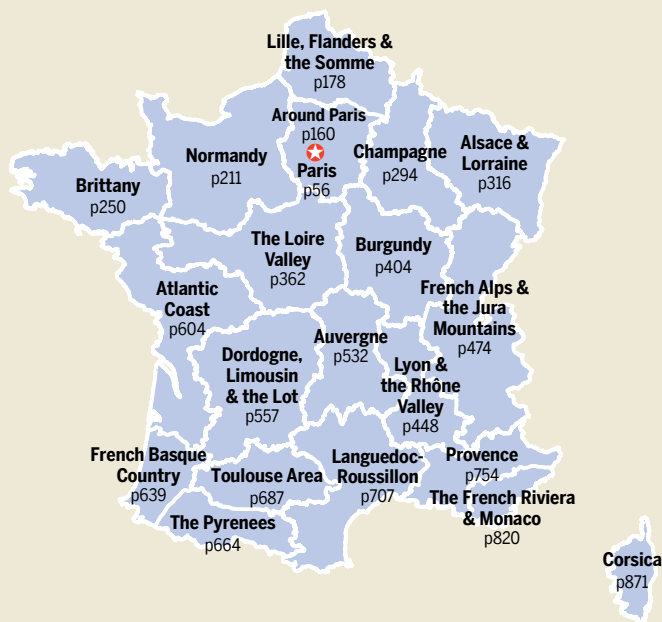




France



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Nicola Williams,

Alexis Averbeck, Oliver Berry, Jean-Bernard Carillet,

Kerry Christiani, Gregor Clark, Anita Isalska, Catherine Le Nevez,

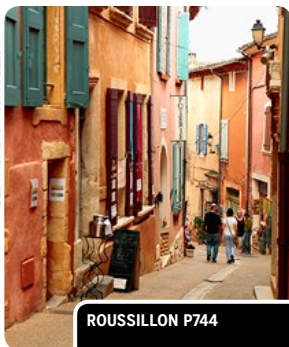
Hugh McNaughtan, Christopher Pitts, Daniel Robinson and Regis St Louis

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to France.....	6
France Map	8
France's Top 15	10
Need to Know	18
First Time France	20
What's New	22
If You Like...	23
Month by Month.....	26
Itineraries	29
Eat & Drink	
Like a Local	34
Travel with Children... ..	39
Outdoor Activities	44
Regions at a Glance... ..	49



VINEYARD,
ST-ÉMILION P633



ROUSSILLON P744

ON THE ROAD

PARIS

Bayeux	225
D-Day Beaches	228
Caen	234
Trouville & Deauville ...	237
Honfleur	239
Manche.....	243
Cherbourg	243
Mont St-Michel.....	244

AROUND PARIS ...

Disneyland Resort	
Paris	161
Versailles	162
Giverny.....	167
Fontainebleau	169
Vaux-le-Vicomte	171
Chantilly.....	171
Chartres.....	174

LILLE, FLANDERS & THE SOMME

Lille.....	180
Flanders & Artois.....	187
Cassel	187
Arras.....	188
Lens	190
Côte d'Opale	190
Calais	192
Boulogne-sur-Mer	194
Baie de Somme.....	197
Le Crotoy	197
St-Valery-sur-Somme ...	198

Battle of the Somme, Flanders & Artois Memorials	200
Picardy.....	205
Amiens	205
Compiègne	208
Laon	210

NORMANDY.....

Seine-Maritime.....	213
Rouen.....	213
Dieppe	218
Eure.....	224
Les Andelys.....	224
Calvados	225

BRITTANY

St-Malo.....	252
Dinard	258
Cancale	259
Dinan	261
Paimpol.....	264
Roscoff.....	265
Morlaix.....	267
Brest.....	268
Île d'Ouessant.....	270
Presqu'île de Crozon ...	272
Quimper	274
Concarneau.....	277
Pont-Aven	278
Carnac	279
Quiberon	282
Belle Île	284
Vannes	286
Josselin	288
Forêt de Paimpont	289
Rennes	290
Vitré	293

CHAMPAGNE.....

Reims	296
Champagne Routes of the Marne	301
Épernay	306
Troyes.....	309
Champagne Route of the Côte des Bar ...	313

Contents

ALSACE & LORRAINE 316

Alsace	317
Strasbourg	320
Route des Vins d'Alsace	329
Colmar	339
Massif des Vosges	344
Mulhouse	346
Lorraine	347
Nancy	347
Baccarat	353
Metz	353
Verdun	358
American Memorials	361

THE LOIRE VALLEY 362

Orléanais	366
Orléans	366
Orléans to Sully-sur-Loire	370
La Sologne	371
Blésois	371
Blois	371
Chambord	374
Cheverny	375
Chaumont-sur-Loire	375
Touraine	376
Tours	376
Rochecorbon & Vouvray	381
Chenonceaux	382
Amboise	382
Villandry	385
Langeais	388
Azay-le-Rideau	389
Loches	390
Chinon	391
Anjou	393
Saumur	393
Angers	400

BURGUNDY 404

Côte d'Or	406
Dijon	406
Côte d'Or Vineyards	412
Beaune	417
Abbaye de Cîteaux	423
Pays d'Auxois	423
Yonne	426
Auxerre	426
La Puisaye	430
Chablis	431
Tonnerre	432
Noyers-sur-Serein	433
Avallon	434
Vézelay	436

Parc Naturel Régional du Morvan ... 438

Saône-et-Loire	439
Autun	439
Bibracte	441
Tournus	442
Cluny	442
Mâcon & Around	444

LYON & THE RHÔNE VALLEY ... 448

Lyon	450
Beaujolais	466
La Dombes	469
Vienne	470
Valence	471
Gorges de l'Ardèche	472

FRENCH ALPS & THE JURA MOUNTAINS 474

Savoy	478
Chamonix	479
Megève & St-Gervais	487
Les Portes du Soleil	488
Évian-les-Bains	490

Anancy	490
Chambéry	496
Les Trois Vallées	501
Val d'Isère	503
Parc National de la Vanoise	506
Dauphiné	507
Grenoble	507
Les Deux Alpes	514
Alpe d'Huez	515
Bourg d'Oisans	516
Briançon	517
The Jura Mountains ...	519
Besançon	519
Belfort	528
Parc Naturel Régional du Haut-Jura	529
Métabief & Around	530

AUVERGNE 532

Clermont-Ferrand	534
Riom	537
Vichy	538
Pays d'Issoire	542
Parc Naturel Régional des Volcans d'Auvergne	543
Volvic	543
Puy de Dôme & Around	544
Orcival	545
Col de Guéry	545
Le Mont-Dore	546
Murat & the Monts du Cantal	548
Salers	549
Parc Naturel Régional Livradois-Forez	549
Thiers	550
La Chaise-Dieu	550
Le Puy-en-Velay	551
Gorges de L'Allier	556

ON THE ROAD

DORDOGNE, LIMOUSIN & THE LOT 557

The Dordogne 559

Périgueux.....	559
Brantôme.....	563
Bergerac.....	564
Issigeac.....	566
Monpazier.....	567
The Dordogne Valley.....	568
Sarlat-la-Canéda.....	572
The Vézère Valley.....	575

Limousin 583

Limoges.....	583
Aubusson.....	587
Rochechouart.....	589
Solignac.....	589
Uzerche.....	589
Brive-la-Gaillarde.....	590

The Lot 594

Cahors.....	594
-------------	-----

ATLANTIC COAST... 604

Nantes.....	606
Poitiers.....	611
Marais Poitevin.....	613
La Rochelle.....	613
Île de Ré.....	617
Cognac.....	619
Bordeaux.....	622
The Médoc.....	632
St-Émilion.....	633
Arcachon.....	635

FRENCH BASQUE COUNTRY 639

Bayonne.....	640
Biarritz.....	645
Guéthary.....	655
St-Jean de Luz & Ciboure.....	655



ÉCLAIRS DISPLAY
IN A PATISSERIE

La Rhune.....	660
Ainhoa.....	661
Espelette.....	661
St-Jean Pied de Port.....	662
St-Étienne de Baïgorry.....	663

THE PYRENEES ... 664

Pau.....	666
Lourdes.....	670
Parc National des Pyrénées.....	674
Vallée d'Aspe.....	675
Vallée d'Ossau.....	677
Cauterets.....	679
Vallée des Gaves & Around.....	681
Vallée de Garonne.....	682
Vallée de l'Ariège.....	683

TOULOUSE AREA... 687

Toulouse.....	689
Albi.....	698
Montauban.....	701
Moissac.....	701
Castres.....	703
Auch.....	703
Condom.....	704

LANGUEDOC- ROUSSILLON 707

Bas-Languedoc..... 710

Nîmes.....	710
Pont du Gard.....	714
Uzès.....	715
Montpellier.....	717
Sète.....	724
Bouzigues.....	726
Agde.....	727
Narbonne.....	727
Carcassonne.....	729
Haut-Languedoc.....	733
Parc National des Cévennes.....	733
Florac.....	737
Gorges du Tarn.....	739
Parc Naturel Régional des Grands Causses.....	740
Millau.....	741
Mende.....	742
Roquefort.....	743
Roussillon 744	
Perpignan.....	744
Céret.....	748
Têt Valley.....	750
Côte Vermeille.....	750

Contents

UNDERSTAND

PROVENCE 754

Marseille 755

Aix-en-Provence 773

Arles & the Camargue... 778

Arles 778

Camargue

Countryside..... 785

Stes-Maries-de-la-Mer... 787

Les Alpilles 789

St-Rémy-de-Provence... 789

Les Baux-de-Provence... 791

The Vaucluse 792

Avignon 792

Villeneuve-lès-Avignon... 800

Orange 800

Vaison-la-Romaine..... 802

Mont Ventoux 803

Carpentras 805

Fontaine-de-Vaucluse... 806

The Luberon 807

Apt 808

Le Petit Luberon..... 812

Le Grand Luberon 814

**Northeastern Provence
& the Southern Alps**... 815

Pays de Forcalquier 815

Vallée de la Durance 816

Gorges du Verdon..... 816

Moustiers Ste-Marie
& Around 818

THE FRENCH RIVIERA & MONACO 820

Nice 821

Cannes 833

Antibes &
Juan-les-Pins..... 841

Mougins &
Mouans-Sartoux..... 844

Grasse 845

Vence 847

St-Paul de Vence 848

Corniche de l'Estérel... 849

Fréjus 849

St-Tropez 851

Massif des Maures..... 854

Corniche des Maures... 855

Hyères 856

Toulon..... 857

Bandol & Around 859

The Three Corniches... 860

Monaco 862

Menton..... 869

CORSICA 871

Bastia & Cap Corse ... 874

Bastia 874

Cap Corse 877

Île Rousse 880

Algajola 882

Calvi 882

Porto 884

Ajaccio 886

Sartène 890

Bonifacio 891

Porto-Vecchio
& Around 895

L'Alta Rocca..... 896

Vallée de la Restonica... 900

Vallée du Tavignano... 900

Vizzavona..... 900

France Today 902

History 904

The French..... 919

The French Table 924

The Arts..... 930

Architecture 937

**Landscapes
& Wildlife** 943

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Directory A-Z 948

Transport 962

Language 973

Index 982

Map Legend..... 997

SPECIAL FEATURES

**Normandy
D-Day Sites** 232

**Route des
Vins d'Alsace** 332

**Châteaux of the
Loire Valley** 386

**Medieval Art
& Architecture** 446

Mountain Highs 524

**Vézère Valley
Cave Art** 580

Wine, Glorious Wine... 626

Basque Culture..... 652

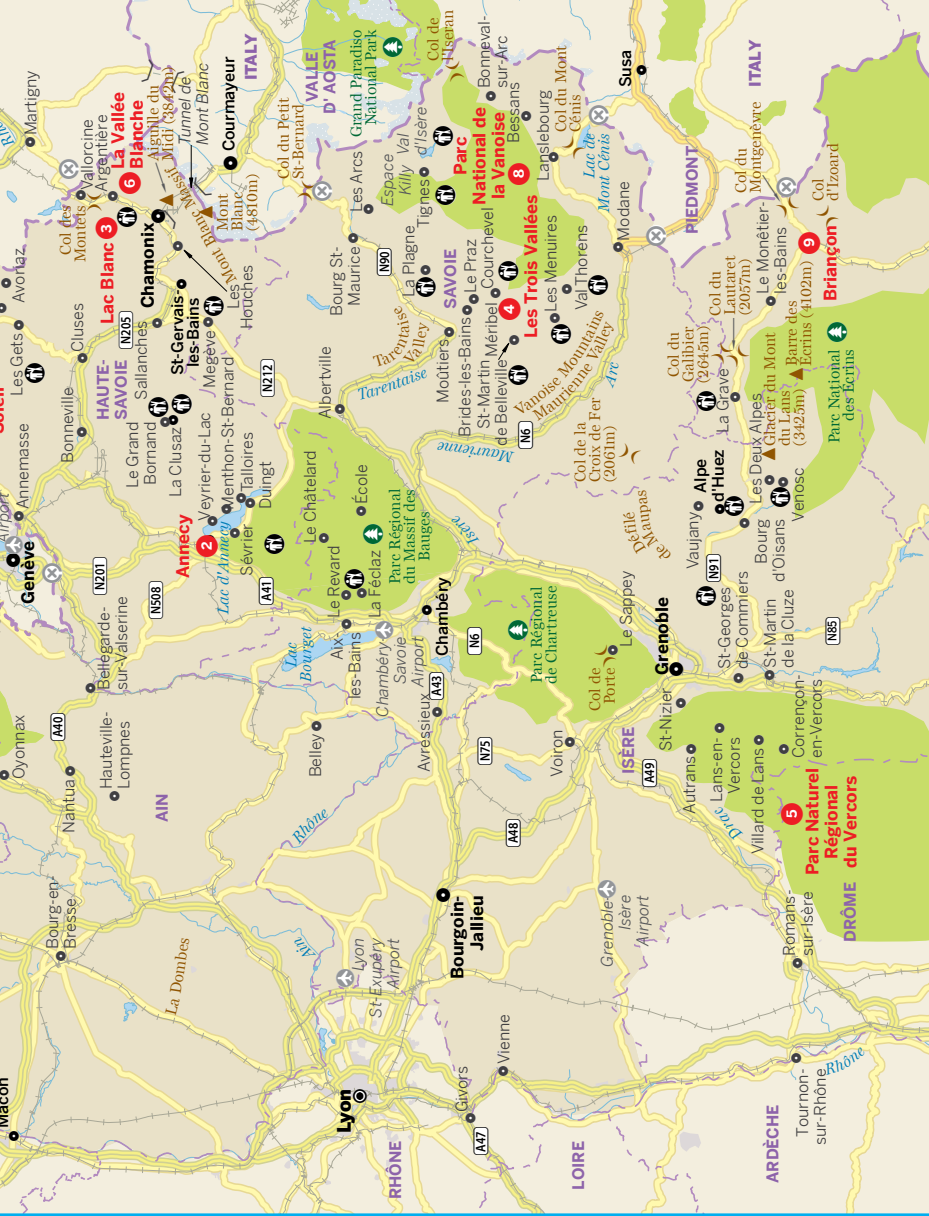
**Languedoc-Roussillon
Architecture** 734

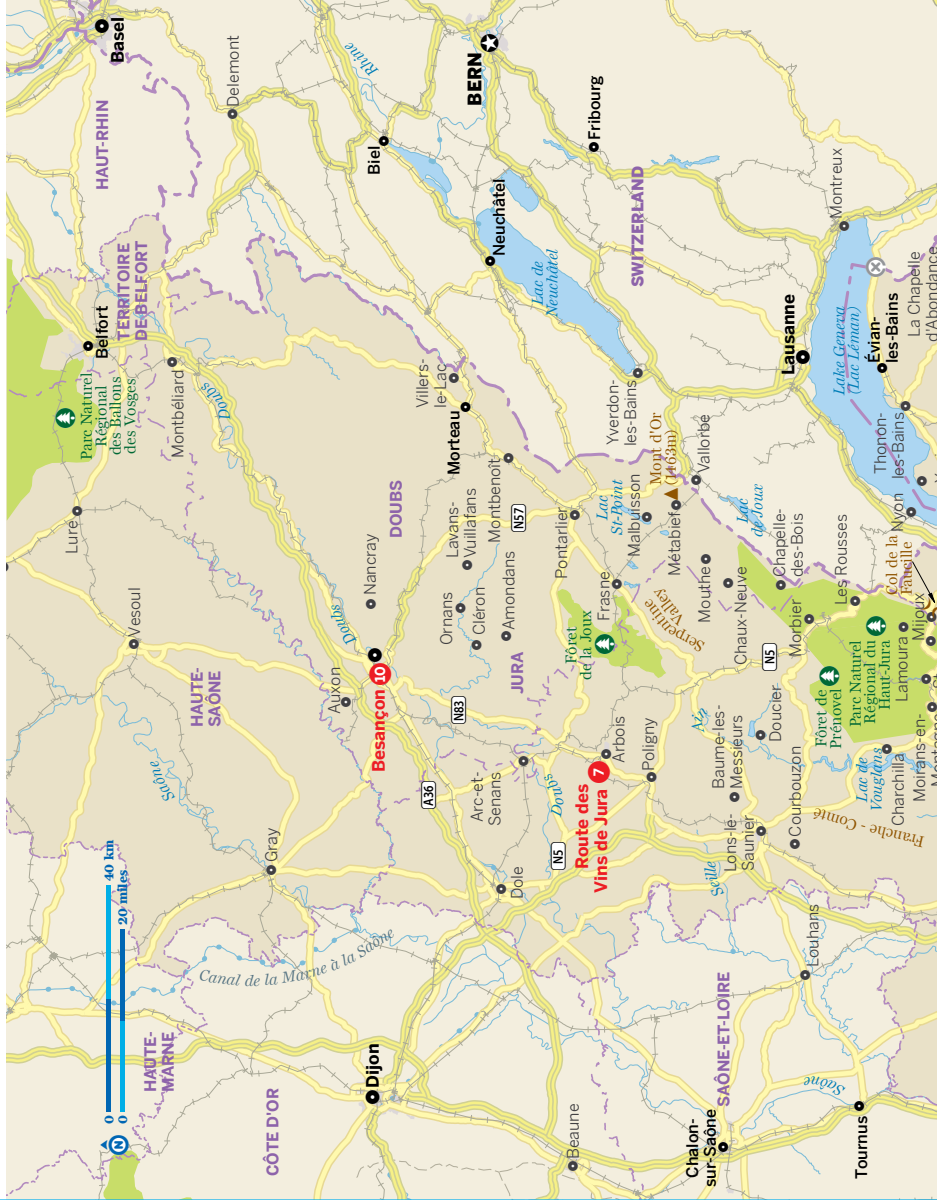
Roman Provence..... 780

**Exploring
Southern Corsica** 892

French Alps & the Jura Mountains Highlights

- 1 Portes du Soleil** (p488) Trying, just trying, to ski all the terrain at this vast, international ski area.
- 2 Annecy** (p490) Exploring the stately city's medieval lanes, strongholds and crystal-clear waters.
- 3 Lac Blanc** (p482) Hiking up to the turquoise lake for a breathtaking view of the Mont Blanc massif.
- 4 Les Trois Vallées** (p503) Slaloming down legendary slopes, then partying away in après-ski bars.
- 5 Parc Naturel Régional du Vercors** (p513) Communing with nature on a middle-of-nowhere farm.





- 6 La Vallée Blanche** (p482)
Conquering the ultimate in Alpine off-piste skiing.
- 7 Route des Vins du Jura** (p523)
Sipping golden *vin jaune* amid bucolic vines.
- 8 Parc National de la Vanoise** (p506)
Hiking through glaciated grandeur.
- 9 Parc National des Écrins** (p517)
Getting buzzed on the dramatic winding drive to Briançon.
- 10 Besançon** (p519)
Walking the hilltop ramparts of the hilltop Vauban citadel.

Itineraries



10
DAYS

Essential France

No place screams 'France!' more than **Paris**. Spend two days in the capital, allowing time for cafe lounging, bistro lunches and waterside strolls along the Seine and Canal St-Martin. On day three, enjoy Renaissance royalty at **Château de Chambord** and **Château de Chenonceau** in the Loire Valley. Or spend two days in Normandy, marvelling at **Rouen's** Notre Dame cathedral, the **Bayeux** tapestry, sea-splashed **Mont St-Michel** and – should modern history be your passion – the **D-Day landing beaches**.

Day five, zoom south to view world-class cave art in the **Vézère Valley**. Key sites are around the towns of Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil and Montignac. Or base yourself in Sarlat-la-Canéda, showcasing some of France's best medieval architecture with a fabulous food market to boot. Day seven, experience 12 hours in **Bordeaux**, not missing wine tasting in the stunning La Cité du Vin. Next day, drive three hours to the walled city of **Carcassonne**, Roman **Nîmes** and the **Pont du Gard**. Finish on the French Riviera with a casino flutter in Grace Kelly's **Monaco**, a portside aperitif in Brigitte Bardot's **St-Tropez** and a stroll through Matisse's **Nice**.



2
WEEKS

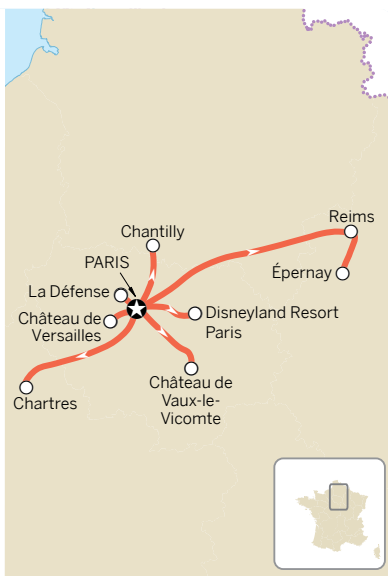
The Channel to the Med

Step off the boat in **Calais** and be seduced by 40km of cliffs, sand dunes and windy beaches on the spectacular **Côte d'Opale**. Speed southwest, taking in a fish lunch in **Dieppe**, a sensational cathedral visit in **Rouen**, or a picturesque cliffside picnic in **Étretat** en route to your overnight stop: your choice of the pretty Normandy seaside resorts of **Honfleur**, **Deauville** or **Trouville**. Spend two days here: a boat trip beneath the breathtaking Pont de Normandie, shopping for fresh fish and seafood at Trouville's waterfront Poissonnerie, and hobnobbing with Parisians on Deauville's chic star-studded boardwalk are essentials.

Devote day three to Normandy's D-Day landing beaches. Start with the Mémorial – Un Musée pour la Paix in **Caen**, the best single museum devoted to the Battle of Normandy, then follow a westward arc along the beach-laced coast, taking in the caisson-strewn sands at **Arromanches-les-Bains**, gun installations at **Longues-sur-Mer**, and the now-serene 7km-long stretch of 'bloody **Omaha**'. Come dusk, rejuvenate spent emotions over fresh scallops and *calvados* (apple-flavoured brandy). Or, if art is more your cup of tea, skip the beaches and go for the stunning representation of 11th-century warfare embroidered across 70m of tapestry in **Bayeux**.

Day four and iconic **Mont St-Michel** beckons – hiking barefoot across the sands here is exhilarating. End the week in Brittany with a flop in an old-fashioned beach tent in **Dinard** and a bracing stroll on spectacular headlands around **Camaret-sur-Mer**.

Week two begins with a long drive south to chic **La Rochelle** for a lavish seafood feast. Spend a night here, continuing the gourmet theme as you wend your way south through Médoc wine country to **Bordeaux**. Next morning, stop in 'ville rose' **Toulouse** through which the undisputed queen of canals, Canal du Midi, runs, and/or **Carcassonne** before hitting the Med. The Camargue – a wetland of flamingos, horses and incredible bird life – is a unique patch of coast to explore and Van Gogh thought so too. Follow in his footsteps around **Arles**, before continuing onto the ancient, enigmatic and totally fascinating port city of **Marseille**.

1
WEEK

Brittany to Bordeaux

It starts fresh off the boat in **St-Malo**, a walled city with sturdy Vauban ramparts that beg exploration at sunset. Linger at least a day in this attractive port. Walk across at low tide to Île du Grand Bé and lap up great views atop a 14th-century tower in pretty St-Servan. Motor along the Côte d'Émeraude the next day, stopping in **Dinard** en route to **Roscoff** 200km west. Devote day four to discovering Brittany's famous cider and megaliths around **Carnac**, the enchanting medieval town of **Vannes** overlooking the glittering island-studded Golfe du Morbihan, and the turreted medieval castle in **Josselin**. Push south along the Atlantic coast, stopping in **Nantes** if you like big cities (and riding mechanical elephants), or continuing to the peaceful waterways of Green Venice, aka the **Marais Poitevin**. **Bordeaux** is your final destination for day six, from where a bevy of Bordeaux wine-tasting trips tempt. End the journey on a high atop Europe's highest sand dune, **Dune du Pilat**, near oyster-famed Arcachon.

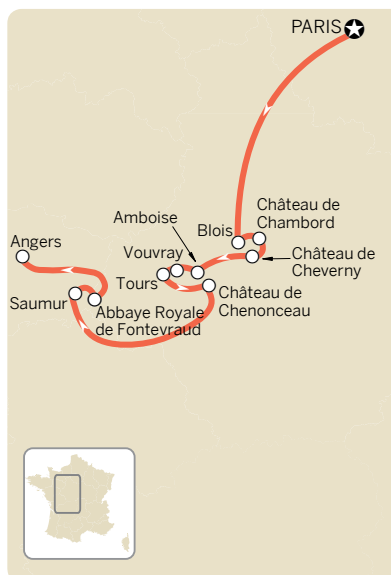
1
WEEK

A Week Around Paris

Day one has to be France's grandest castle, **Château de Versailles**, and its vast gardens. Second day, feast on France's best-preserved medieval basilica and the dazzling blue stained glass in **Chartres**, an easy train ride away. Small-town **Chantilly** is a good spot to combine a laid-back lunch with a Renaissance château, formal French gardens and – if you snagged tickets in advance – an enchanting equestrian performance.

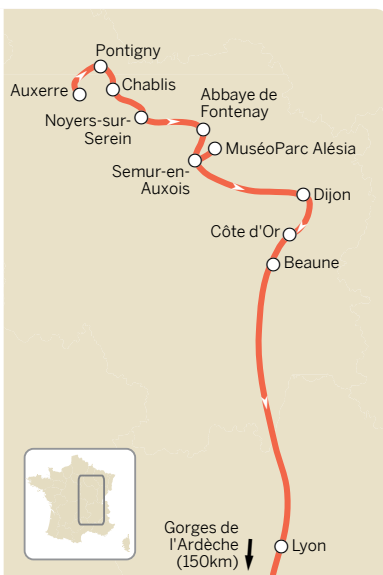
On the fourth day, catch the train to elegant **Reims** in the heart of the Champagne region. Scale its cathedral for dazzling views before tucking into the serious business of Champagne tasting. Dedicated bubbly aficionados can hop the next day to **Épernay**, France's other great Champagne city.

On day six, enjoy a lazy start then catch an afternoon fountain show at **Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte**, followed by a candlelit tour of the château. End the week with a look at futuristic **La Défense** or, for those with kids, **Disneyland Resort Paris**.

5
DAYS

Along the Loire Valley

For five days of aristocratic pomp and architectural splendour, there is no finer destination than the château-studded Loire Valley. Make your first base the regal city of **Blois**, from where you can maximize the limited amount of time you have by hooking up with an organised château tour: queen of all castles **Château de Chambord** and the charmingly classical **Château de Cheverny**, with its extraordinary furnishings and dramatic hound-packed kennels, make a great combo. Day three, follow France's longest river southwest to **Amboise**, final home of Leonardo da Vinci. If wine is a love, build some *dégustation* (tasting) of local **Vouvray** wines in vineyards into your itinerary on the way to solidly bourgeois **Tours**, an easy hop from Amboise. From here **Château de Chenonceau** is beautifully strung across the River Cher 34km east. End your trip with France's elite riding school in **Saumur** and the movingly simple abbey church **Abbaye Royale de Fontevraud** – or push on northwest to **Angers** with its black château and Apocalypse tapestry. Château de Verrières in Saumur is a befitting overnight address in this château-rich neck of the woods.

6
DAYS

Burgundy & Beyond

Red-wine lovers can enjoy the fruits of Burgundy with this itinerary. Begin in the Roman river port of **Auxerre**, 170km southeast of Paris. Explore its ancient abbey and Gothic cathedral, and cycle along towpaths. On day two consider an easy bike ride to a wonderful piece of Cistercian architecture in pretty **Pontigny**, 25km north. Stay overnight or push on to **Chablis**, where more bike rides and gentle hikes between Burgundy vineyards await – allow ample time to taste the seven *grands crus* of this well-known wine-making town. Day four, meander south to the picture-postcard village of **Noyers-sur-Serein**, then head east to the breathtaking, Unesco-listed **Abbaye de Fontenay**, before winding up for the night in **Semur-en-Auxois**, 25km south. **MuséoParc Alésia**, where Julius Caesar defeated Gaulish chief Vercingétorix in 52 BC, is not far from here and makes for a fascinating day out. On the last day, discover **Dijon** and its beautiful medieval and Renaissance buildings. From here, should you have more time, take a road trip through the wine-making area of **Côte d'Or** to **Beaune**, or south to **Lyon** in the Rhône Valley and beyond to the rugged **Gorges de l'Ardèche**.



10 DAYS The South of France

For sun, sea and celebrity action, hit France's hot south. Start in **Nice**, star of the coastline that unfurls in a pageant of belle-époque palaces and iconic sands. Drive along the Riviera's trio of legendary **corniches** – coastal views are mind-blowing – and on day three take the train to glitzy **Monaco**. Then move to fishing port **St-Tropez** where million-dollar yachts jostle for space with street artists. Rise early the next morning for the place des Lices market and frolic away the afternoon on the sand at Plage de Pampelonne. Day six is a toss-up between a dramatic drive along the **Corniche des Maures** to **Bormes-les-Mimosas** and the staggering **Route des Crêtes** mountain pass, or a boat trip to the *très belle* **Îles d'Hyères**. Head inland next to **Aix-en-Provence**, a canvas of graceful 19th-century architecture, stylish cafes and hidden squares. From Aix, it's a hop and a skip to **Ventabren** where lunch or dinner al fresco at La Table de Ventabren is what eating in Provence is all about. Devote your last two days to the wild **Gorges du Verdon**, Europe's largest canyon, two hours' drive northeast, or the gentler **Luberon** with its bounty of photogenic hilltop villages.



5 DAYS Spring in the Alps

A trip to the French Alps often translates as one week of skiing in one place. Yet take time to explore the region after the snow has melted – spring or early summer is best – and you'll be pleasantly surprised. Warm up with old-town ambling, lakeside strolling and warm-weather swimming in fairy-tale **Anney**, a beautiful medieval town just 45km from Geneva, Switzerland. Day two, shift to **Chamonix** at the foot of Mont Blanc, Europe's highest peak: ride a cable car up to the **Aiguille du Midi** or, if the sky is not crystal-clear, ride a cog railway up to the **Mer de Glace** glacier. Yet more unforgettable views of Mont Blanc seduce along hiking trails in the chic, picturesque Alpine villages of **St-Gervais** and **Megève**. Let the adrenalin rip, or push on via the ancient Savoyard stronghold of **Chambéry** to the **Parc National de la Vanoise**, where spectacular mountain biking in **Les Trois Vallées** will please the most jaded outdoor junkie. A fitting finale to your Alpine foray is the stunning drive through the **Parc National des Écrins** to **Briançon**, perhaps the loveliest of all the medieval villages in the French Alps, famous for its Vauban fortifications.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



Daniel Robinson

Lille, Flanders & the Somme, Loire Valley Co-author (with Tony Wheeler) of Lonely Planet's first *Paris* guide, Daniel has been writing about France for over 25 years. Passionate about history, he is always moved by the grand châteaux of the Loire, the sombre cemeteries of the Somme, and the dramatic and tragic events that both embody. Daniel's travel writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *National Geographic Traveler* and many other publications, and has been

translated into 10 languages. He holds degrees in history from Princeton and Tel Aviv University.



Regis St Louis

Pyrenees, Normandy Regis' French ancestry fuelled an early interest in all things francophone, which led to Serge Gainsbourg records, François Truffaut films and extensive travels around France. For his latest journey, Regis walked the drizzly beaches of Normandy, explored Joan of Arc lore in Rouen and idled behind sheep-powered roadblocks in the Pyrenees. A full-time travel writer since 2003, Regis has covered numerous destinations for Lonely Planet, including Montreal,

Senegal and New York City. Follow his latest posts on Twitter @regisstlouis.



Kerry Christiani

Alsace & Lorraine, Champagne France was *le coup de foudre* (love at first sight) for Kerry, and she's been travelling there since her school days to brush up her *français*, which she went on to study to MA level. Touring the cellars of Champagne, (over)indulging on Alsatian food and wine on the storybook Route des Vins and striking out into the forested peaks of the Vosges made writing this edition memorable. Kerry authors a number of Lonely Planet's central and southern

European titles and tweets @kerrychristiani.



Gregor Clark

Burgundy, Corsica Gregor Clark's love affair with France started on the midnight streets of Paris at age 14 when, jet-lagged and culture shocked, he successfully ordered a crêpe using his never-before-tested high-school French. He's been feeding his France obsession ever since, and writing for LP since 2000. Highlights of this research trip included discovering the stunning beauty of Corsica, chasing down Good Friday processions in remote mountain villages and indulging in way

too many *beignets de brocciu* (best snack ever!).



Anita Isalska

Auvergne, Toulouse Area Anita's passion for France began on childhood ferry rides to Calais and bloomed during an enriching year living in Lille, though she hit peak Francophilia during her European Literature M.St at Oxford. While her enthusiasm for 19th-century French *fantastique* literature has found few practical applications, Anita loves flexing her language skills on regular travels to France. Anita writes about travel in Europe, Asia and beyond for a host of websites and

magazines; read her stuff on www.anitaaisalska.com.



Catherine Le Nevez

Paris, Around Paris, Languedoc-Roussillon An award-winning, Paris-based travel writer, Catherine first lived in the French capital aged four and has been hitting the road at every opportunity, completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, Masters in Professional Writing, and postgrad qualifications in Editing and Publishing along the way. Over the last dozen-plus years she's written scores of Lonely Planet guides, along with numerous print and online articles, covering

Paris, France, Europe and far beyond. Wanderlust aside, Paris remains her favourite city on earth.



Hugh McNaughtan

French Alps & the Jura Mountains A former English lecturer, Hugh swapped grant applications for visa applications, and turned his love of travel into a full-time thing. Having done a bit of restaurant-reviewing in his home town (Melbourne) he's now eaten his way across the Alps and Jura, working up an appetite on the slopes at any opportunity. He's never happier than when on the road with his two daughters. Except perhaps on the cricket field...



Christopher Pitts

Paris, Around Paris Christopher Pitts first moved to Paris in 2001. He initially began writing about the city as a means to buy baguettes – and to impress a certain Parisian (it worked, they're now married with two kids). Over the past decade, he has written for various publications, in addition to working as a translator and editor. Visit him online at www.christopherpitts.net.



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 Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, 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

Paris, Around Paris, Atlantic Coast British writer 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, road trips beckon to Provence, Paris, to the Dordogne and onwards to the Atlantic Coast where she has spent endless years revelling in its extraordinary landscapes, architecture and seafaring cuisine.

Nicola has worked on numerous Lonely Planet titles, including *Discover France* and *Paris*. Find her on Twitter and Instagram @Tripalong.



Alexis Averbeck

Dordogne, Limousin & the Lot Alexis Averbeck first came to France when she was four and now visits every chance she gets. Whether browsing markets in the Dordogne, sampling oysters in Brittany, or careening through hilltop villages in Provence (she also contributes to the *Provence & Côte d'Azur* book), she immerses herself in all things French. A travel writer for two decades, Alexis has lived in Antarctica for a year, crossed the Pacific by sailboat, and is also a

painter – see her work at www.alexisaverbeck.com.



Oliver Berry

Provence, French Basque Country Oliver Berry has explored nearly every corner of France for Lonely Planet, travelling all the way from the mountains of Corsica to the beaches of Normandy. He has also photographed and written about France for many newspapers, magazines and online publications. For this trip he returned to the beaches and hilltop villages of the South of France, and practised his *pelota* skills in the French Basque Country. His latest work is published at

www.oliverberry.com.



Jean-Bernard Carillet

Lyon & the Rhône Valley Paris-based (and Metz-born) journalist and photographer, Jean-Bernard has clocked up countless trips to all French regions and is a passionate ambassador of his own country. As a hopeless French gourmand and *amateur de bon vins* (wine lover), he was all too happy to research Lyon (pike dumplings, anyone?), La Dombes (that yummy frog pie), Beaujolais (oh, that St-Amour lingers long on the palate) and the Rhône Valley down to the

Gorges de l'Ardèche.

OVER MORE
PAGE WRITERS

Published by Lonely Planet Global Limited

CRN 554153

12th edition – March 2017

ISBN 978 1 78657 325 4

© Lonely Planet 2017 Photographs © as indicated 2017

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Singapore

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, and no part of this publication may be sold or hired, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trademarks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: lonelyplanet.com/ip.

Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.

© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'