

Lyon & the Rhône Valley

POP 3.91 MILLION

Includes ➔

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

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Au 14 Février (p468)
- ➔ Le Thou (p469)
- ➔ L'Ourson qui Boit (p461)
- ➔ Les Halles de Lyon Paul Bocuse (p460)
- ➔ Restaurant Pic (p472)
- ➔ L'Espace PH3 (p470)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Auberge de Clochemerle (p468)
- ➔ Prehistoric Lodge (p473)
- ➔ Lyon Renaissance (p458)
- ➔ Cour des Loges (p458)
- ➔ La Maison de la Pra (p471)
- ➔ Hôtel de la Pyramide (p470)

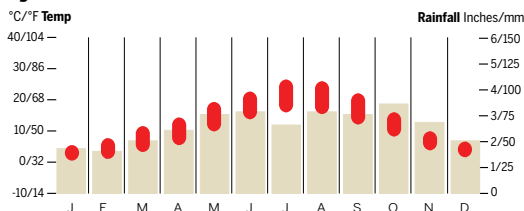
Why Go?

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 timeless traditional dishes in checked-tablecloth *bouchons* (small bistros) creates unforgettable memories – as do the majestic Roman amphitheatres of Fourvière, the cobble Unesco-listed streets of Vieux Lyon, and the audacious modern architecture of the new Confluence neighbourhood.

North of Lyon, Beaujolais produces illustrious wines, while the picturesque hilltop village of Pérouges is a perennial film location. Downstream, the Rhône forges past Vienne's Roman ruins and the centuries-old Côtes du Rhône vineyards, opening to sunny vistas of fruit orchards, lavender fields and the distant Alps as it continues south past Valence and Montélimar, eventually reaching the rugged Gorges de l'Ardèche, where the Ardèche River tumbles to the gates of Languedoc and Provence.

When to Go

Lyon



Jun & Jul Catch live performances in ancient Gallo-Roman theatres at Vienne's renowned jazz festival.

Nov Celebrate the 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 Lyon (p450)

Delving into Lyon's hidden labyrinth of *traboules* (secret passageways) and sampling Lyonnais specialties in a *bouchon*.

2 Beaujolais

(p466) Touring the vine-ribboned hills of this peaceful winegrowing region.

3 Vienne (p470)

Seeing dramatic Gallo-Roman ruins, including a perfectly preserved Corinthian-columned temple.

4 Gorges de l'Ardèche (p473)

Canoeing beneath the stunning natural stone bridge Pont d'Arc along these scenic gorges.

5 Caverne du Pont d'Arc (p472)

Being awed by this replica cave housing brilliantly reproduced prehistoric paintings.

6 La Dombes

(p469) Driving or biking around a lake-dotted region, famous for its great restaurants specialising in frogs' legs and carp.

7 Montélimar

(p470) Enjoying Provençal *joie de vivre* along tree-shaded avenues and sampling delectable nougat.

8 Pérouges

(p468) Strolling the cobbled alleyways of this achingly picturesque medieval village.

