


# *Table of contents*

France Overview .....	3
Is France weak? .....	6
French Presidents' Love History .....	9
French pension .....	12
French wine .....	17
French .....	19
French perfume .....	21
Paris .....	22
Saint-Denis Church .....	48
Versailles .....	49
Fontainebleau .....	56
Barbizon 43    57    60    61	

# France Overview

Full Name:	French Republic	capital:	Paris
Area (square kilometers):	640,679 ( 43rd , slightly smaller than Qinghai Province) Mainland France: 551,695	Population (' 000 ):	6 7 , 0 00 or so France: 64,800
Location	<p>The mainland stretches from the Mediterranean to the English Channel and the North Sea, and from the Rhine to the Atlantic Ocean, forming a hexagonal shape. It is one of the three countries with both Mediterranean and Atlantic coastlines, along with Spain and Morocco. France ranks 42nd in the world in terms of area, but it is the largest country in the European Union and Western Europe. The terrain is high in the southeast and low in the northwest. The western and northern regions belong to the Western European Plain, where France borders the English Channel, the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. The southern region has the Pyrenees Mountains, which is also the border between France and Spain. The southeast is the Alps, and there is a central plateau in the central and southern parts. Mont Blanc on the border between France and Italy is 4,810 meters above sea level and is the highest peak in Western Europe. Rivers: The main ones are the Loire River ( 1,010 km), the Rhone River ( 812 km), the Seine River ( 776 km), and the Marne River ( 525 km). Corsica in the Mediterranean is the largest island in France. The reserves of iron, coal and bauxite are relatively rich, with iron ore reserves of about 7 billion tons, but the grade is low and the mining cost is high, so most of the iron ore needed is imported. The reserves of non-ferrous metals, oil and natural gas are very small, but nuclear energy, hydropower and geothermal resources are fully developed, and forest resources are rich. The French Riviera is a famous coastal scenic tourist area.</p>		
National flag, national anthem, national flower	<p>The French flag is a tricolor flag with blue, white and red arranged vertically from left to right, each representing the national motto of the French Republic - liberty, equality and fraternity. The French call it "tricolor flag" or "blue, white and red flag". The national motto: " Liberté , é galité , fraternité " . National Anthem: "La Marseillaise" .</p> 		
history	<p>57 BC , France became part of the Roman province of Gaul. In the 5th century, the Franks moved here and settled. In the Treaty of Verdun in 843 , the eastern part formed what would become Germany, the central part became Burgundy, which gradually disappeared, and the western part gradually became what is now France. After 116 years of fighting with Britain in the Hundred Years' War, at the end of the 15th century, France gradually formed a centralized and monarchical country, the Kingdom of France. On July 14, 1789 , the French Revolution broke out. The French people and the army captured the Bastille, overthrew the feudal system and monarchy, and began to gradually establish a republic and move towards democracy. The French national motto "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" came from the French Revolution. The First French Republic was established in 1792. It was not until 1804 that Napoleon became the French emperor and established the First French Empire (or the Napoleonic Empire). In 1848 , due to another revolution in the National Assembly and the overthrow of the monarchy, the Second French Republic was established, and Napoleon III served as president until 1852 when Napoleon III launched a coup to establish the Second French Empire, "restoring the monarchy." After the end of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870 , France restored the republic again (established the Third Republic), and once established the first proletarian communist regime in world history, the Paris Commune, from March 18 to May 28, 1871, but was immediately overthrown and</p>		

	<p>bloodily suppressed . After the Prussian troops withdrew, France restored the Third Republic and officially promulgated the Republican Constitution in 1875 .</p> <p>After the First World War and the Second World War, the Third Republic was finally destroyed by Nazi Germany (the Third Reich of Germany) in 1940. After the war, the Fourth Republic of France was started by General Charles de Gaulle. When the Algerian War broke out in 1958 , General Charles de Gaulle announced the end of the "old constitution" (the Constitution of the Fourth Republic of France) and the implementation of the "new constitution" (the Constitution of the Fifth Republic of France, which is the current French Constitution). The Fourth Republic ended and the Fifth Republic of France was established, which is now the French Republic. When the Fifth Republic of France was established, the lessons learned from the failure of the previous parliamentary system were learned, so a semi-presidential and semi-parliamentary democracy (dual-head system) was created and used, which has been maintained to this day and has not changed. In recent years, the close cooperation between France and Germany has become an indispensable driving force for European economic integration, such as the circulation of the euro in 1999 .</p> <p>From the 17th to the 18th century, France established many colonies in North America and Southeast Asia; from the 19th to the early 20th century, France became the second largest colonial empire in the world at that time, second only to Britain, occupying large areas of North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, Southeast Asia, in addition to many islands in the Caribbean and the Pacific.</p>
Political system	<p>Before 2016, there were 27 regions (a type of administrative region, with 22 in the mainland ) (French : Régions Administrative regions are further divided into 101 departments ( 96 in the mainland ) (French: Départements ) . France has five overseas regions ( régions d'outre-mer ): Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Reunion, Mayotte. In 2016, France merged the 22 regions into 13 .</p> <p>France plays an important role in world politics, diplomacy, military and economy. The founding philosophy of France is mainly based on the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, which was formulated during the French Revolution in the 18th century. This is one of the earliest human rights documents in human history and has had a great impact on promoting democracy and freedom in Europe and even the world. Its blue, white and red national flag symbolizes "revolution". France is one of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and one of the founding members of the European Union. The country's defense budget ranks fifth to sixth in the world and has the third largest nuclear weapons stockpile in the world.</p> <p>France is a unitary, constitutional republic, and semi-presidential system. The country is governed by a president elected by universal suffrage, a prime minister appointed by him, and the relevant cabinet. The French president is the head of state and has the power to appoint and dismiss the prime minister, preside over cabinet meetings and promulgate laws. He is also the supreme commander of the national army. His term of office is five years and he can be re-elected up to two times. The coalition government is formed by parties or alliances with more than half of the seats in the National Assembly, and they nominate the prime minister, who is appointed by the president. In the past, the president and the prime minister used to belong to different and opposing political parties. When the party to which the president belongs holds a majority in Congress, the prime minister appointed by the president is the party to which the president belongs. The president is in charge of the government and the prime minister is responsible for forming the cabinet. On the contrary, when the opposition party has more than half of the seats in parliament, the president must appoint the person nominated by the opposition party as prime minister, who will then govern the country with greater power, forming a situation of "left-right co-governance". This situation occurred from 1986 to 1988 , 1993 to 1995 , and 1997 to 2002. However, since the presidential term was shortened to 5 years, since it is held in the same year as the National Assembly election, the situation of "left-right co-governance" is believed to be very unlikely.</p>

economy	<p>France's GDP ranks fifth in the world and has the seventh largest purchasing power in the world. If calculated by total household wealth, the country is the richest in Europe and ranks fourth in the world. France's nuclear power equipment capacity, civil aviation technology and oil industry technology are second only to the United States, ranking second in the world; the steel and textile industries also have a high status. The main industries include automobile and aircraft manufacturing; electronics and electrical industry; chemical industry; textile industry. Aerospace and military industry, etc. French citizens enjoy a high quality of life and have outstanding performance in education, medical care, life expectancy, democracy and freedom, human development and other aspects.</p> <p>Famous French companies include Airbus, Alstom, Carrefour, Alcatel – Lucent, Schneider Electric, Valeo, AXA, PSA Peugeot Citroën, Michelin, Danone, Cartier, Gucci, Dior, and LVMH.</p>
Nationality, language, religion	The main religion in France is Catholicism, followed by Islam, Protestantism, etc.
Culture, famous people	<p>French culture is diverse. Since the 13th century, France has been one of the world's cultural centers. Over the centuries, many outstanding figures and works have emerged in the fields of literature, art, drama, philosophy, music, etc., including:</p> <p>Victor Hugo ( 1802-1885 ) was a French romantic writer, author of The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Les Misérables, Ninety-Three, and Toilers of the Sea .</p> <p>Guy de Maupassant ( 1850-1893 ) was a French realist writer, known as the "King of Short Stories". He wrote "Ball of Fat" and "The Necklace".</p> <p>Alexandre Dumas père and Alexandre Dumas fils: The Count of Monte Cristo, The Three Musketeers, and The Lady of the Camellias.</p> <p>Honoré de Balzac ( 1799-1850 ) was a French realist writer and the author of The Human Comedy.</p> <p>Moliere ( 1622-1673 ) was a French comedy writer and actor, and author of the plays The Hypocrite and Don Juan.</p> <p>Descartes ( 1596-1650 ) French philosopher, advocated mind- body dualism. Author of Meditations.</p> <p>Montesquieu ( 1689-1755 ) was a French encyclopedic scholar. He wrote Persian Letters and The Spirit of the Laws .</p> <p>Voltaire ( 1694-1778 ) was a leader of the French Enlightenment , a politician, historian and philosopher. He wrote the Dictionary of Philosophy.</p> <p>Rousseau ( 1712-1778 ) was a French radical democratic philosopher, educator, writer and enlightenment philosopher. His works include On the Origin and Basis of Human Inequality, The Social Contract, Emile and his autobiography Confessions.</p> <p>The 18th and 19th centuries are considered the French century in literary history. France has contributed quite a few world-class literary masters to mankind. In the 20th century, from 1901 when Frenchman Rainier Sully-Pludhomme won the first Nobel Prize in Literature to 1985 when Frenchman Claude Simon won the prize again, in the more than 80 years of history, France had a total of 12 winners, the most in the world, almost twice as many as other European cultural powers such as Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Russia.</p>
Main Specialties	

#### Impressions of the French:

- In the eyes of the British and Americans, the French are "cheese-eating surrender monkeys" and "never trust the French." General Patton once said, "I would rather have a German division in front of me than a French division behind me."
- The French love to eat snails, rabbit, frogs, and horse meat, but there are also animal lovers
- the Appellation d' origine protégée

- An example of French bigotry: British tourists in a Paris restaurant muster up the courage to order a café au lait in French, and the typical response from the French waiter is a sneer followed by a quick switch to heavily accented English. This frustrating experience discourages foreigners from trying to communicate with locals, who then complain that they "don't bother to speak the language". A joke about the French Academy banning the use of email and requiring courriel instead.
- Paris is truly the capital of dog poop, but Parisians don't have the habit of picking up dog poop. A joke among American expatriates: "How to spot an American in Paris—he's the only one who picks up dog poop when walking his dog."

## Is France weak?

In our impression, France seems to have declined. The yellow vests have been causing trouble on the streets in recent years, Notre Dame de Paris caught fire for unknown reasons, and the dirtiness and mess on the streets of Paris are unbelievable to Chinese tourists.

However, as one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and a core power in Europe, France is still an important country in the world. So what is France's strength, how is its economic performance, and what good companies and internationally competitive industries does it have?

France, which is mistakenly considered to be in decline, still leads the world in many industries

### 1. Nuclear Industry: World leader in nuclear energy industry

Since the end of World War II, France has always been ahead of Germany and the United Kingdom in terms of cutting-edge science and technology, ranking first in Europe. The European Organization for Nuclear Research, the temple of particle physics in the world, is located in France.

In the field of nuclear power, Alstom's nuclear power steam turbine generator is the world's number one. France is also the country with the highest proportion of nuclear power in the world. France's nuclear power is not only large-scale (nuclear power accounts for more than 70%), but also young (almost all units were built after the 1970s) and technologically advanced (EPR is a third-generation nuclear power technology on par with AP1000).

The French AREVA Group is a global leader in nuclear energy construction. Its main businesses include nuclear fuel mining, nuclear fuel refining and sales, nuclear reactor manufacturing, and waste recycling (it has the core technology of recycling nuclear waste for reprocessing and sales). As a world leader in the nuclear energy industry, AREVA Group is the only company in this field that can engage in all related industrial production processes.

France is also the only country other than the United States that has nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. It has an independent nuclear force consisting of a trinity of land-based missiles, submarine missiles, and nuclear missiles carried by aircraft.

### 2. Aerospace: Airbus's large aircraft and Safran's aircraft engines are world-leading

In terms of large aircraft, Airbus Group has a firm grip on half of the international civil aviation market. Airbus was founded in France in December 1970 and has shared the global civil large aircraft market with Boeing of the United States. As of January 2019, Chinese airlines operated a total of 1,730 Airbus aircraft. This year, French President Emmanuel Macron visited China and signed another large aviation order for 300 aircraft worth 30 billion euros.

Another French company, Safran Group, is even more powerful. In 2005, Safran was formed by the merger of Snecma, a long-established company that produces aircraft engines, rocket engines, and aerospace components, and Sagem, a security and information provider. Headquartered in Paris, Safran is the world's third largest aerospace equipment supplier after United Technologies (UTC) and GE Aviation. Safran Group's optoelectronic systems, inertial navigation, and drone systems rank first in

Europe, and its mainline jet engines, helicopter engines, and landing gears with more than 100 seats rank first in the world, and its liquid rocket propulsion ranks second in the world.

CFM56 is the most successful and profitable aviation engine series in the history of the global aviation market, accounting for 50% of the total number of engines in China's civil fleet; Turbomeca engines account for 50% of the total number of Chinese helicopter engines.

### 3. Automobile Industry: Europe's Second Largest Automobile Producer

As the second largest automobile producer in Europe, France has about 4,000 automobile companies in the industry, with a turnover of 155 billion euros and exports of 49 billion euros. France has two world-renowned automobile manufacturers, Peugeot-Citroen and Renault.

France's Peugeot Citroen is the second largest automaker in Europe after Germany's Volkswagen. Renault is also one of the world's leading auto companies. Michelin is the world's number one tire manufacturer, Saint-Gobain is one of the world's top four auto glass manufacturers, and Valeo and Faurecia are both among the world's top ten auto parts companies.

The two major vehicle groups, PSA Peugeot Citroen and Renault, together with parts suppliers represented by Valeo, Faurecia, Michelin and Saint-Gobain, and dozens of professional engineering schools and research institutions of all sizes, support millions of people working in the automotive industry and have developed France's complete and distinctive automotive industry research and development system.

### IV. A major agricultural country: the world's largest exporter of agricultural and sideline products

France is the largest agricultural producer in Europe, mainly producing wheat, barley, corn, and fruits and vegetables. France's agricultural modernization is very high, and its agricultural products can not only meet domestic demand, but also be exported in large quantities. France's agricultural output value accounts for 22% of the total agricultural output value of the European Union. Its agricultural product exports have long ranked first in Europe and second in the world after the United States. There are 24 French companies in the top 100 agricultural and food industry groups in Europe, and 7 French companies in the top 100 agricultural and food industry groups in the world. France's agricultural and sideline product exports rank first in the world, accounting for 11% of the world market.

French wine is world-renowned, and its wine exports account for half of the world's exports.

### 5. Military exports: The world's top three military exporters

France's military exports have always ranked among the top in the world, second only to the United States and Russia.

Arms is one of the few industries in France that has achieved a trade surplus, and its trade surplus has remained at 3.7 billion euros in recent years. In 2018, France's arms exports reached 9 billion euros, the highest in nearly 20 years, and 50% higher than the average of the previous 20 years.

Compared with American and Russian weapons, the biggest feature of French weapons is their high cost-effectiveness and added value. The design concept of French weapons is "one thing for multiple uses". The "Mirage" aircraft can be "transformed" into a variety of fighters, attack aircraft and reconnaissance aircraft; the "Mistral" missile can be derived into missiles for the three major services of the navy, army and air force; the K15 nuclear reactor can even drive the "Barracuda" class attack nuclear submarines, the "Triumph" class strategic nuclear submarines and even the "Charles de Gaulle" aircraft carrier.

The main clients of French arms sales are India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt. Compared with the United States and Russia, France's domestic demand for arms is not large, so France has always regarded the export of weapons as an important goal of its defense industry.

## 6. Luxury goods: the world's largest producer of luxury goods

In the luxury goods sector, French luxury groups led by LV and Hermès have maintained strong revenue and profit growth. Take Hermès as an example, in 2018, its operating revenue reached 5.966 billion euros and its operating profit was 2 billion euros. Its gross profit margin of 34% is far beyond the reach of its global peers.

Another luxury giant, LV Group, is the sales champion among global luxury brands, with flagship stores in almost all major cities around the world. In 2018, LV Group's sales exceeded US\$46.82 billion, and its net profit reached 6.35 billion euros, setting a historical record.

France's Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Hermès and Cartier account for 53% of the world's top 15 luxury brands. Louis Vuitton, L'Oreal, Kering and Hermès account for nearly a quarter of the total sales of the top 100 luxury goods companies. France is far ahead of other countries in the luxury goods industry. French fashion, French cuisine and French perfume are all well-known in the world.

## 7. Tourism: The world's largest tourist destination

Tourism is one of the pillar industries in France, accounting for 7% of its GDP and providing about 2 million permanent jobs. The capital Paris, the scenic spots along the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts, and the Alps are all tourist destinations.

In 2018, France received a total of 89.4 million foreign tourists, exceeding the historical record of 87 million foreign tourists in 2017. Revenue from receiving foreign tourists reached 56.2 billion euros (about 433.745 billion yuan). In terms of tourist accommodation, the number of foreign tourists received by hotels across France increased by 7.6%, and the hotel occupancy rate reached a record high of 62.5%. In 2018, a total of 2.2 million Chinese tourists arrived in France for tourism, with an average stay of 6 days. Chinese tourists spent a total of more than 4 billion euros in France.

France has been the country with the largest number of foreign tourists in the world for many years, far ahead of other countries. The development goal of France's tourism industry is to receive 100 million foreign tourists by 2020.

According to the ranking of the International Congress and Convention Organization (ICCA), a total of 212 international conferences were held in Paris in 2018, ranking first in the global ranking of international conference hosting cities, ahead of Vienna (172), Madrid (165) and Barcelona (163).

## 8. High-speed rail technology: TGV is the world leader

The mainstream high-speed rail technology in the world today is represented by Alstom of France, Siemens of Germany, and Kawasaki of Japan. my country's high-speed rail technology has been introduced, digested and absorbed, and has also begun to be exported to the international market.

The French TGV high-speed rail, also known as TGV, is a high-speed rail system designed and built by Alstom and the French National Railway Company and operated by the latter. In 1981, TGV opened between Paris and Lyon. On April 3, 2007, TGV set the fastest record for wheel-rail trains at a speed of 574.8 kilometers per hour. TGV is the fastest average speed of regular wheel-rail passenger trains in the world. The technology has been exported to South Korea, Spain, Australia and other countries. It is the most widely used high-speed wheel-rail technology.

## 9. Fortune 500 companies: 31

In the 2019 Fortune Global 500 list, a total of 31 French companies made the list, among which petrochemical giant Total ranked the highest, with a revenue of US\$184.1 billion and ranked 20th. Total is one of the world's four largest oil and gas companies, with three major brands: Total, Fina and Elf. Its lubricant business covers more than 130 countries around the world, with a complete oil-related industrial chain and operating income of US\$184.1 billion.

In the financial industry, France is the second most powerful country in Europe after the United Kingdom. AXA is the world's largest insurance group and the world's third largest international asset management group. BNP Paribas is also Europe's leading global banking and financial services institution. After Brexit, Paris will become the most important financial center in Europe.

In the retail industry, France has world-renowned multinational retail groups such as Carrefour and Auchan.

Carrefour is the largest retailer in Europe and the second largest international retail group in the world after Wal-Mart, with more than 10,000 operating retail units and more than 360,000 employees. Auchan is the second largest commercial group in France and one of the top ten retailers in the world.

10: Is France in decline?

At the end of 2018, France had a population of 66.99 million, an area of 672,800 square kilometers (of which 554,000 square kilometers are local area), and a GDP of US\$2.78 trillion.

In terms of population, France is smaller than Hunan Province, which ranks seventh in terms of population, with 68.2 million people. In terms of area, France is smaller than Qinghai Province, which ranks fourth in China, with 722,300 square kilometers. In terms of GDP, France is equal to the sum of Guangdong and Jiangsu Provinces, which rank first and second in China.

Although France's actual GDP growth rate in 2018 was only 1.5%, it was second only to the United States, China, Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom in the world, and the GDP gap between France and the United Kingdom was very small. France's GDP calculated in US dollars increased by 7.6% in 2018.

There is no doubt that from an industrial perspective, France leads the world in many key industries. It has an independent and world-leading nuclear industry, large aircraft and aero engines, high-speed rail, and military technology, and is the world's number one in agricultural and sideline product exports, luxury goods, and tourism.

France's apparent decline is largely due to the global operations of French multinational corporations. Due to deep globalization, most of the factories, revenues and profits of French companies are already overseas.

France is still one of the most powerful countries in the world, which can be seen from its overseas military bases. Historically, France was once a world colonial empire second only to the British Empire. Although it has declined a lot, it still has the second largest number of military bases in the world (second only to the United States).

## French Presidents' Love History

French political leaders have always been famous for their romantic affairs. There are a total of 8 presidents in the Fifth Republic of France, namely Charles de Gaulle, Georges Pompidou, Alain Boeh (twice acting), Giscard d'Estaing, François Mitterrand, Jacques Chirac, Nicolas Sarkozy and François Hollande. Since Giscard d'Estaing, every president has had a sex scandal. In 1974, the media revealed that the Ferrari of then-President Giscard d'Estaing crashed into a milk truck in the early hours of the morning, with a young actress in the car at the time.

Mitterrand ( president from 1981 to 1995, died in 1996 ) was a womanizer throughout his life, and everyone in France knew about it. From political partners to actresses and female journalists, he had countless mistresses. On January 11, 1996, Mitterrand's funeral was held, and a classic scene in French history was staged here. Mitterrand's secret lover Anne Pingeot hugged her and Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter Mazarine tightly and appeared at Mitterrand's funeral. This was the first time



they appeared in public together. Mitterrand's wife Danielle and the lover reunited. When bidding farewell to the body, the illegitimate daughter Mazarine stood in the first row, only one person away from Mitterrand's wife. Mitterrand's lover Anne , next to her daughter, but stepped back to stand in the second row. The French accepted this scene generously and tolerantly supported the exposure of the president's lover - it was better than living in the shadow for a lifetime. Some even speculate that the Louvre Pyramid was a gift from Mitterrand to his lover Anne .

Mitterrand's wife Daneille also has her own partner, a high school gymnastics teacher. Daneille has her own bedroom on the second floor of the residence, and her lover's bedroom is not far away. Mitterrand's bedroom is on the third floor.

Mitterrand's successor was Jacques Chirac. Born into a wealthy French family, Chirac was tall and handsome when he was young and was very popular with women. His wife Bernadette mentioned many times in the book "Conversations" that she was troubled by her husband's extramarital affairs. She admitted without reservation that Chirac had relationships with many women and she even considered divorce, but she had to put up with it for the sake of her two daughters. On the night when British Princess Diana died in a car crash in Paris, the French Minister of the Interior searched the Elysee Palace, hoping to inform the president of Princess Diana's death. Not only was the president missing at the time, but even the president's wife Bernadette complained: "Do you think I know the whereabouts of my husband?" The most shocking thing was that Chirac and Mitterrand had a common lover. Chirac and Mitterrand "competed secretly, trying to show each other who had more lovers." Chirac's love history was later recorded in the book "Chatting While Driving" published by his driver. According to the book, there was such a constant stream of women sneaking into President Chirac's office that the female staff started joking: "Chirac? Three minutes, including shower time."

French president from 2007 to 2012, had three romantic and complicated marriages. Sarkozy's first wife was Marie - Dominique Zulioni , who divorced Sarkozy in 1996 when they had two children together. Sarkozy's second wife, Cecilia, met Sarkozy at her wedding, when Sarkozy was the local mayor and witnessed the marriage. Cecilia later became Marie's best friend, but she ruthlessly "betrayed" her and took away her husband. Dominique Zulioni said, " Cecilia is my best friend. She always did everything possible to deepen our friendship, but she did this just to get close to my husband and eventually take him away from me. This is really the greatest insult to me."

In October 2007 , Sarkozy divorced Cecilia and married Bruni in just a few months. He is also the first president in French history to divorce and remarry during his term. Bruni, who was a model, took many nude photos and made outrageous remarks. She had about 15 lovers before , and most of them were celebrities, such as Mi Jijia, Eric Clapton , Fabius, former US President Trump, French publisher Antoine and his son Raphael.

Sarkozy is only 1.65 meters tall, while Bruni, who was once a "super model", is 1.75 meters tall. Even though Bruni gave up wearing high heels to "take care" of her husband's height, she was still a head taller than Sarkozy when standing next to him. Sarkozy had to stand on his tiptoes to "match" his wife's height in the photo. British media joked that for Sarkozy, his wife Bruni seemed to be his "Eiffel Tower" at that moment.

It has become a tradition for French presidents to cheat on their wives. From Giscard d'Estaing, Mitterrand, Chirac to Sarkozy, cheating is not divided by left or right parties. Hollande, who looks ordinary, was not to be outdone. He abandoned Royal, with whom he had been together for more than 20 years and had four children, for Valerie. Valerie is a political news reporter and host of a political talk show on TV. She met and fell in love with Hollande during the show. Hollande pursues the principle of not getting married and has had four girlfriends before. In 2013, Hollande visited China with his then girlfriend Valerie. When the Chinese translator introduced Peng Liyuan as China's first lady to the French president, the French translator suddenly had an idea and called Valerie France's "first girlfriend". This term became famous.

When Hollande got off the plane during his visit to China, reporters took photos of him with his trouser zipper unzipped, revealing his long johns. Some netizens joked: In order to tell the Chinese people what real fashion is, the French President

Hollande, who comes from the world's fashion center, deliberately opened the zipper of his front door so that people can see clearly that he is wearing long johns.

On January 10, 2014, a French magazine exposed the love affair between French President Hollande and actress Julie Gayet. The photo of Hollande wearing a helmet and riding a motorcycle attracted attention. The secret meeting vehicle of the President of the Fifth French Republic is such a motorcycle. In order to avoid being seen, Hollande often rides a motorcycle with a helmet under the cover of night to meet his lover. It seems that everyone wants to try Hollande's style of tryst. Among them, the helmet that Hollande wore when dating is now sold out. In order to thank Hollande for his personal endorsement, the helmet manufacturer published a thank-you letter in the French newspaper "Liberation" on January 22, 2014. The company boss thanked Hollande for using their products and invited him to log in to the company's online store to choose a women's jacket as a Valentine's Day gift for his girlfriend. The media imagined a photo of Hollande's funeral: everyone rode motorcycles and wore helmets to the funeral.

Julie Gayet, 41 years old, is a little-known actress. She has recently appeared on the covers of ELLE and GALA for her role as Hollande's new girlfriend. Also on the headlines is Valerie, who is bedridden and wondering whether she can keep the title of "first girlfriend". French media once compared photos of Hollande's three girlfriends and concluded that our president's taste is getting higher and higher!

Since the scandal was exposed, Hollande's support rate has not decreased but increased. According to the results of the French polling structure IFOP, 84% of French people said that the scandal would not affect the president's image. Indeed, this is just the president's personal choice. The current president has an advantage that previous presidents do not have, that is, he is still unmarried. However, the image of him wearing a helmet and riding a motorcycle to a date has become history.

In January 2018, 40-year-old French President Emmanuel Macron and his 64-year-old wife paid their first state visit to China. Macron is the youngest president of France, handsome and talented: he graduated from Sciences Po in Paris, worked as a banker and earned 2.8 million euros in one deal; he is also the youngest Minister of Economy in France.

The wife of the French president is named Brigitte, a school teacher. In 1993, Macron, who was only 15 years old, came to this school to study. He was in the same class as Brigitte's eldest daughter Laurence and also joined the school's drama club. Little Macron was excellent in both character and learning, and his excellent grades soon attracted Brigitte's attention. The 15-year-old Macron fell in love with the nearly 40-year-old female teacher at first sight. The teacher also admired the boy. The two often discussed literature and exchanged ideas. After a while, their common hobbies and common pursuits made the two gradually change from admiring each other to loving each other.

Later, the boy's parents found out that he had fallen in love with a married teacher. In order to break up the "evil relationship", his parents arranged for Macron to transfer to Paris. Before leaving, Macron firmly told his teacher: "I love you. No matter what you do in the future, I will marry you." In 2007, Macron, who had just turned 30, fulfilled his promise when he was 15 and married a 55-year-old teacher despite the world's dissuasion. At this time, Brigitte was already a mother of three children and a grandmother of seven children.

- This reflects the freedom and openness of the French people in love and marriage. They believe in true love and feelings, and will break up if there is no love, rather than being bound by a marriage contract.
- The French public is very concerned about protecting privacy. Everyone has the right to have their own "secret garden" (jardin secret) - that is, their own private world. Extramarital affairs are considered personal faults by the French, not public affairs, and cannot be a reason for deprivation of public office - unless it leads to a very serious situation, such as the former International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Dominique Strauss Kahn's hiring of prostitutes in New York.
- 1990s, France followed the rule of not reporting on the private lives of politicians, but this has changed in the past 30 years. The president is also a human being and should have an emotional life, so that he is real and down-to-earth. And the richer

the emotional life, the more attractive and popular the president is.

- This is not to say that the French do not have the most basic moral standards, especially how to view cheating in marriage. In the eyes of the French, if a woman publicly defends her cheating husband, she will be regarded as a virtuous wife. When reporters interviewed Mitterrand's wife Daneille about his cheating, she said that it was only related to his own private life and was his personal matter. But how to judge in the heart is another matter. When Daneille died in 2011, she was not buried with Mitterrand in accordance with her will. During her lifetime, she did not express her true thoughts due to social conventions, but after her death, she expressed them in the most powerful way. Like other countries, cheating is still the main reason for divorce in France.
- By introducing the presidential gossip, you can understand the French society's concept of love and marriage. In addition to sightseeing, it is also important to understand the local customs and social concepts, so that the travel experience is complete. Help Chinese society think and be inspired

## French pension reform

In France, social welfare policies include four categories: medical insurance (Sé curit é sociale), work-related accident and occupational disease insurance (Accidents du travail et maladies professionnelles), retirement pension system ( Vieillesse), and family ( Famille) subsidies. These four major benefits are budgeted and managed by the state, costing a huge amount of money and are world-famous. The existing retirement pension system in France is specifically divided into three categories: basic retirement system, supplementary retirement system, and retirement savings system.

Two retirement systems for civil servants: a required basic system and a supplementary system that is optional

French civil servants can also enjoy a supplementary retirement system. In 1964, France established the National Retirement Fund for the Public Sector ( Préfon - Caisse nationale de pré voyance de la fonction publique). The way it works is that while working, individuals can freely invest in retirement savings and receive a certain amount of pension when they retire. The biggest benefit is that the amount paid can be tax-deductible.

Employees in private enterprises enjoy both the basic retirement system and the supplementary retirement system. Employees working in private enterprises must participate in two retirement systems: the basic retirement system ( retraite de base) and the supplementary retirement system ( retraite complémentaire)

- Basic retirement system, administered by the National Retirement Insurance Agency ( Caisse nationale d'assurance vieillesse ~ Cnav) to centrally manage payments.

- The supplementary retirement system is managed by two professional associations. For ordinary salaried employees, the corresponding management agency is the Employees' Supplementary Retirement Pension Association (l' Arrco ~ Association for the retirement of employees) For salaried cadres, the General Association of Retirement Management of Cadres ( Agirc - Association general des institutions de retraite des cadres) manages the payments.

For employees of private enterprises, the supplementary retirement system has long been managed according to the points system: pay points while working, and receive supplementary pensions according to the points when retiring! Therefore, the points system is not the first invention of the Macron government.

Madeleine contract Madelin Retirement Savings System

In 1994, Alain Madelin was appointed Minister of Enterprise and Economic Development. He established the Madelin Contractual Retirement Savings System, which applies to non-salaried workers ( Travailleurs non salaries). The principle is also very simple: save your retirement fund freely and wait until you reach the legal retirement age to receive it, that is, you can

receive a certain pension until you die. The main feature of the Madelin contract is the relatively large tax reduction.

It is important to point out that the optional supplementary retirement system and the Madeleine contract system for civil servants (Madelin) retirement savings system has not received enthusiastic response from the French. Therefore, relying on personal voluntary savings for retirement may be a utopia, which is easier said than done.

The calculation of French pensions is a relatively complex mathematical formula, which mainly includes three major indexes: length of service calculated in quarters (La durée d'activité calculée par trimestre), income from work (niveau de revenus) and several additional factors that are legally allowed to be calculated, such as the period of breastfeeding for women, particularly strenuous work, etc. There are three particularly key concepts in French retirement management:

- The statutory retirement age (Age légal), which is the age at which one can retire;
- Only when the total number of accumulated payment quarters reaches the statutory total can you enjoy the full pension (taux plein). This full amount is not 100% of the reference salary, but the highest percentage rate of the reference salary.
- The reference salary for pension calculation,

Finally, it must be explained that there is also a positive and negative coefficient problem in the calculation of pensions: if the statutory calculation standard is not met, the penalty coefficient (malus) is used, and if the statutory calculation standard is exceeded, the bonus coefficient (bonus) is enjoyed. You must know that most French people today, especially the middle and upper classes, are looking for the possibility of working for a few more years in order to increase their pensions.

France's special retirement system can be divided into three categories:

- Public sector (including military, police, etc.)
- Public enterprises and organizations, such as SNCF, EDF, GDF, TRA, etc.
- A hodgepodge of names such as the Comédie-Française, the Opéra National de Paris, the Bank of France, the Seamen, etc.

The much-criticized special retirement system is indeed incomparable to the retirement conditions of most people who work hard all their lives in private enterprises. Under this current system, some special professions can retire early, such as police, air traffic controllers, supervisors, sewer cleaners, etc., who can retire at the age of 52; those who do more physical labor, such as customs inspectors, caregivers for the elderly, the sick and the disabled, garbage collectors, etc., can retire at the age of 57; drivers of the French Railway Company (SNCF) and the Paris Independent Transport Company (RATP) can retire at the age of 50 (starting in 2024, they can retire at the age of 52).

For private sector workers, the calculation parameter is the average of the best 25 years of income during their lifetime work; for civil servants, the calculation parameter is the salary of the last six months before retirement; the participation salary of seafarers is the last three months; the calculation reference number for clergy and notary employees is the last 10 years. By the end of 2019, France had 42 retirement management systems, including 15 special systems. These two different calculation methods are quite controversial in France. Moreover, the treasury of the special retirement system is naturally in deficit, and its deficit is filled by state financial subsidies.

Official statistics for 2016:

- There are 16.1 million retirees in France, 10% of whom are beneficiaries of survivor pensions.
- Average retirement age: 61 years and 8 months. 37% of people leave the workforce before 62, 35% retire at 62, and 28% retire after 62.
- Average pension: 1294 euros (net income). The average difference between men and women is 38.8%. Men's gross retirement income is 1739 euros, while women's gross retirement income is 1065 euros.
- The average life expectancy for men is 79.3 years, while for women it is 85.3 years.
- The total amount of all pensions paid by the French state is 308 billion euros, accounting for 13.8% of national income

According to data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), France's pension expenditure

currently accounts for about 14% of GDP, second only to Italy's 16% among EU countries, and much higher than Germany's 10% and the OECD average of 8%. In addition, France's minimum pension age is 62, one of the lowest among developed countries. France has 42 different pension plans, which vary depending on occupations, etc. Railway, power, medical and other personnel have more favorable retirement systems. For example, train drivers usually receive full pensions in their early 50s.

In 2018, the number of retirees in France exceeded 25% of the total population, and the pension deficit reached 10 billion euros. If the pension system is not reformed, France will face a pension gap of 70 billion euros by 2030, and the deficit will reach 100 billion euros by 2050. According to data released by the French National Institute of Statistics, in the first quarter of 2019, France's public debt increased by 43.6 billion euros compared with the fourth quarter of 2018, and the overall debt reached 2.4 trillion euros, accounting for 99.6% of GDP, once again approaching the EU red line of 100%. With such a high deficit, the government has long been unable to make ends meet.

Reforming the pension system is something that successive French governments have been hoping to do, but have been repeatedly frustrated. According to CNBC, before being elected president in 2017, Macron vowed to reform France's pension system. He believes that the current pension system is complex, unfair and costly. In 2019, the Macron government launched a reform plan with the following main ideas:

- retirement systems into a universal points system is considered a systemic reform.
- Every € 1 contribution entitles you to € 1 in retirement benefits. Treat everyone equally.
- The retirement age is set at 64, or the pivotal retirement age ( âge pivot). Only when you reach this age can you receive the full pension.
- The minimum pension guaranteed to every retiree is tentatively set at 1,000 euros.
- Given the need to ensure that every retiree maintains the same level of pension under the new pension system, the government has introduced a system of adjustment mechanisms.

After the plan was announced, public opinion among major trade unions in France was in an uproar. Starting on December 5, 2019, the strike in the French transportation industry was ignited. Paris launched a super strike, paralyzed the bus, subway and train lines, and more than 800,000 people took to the streets to protest. Faced with the suspension of subways and trains, Parisians had to organize and help each other, and many people sought help from ridesharing. But more people had to muster up the courage to walk to work in the cold winter. So far, the strike has lasted for more than a month, exceeding the historical record of French social movements.

Macron has been ambitiously promoting domestic and EU reforms since taking office, hoping to make France play a strong leadership role within the EU and internationally, but the growing pressure of social protests at home has hit his ambitions of becoming a great power. At the end of 2017, the French "yellow vest" movement kicked off a global large-scale demonstration movement. Now this large-scale strike march in France has caused people to worry that the global street demonstration movement may be far from abating.

Macron must push for reforms, but will the French, who are used to enjoying their benefits, give up their "welfare privileges"? Polls show that 76% of French people support pension reforms. Those on strike must know that changes must be made, otherwise the entire national economy will be dragged down, and the consequences will be disastrous. However, it is still difficult to accept that their own cheese has been moved. How can these public servants avoid strikes? This thorny problem seems to have no solution. Although most people support reforms, it is extremely ironic that only 36% believe that Macron can implement them .

"Why are you joining the strike? What are your demands for pension system reform?" French media France Inter launched a questionnaire on the Internet, and thousands of people answered the question. A teacher said: "Under the current system, my monthly pension will be 1,858 euros in the future. But if it is reformed, it will only be 1,218 euros. My wife is also a teacher, and after the reform her pension will only be 650 euros, which is unacceptable to us."

French BFM TV said that the Macron government had to take the risk of pushing for pension system reform to reduce the heavy welfare burden, but the reform offended the vast working class, trade unions and the left. Although the government promised that the new "universal pension system" would be "fairer", most French people believe that the government is actually cutting pensions in disguise. Even a few "winners" such as farmers, individual craftsmen and single female employees are dissatisfied with the pension system reform. They can only receive full pensions after working and paying pension insurance for 42 years, and the government's "generosity" to these people actually only increases their monthly pension by 20 euros.

As we all know, "Structural reform is the only way for France to prosper, but its implementation is as difficult as trying to shake a tree with an ant. All French politicians, their staff and observers of French political reality know that: first, reform is the redistribution of power and interests. Only when the vested interests are not damaged, new power and interests can be given to some people; second, France's history, culture, values and the spiritual outlook of the French people seem to determine the socialist French economic and social model, which is the same as the Nordic countries: levying super-high social security sharing taxes and providing corresponding high social welfare (medical care, retirement, family allowances and social assistance), which is very different from the social development model of the United Kingdom, the United States and China in recent years: crazy liberal economic development is supreme." "Therefore, implementing drastic reforms in France is like walking on thin ice, like moving mountains with a guise of a fool. Moreover, there is a strange social phenomenon in France: the majority is silent ( Majorit é Silencieuse ) and the minority is arrogant ( minorit é bloquante )."

In his traditional New Year's speech on December 31, 2019, President Macron made a bold statement: "I promise you that the retirement pension system reform that the government is preparing to carry out will be carried out to the end, because this is a reform plan full of social justice and progress." At the same time, the two major trade unions (the French General Confederation of Labor - CGT and the Workers' Force - FO) that firmly opposed Macron's retirement reforms held their ground and would not stop the strike until the government withdrew the reform plan.

Historical experience tells us two things: first, unions rarely stop strikes before their demands are met; second, historically, the government must be very tough and unyielding before announcing that it will give up reforms. In the 2019-2020 pension reform, there may be three ways to solve the problem in the confrontation between the government and the unions:

- The government withdrew the reform plan, and the strike movement came to an abrupt end. The duration of the transport strike has set a record. The four protest marches organized by major trade unions have attracted huge crowds. On January 24, the cabinet meeting chaired by President Macron will review the draft law on pension reform, and then submit it to the parliament for discussion and revision. In this short but passionate period, the legislative process will be a long time for him. The development of the situation may take a turn, such as French public opinion completely turning around, leading to the majority of people opposing the reform, etc., and perhaps President Macron will have to give up the draft plan with great reluctance, or even replace the prime minister and reorganize the government.
- The government made major concessions, the unions returned with a full harvest, stopped the strike, and French social life returned to normal! However, since the demands of various unions are very different, and their appetites are huge, they are eager for more, and it is difficult to satisfy everyone, so the government's major concessions will undoubtedly offset the significance of the reform.
- The government and the trade unions have cooperated sincerely and had frank dialogues to seek a compromise acceptable to all parties. The government's reform strategy may be to divide and rule, and start from the near and go far. It will join forces with the reformist trade unions, which are also the largest trade unions in France, the French Democratic Confederation of Labor (CFDT) and the Independent Union of France (UNSA). In other words, it will try its best to meet the demands of the CFDT and UNSA, so as to gain the support of the majority of the French working class, and thus gain the favor of French public opinion, and even support, and pass the reform plan.

Strikes over pension reforms are not unheard of in French history. The country had long been paralyzed for the same reason, and

the government was eventually forced to abandon the reform. In 1995, then-Prime Minister Alain Juppé announced the "Plan Juppé". The core of the plan is the same as this reform, which is to touch the cheese of public officials. The core content is to adjust the pension payment period of public officials from 37 years to 40 years, so that the pension plan of public sector employees is consistent with that of private enterprise employees.

and was highly praised by the media at the time. *Observateur*, 60% of the media are satisfied with the plan, and only 6% of the media clearly stated that they do not support the plan. Alain Juppé himself said in an interview with TF1: "Je suis droit dans mes bottes et je crois en la France" (European bacteria can't translate it, it's too literary) But the overall meaning is that I am loyal to my principles, trust France, and I can succeed ~

What was the result of such a reform with a dominant public opinion and a firm attitude of the prime minister? French media said: He trusted France, but the country no longer trusted him. From November 24, public servants were mobilized to strike, and the super strike lasted for a full three weeks (until December 15), spreading from the railway department to other public transportation departments. In this strike, the two leaders of the French strike, the general secretaries of the CGT and FO, even fought side by side for the first time since 1947. It can only be said that a common enemy unites people.

Statistics show that on December 12, the peak of the movement, the event attracted nearly one to two million people, with 75% of public servants in France participating. Faced with the surging crowds, the ever-increasing number of strikers and the Parisians who were shivering in the cold wind because they could not take public transportation in the winter, Alain Juppé had no choice but to abandon the Juppé Plan.

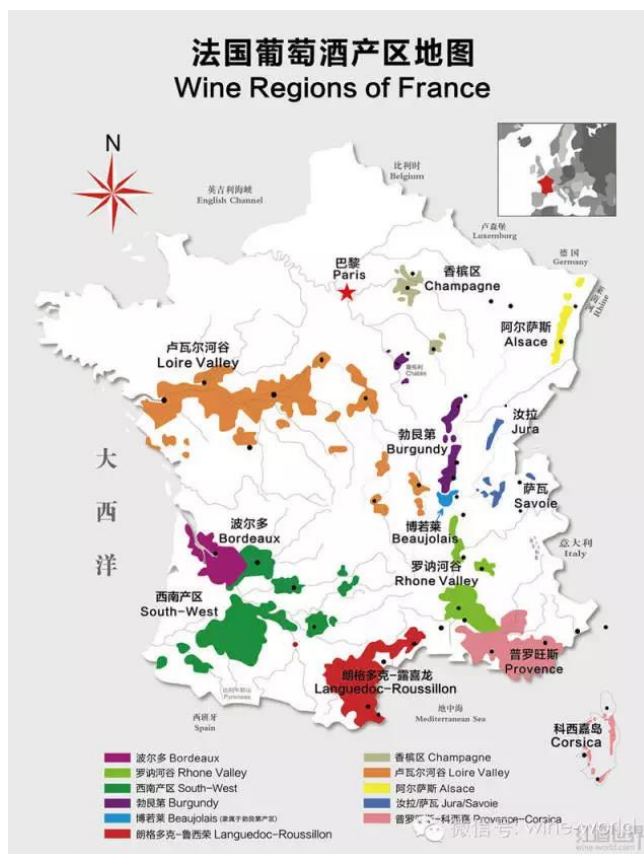
In addition to Alain Juppé, Sarkozy also tried to implement a new retirement system in 2007. He tried to postpone the statutory retirement age from 60 to 62, and the age for receiving full pensions from 65 to 67. The result was also a vigorous strike, so he had to give up.

# French wine

France is a world-renowned wine country. There are three representative wine producing regions in France: Champagne is mainly sparkling wine; Bordeaux is mainly blended wine; Burgundy is mainly single grape variety wine. Among them, Bordeaux has nearly 110,000 hectares of vineyards and produces about 500 million bottles of wine annually. It is recognized as the world's largest wine producing area. Burgundy is one of the ancient wine producing areas in France and the only region that can compete with Bordeaux wine. It produces both famous red wine and world-renowned white wine. The Champagne region is located about 100 miles northeast of Paris and produces champagne, which is known as the "king of wine". Since the 3rd century AD, the Champagne region has begun to produce red and white wines, and champagne was first produced in 1700.

French law divides French wine into four levels: legal designation of origin wine, fine regional table wine, regional table wine, and daily table wine. The legal designation of origin wine level is referred to as AOC, which is the highest level of French wine. Its grape variety, planting quantity, brewing process, alcohol content, etc. must be certified by experts. It can only be brewed with grapes grown in the place of origin, and it must not be blended with grape juice from other places. AOC production accounts for about 35% of the total French wine production. The bottle label is marked with Appellation+ Producing area name +Controlee.

The VDQS is abbreviated as VDQS, which is the level that ordinary regional table wine must go through to transition to AOC. If the wine quality is good during the VDQS period, it will be upgraded to AOC. The output accounts for only 2% of the total French wine output. The bottle label is marked with Appellation + the name of the producing area + Qualite Superieure.



French wines are generally labeled by region, not grape variety. For example, a wine labeled "Puligny Montrachet" is made from Chardonnay grapes. However, the country's VDP- level wines sometimes list the grape variety.

## 1. Bordeaux

Bordeaux wine is generally made from Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. The small amount of sweet and dry white wine produced in Bordeaux is mainly made from Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon.

## 2. Loire Valley

It's hard to describe the wines of the Loire Valley in just one or two sentences. The wines produced here include white wines such as Sauvignon Blanc, Melon de Bourgogne from Muscadet, Chenin Blanc from Vouvray, medium-bodied Cabernet Franc reds, and even sparkling wines.

## 3. Champagne

Need I say more about Champagne, the sparkling wine made from Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier?



#### 4. Alsace

Alsace is one of the regions in France that allows the labeling of grape varieties. It mainly produces white wines, with the most commonly used varieties including Riesling , Gewurztraminer and Pinot Gris . The region also produces sparkling wine using the Champagne method and is labeled " Cremant d'Alsace " (i.e. Alsace sparkling wine).

#### 5. Burgundy

Burgundy can be divided into four sub-regions, from north to south: Chablis , Cote d'Or , Cote Chalonnaise and Maconnais . It once also included the Beaujolais region , which produced wines from Gamay grapes .

#### 6. Rhone Valley

The Rhône Valley is famous for its red wines, which are blends of Syrah , Grenache , Mourvedre and Cinsault . The region also produces a small amount of white wine, mainly made from the famous Viognier .

#### 7. Provence

This region is located in the southwest of the Rhone Valley and produces almost all French grape varieties.

#### 8. Languedoc Roussillon

The region has historically been the base for mass-production of French wines, and now produces more than 50,000,000 cases of wine each year. It is worth mentioning that many wines in this region will indicate the grape varieties used for making wine.

#### 3. Main wine grape varieties in France

France is the origin of many "international varieties". The following are the main wine grape varieties in France.

##### 1. Main white grape varieties (by planting area)

- ( 1 ) Baiyuni
- ( 2 ) Chardonnay
- ( 3 ) Sauvignon Blanc
- ( 4 ) Burgundy Melon
- ( 5 ) Semillon
- ( 6 ) Musk
- ( 7 ) Chenin Blanc

##### 2. Main red grape varieties (by planting area)

- ( 1 ) Merlot
- ( 2 ) Grenache
- ( 3 ) Syrah
- ( 4 ) Carignan
- ( 5 ) Cabernet Sauvignon
- ( 6 ) Cabernet Franc
- ( 7 ) Caramel
- ( 8 ) Pinot Noir
- ( 9 ) Shensou
- ( 10 ) Pinot Meunier
- ( 11 ) Mourvedre

Although France is a small country, the climate for growing grapes is very diverse. For example, the south of France

enjoys a warm and sunny Mediterranean climate, while the Alsace region in northeastern France has a cold climate, but the grape vines are planted on hillsides facing southeast and southwest, so they can still receive enough sunlight. The south of France has a long growing season and warm temperatures, so it can produce nearly half of France's wine. Of course, in terms of quality, the wines produced in the south are often not as good as the fine wines in northern France.

## French cuisine

French food culture can be traced back to the ancient Roman Empire. A group of famous chefs from Athens and Rome came to France with the expeditionary army and laid the foundation of French cuisine. During the Renaissance, famous Italian dishes and their cooking methods were introduced to France. As King Henry IV of France married Italian Princess Caterina de' Medici, a large group of Italian chefs were brought to Paris as a dowry. Italian cuisine became popular in the French court and was gradually absorbed into French cuisine. The luxury-loving Sun King Louis XIV made the French court's banquets the best in Europe. He also worked hard to train French chefs to get rid of their dependence on Italian chefs. His approach was to hold a national cooking competition at the Palace of Versailles, where more than 300 chefs showed their talents. The best chefs were personally awarded the "No. 1 Food God in France" ribbon, the Cordon Bleu Award, which is still a coveted honor for chefs all over France today. From Louis XIV, Louis XV to Louis XVI, all French kings admired food, and the whole country followed suit, which not only greatly improved the social status of chefs to an artistic professional status, but also led to a situation of a hundred schools of thought in the French food world. However, it is the French Revolution that really made French food famous in the world. With the sound of the cannons of the Bastille, Louis XVI was sent to the guillotine, and a large number of court chefs also drifted to the people and began to open restaurants and food buildings in the streets and alleys of Paris to make a living. A large number of court meals entered the people and became delicacies that most French classes had the opportunity to enjoy. While enjoying them, the middle class also began to imitate the dining methods and etiquette of the nobles in the past. At the same time, Napoleon fought all over Europe. Just like the slogan of "freedom, equality, and fraternity", French food was also spread to various countries with Napoleon's army and was welcomed by various countries. The great German writer Goethe summarized it like this at the time: "Napoleon's iron hoof conquered the monarchs of Europe, and the food of French chefs conquered everyone's stomach."

French cuisine is one of the three major cuisines in the world. Even the simplest ingredients must be prepared with a very rigorous attitude. Cooking French dishes is like carving a fine art dish. The selection of ingredients for French cuisine prefers beef, lamb, poultry, seafood, vegetables, goose liver and caviar. The main ingredients are often cooked lightly to retain the original flavor. The ingredients, especially the sauce, are more laborious. The ingredients used are very wide, whether it is broth, wine, fresh cream, butter or various spices, fruits, etc., they are used very flexibly. The chefs of famous restaurants have their own original signature sauce recipes to attract customers. When talking about French cuisine, readers will definitely think of snails, frog legs and goose liver, which are the favorite dishes of the French. Goose liver is the most expensive. According to incomplete statistics, France consumes about 2,000 tons of goose liver every year. In addition, the French also like to eat seafood, oysters, lobsters and various seasonal sea fish. Recently, there is a dish that is becoming more and more popular, called black fungus, also known as "truffle" or "arch fungus" (Truffle), which is worth a fortune. Natural black mushrooms are known as "black diamonds" in the culinary world. One kilogram can be sold for 1,000 euros. The French often say "one gram of black mushrooms is worth one gram of gold", which is not an exaggeration. Natural black mushrooms are as precious as gold. The black mushrooms are black with clear white lines and have a fragrant smell with a slight earthy taste. The delicacies cooked with black mushrooms are both delicious and nutritious, and are relatively rare treasures. At present, there are more than 30 different types of black mushrooms in the world, distributed in France, Britain, Italy and other places, but the best types are in the vast forests of Perigord in southwestern France. Most black mushrooms grow about 10 inches below the roots of oak trees. Interestingly,

humans do not know how to discover them or pick them, so they have to rely on animals for help, especially trained pigs or dogs to smell the black mushrooms and then use their claws to dig them out from under the oak trees. Different regions in France have different specialties: the northeastern cuisine is best known for seafood; the sheep in Normandy in the west are unique, and the milk and apples produced here can be made into dairy products and brandy respectively; the central region's cuisine is famous for Lyon, and the rich local agricultural products have pushed the already excellent cooking skills to a higher level, such as the famous Beaugrenès chicken and the dry ham from the Montagnards de Meuron.

Alexandre Dumas ate at restaurants of all sizes in Paris and became the earliest writer in France to write food reviews. Wherever he went, he wrote notes while eating, and almost all the chefs in major restaurants became his friends. At that time, all the famous chefs in France praised Alexandre Dumas as a "soulmate". The "Great Dictionary of Cuisine" he personally compiled was generally regarded as "readable, easy to read, and useful", and became a classic in the food industry in the 19th century. There is a short story about table manners circulating in France. Wattelle was a well-known chef in France in the Middle Ages. When he was entertaining guests at a banquet, he was ashamed to live in the world because the grilled meat and fish could not meet the needs of the guests, so he drew his sword and committed suicide. The authenticity of this historical story is unknown, but the famous French chef Bernard Loiseau ( Bernard Loiseau) It is true that Mr. Loiseau shot himself because his restaurant was downgraded. Mr. Loiseau was the chef and owner of a famous French restaurant in the Bourgogne region of France. The restaurant has been doing well since its opening, and he was often rated as one of the best chefs in France by the French magazine Guide Gaultmillau, which made him famous and wealthy. However, the Guide Gaultmillau believed that Loiseau's cooking skills had declined in recent years, so it downgraded his restaurant's rating from 18/20 to 16/20 , which means a 2- point drop . The 16/20 rating for two consecutive years brought shame to Loiseau, who regarded honor as his life, and he eventually chose to commit suicide.

There are two most authoritative restaurant rating agencies in France. One is the Godemiu Food Guide mentioned above, and the other is the Guide Michelin published by the famous Michelin tire company . Because the cover of the book is red, it is also called the Michelin Red Guide, to distinguish it from another guide book of Michelin, which is green and also called the Michelin Green Guide. The highest rating of restaurants in the Michelin Food Guide is three stars, and the lowest is one star. There are only 24 restaurants with three stars in France , which are funded by Michelin and have about 10 people. Their job is to eat all over France and then score according to strict internal unified standards. These standards are probably the quality of food, plating, creativity, service, interior decoration, etc. These raters are all people who love food. They are very picky about dining and pay special attention to details. They may be very generous and ask for the best dishes and the best wine to see how the host treats the guests. But usually they are very low-key, order a small dish, sit in the corner, and leave after eating. These people may have the most enviable profession in the world, but they always go incognito like the wind, coming and going without a trace, which makes people feel how mysterious their work is!

When William, Duke of Normandy, conquered the British Isles, the first thing he did was to teach the Anglo-Saxons, who did not know the dining culture, the basic etiquette of dining and the exquisiteness of French cuisine. Therefore, there are so many French words related to the art of dining in English. These red tapes include drinking aperitifs before meals, digestive wine after meals, drinking red wine with meat and white wine with fish. When using tableware such as knives and forks, hold the knife in the right hand and the fork in the left hand. Use the knife to cut the food into small pieces first, and then use the fork to put the food into the mouth. After each dish is finished, put the knife and fork together on the plate. If you have not finished eating, you should put the knife and fork in an "eight" shape or cross them, but do not put the blade outward. The French do not like to toast, but they like to give toasts. If you only eat without talking, you will be regarded as lacking enthusiasm. But if you toast as frequently as in China, people will also feel that you are uneducated.

# French perfume

The word parfum, derived from the Latin words par+fumum (from smoke), originated in ancient civilizations such as Egypt, Rome, Greece, India, and Persia. It is said that Egyptians liked to bathe with essences and ointments. In 1500 BC, Cleopatra, the Queen of Egypt, even bathed with 15 different scents of perfume and oil. The Crusades in the 11th century brought splendid oriental culture to Europe. With the continuous strengthening of trade between the East and the West, perfume, a product that pleases people and oneself, has gradually been accepted and loved by Europeans.

Speaking of perfume and France, there is also a story about the personal hygiene of the French. The French were reluctant to take a bath. They thought that taking too many baths was not good, and even thought that soap was poisonous. They would rather change several sets of clothes a day. In this way, the smell of the French can be imagined. King Henry IV and Louis XIII were both famous stinky kings in French history. In 1533, the Pope's niece Catherine de Medicis married King Henry II of France. In addition to the Italian cooking skills mentioned above, she also brought the colorful Italian perfume culture and became the initiator of French perfume culture. Her full-time perfumer also opened the first perfume shop in Paris, which not only created a new trend of the French people using perfume for bathing, but also made the French who love cosmetics flock to it. Legend has it that later Louis XIV was addicted to perfume and was called the "Emperor who loves perfume." He even called on his subjects to change different perfumes every day and ordered the court perfumer to mix a perfume he liked every day, otherwise there would be a risk of going to the guillotine. During the reign of Louis XV, Madame de Pompadour and Madame du Barry were as fond of perfume as they were of clothing. People in the palace followed suit, and the whole palace was filled with fragrance, which was called the "Palace of Perfume". The whole of Paris also became the "Capital of Perfume". Louis XVI used all his national strength to recruit Italian perfume and soap industry experts, laying the foundation for the French perfume industry. Marie Antoinette, the queen of Louis XVI, especially liked a perfume made of violets and roses as the main ingredients. The obsession with perfume in the French government and the public once again set off a trend of perfume bathing, and a luxury that had not been seen since the Roman period appeared in Paris. At that time, perfume was also believed to have the effect of relieving fatigue, relaxing nerves and curing diseases. People sprinkled perfume on handkerchiefs and carried them with them to make the whole body emit fragrance.

Although Napoleon was born in a humble family, once he was crowned, he yearned for the hedonistic life of the former French emperors and spared no effort to promote the tradition of luxury before the French Revolution, including recruiting the court perfumer of the Bourbon dynasty. Napoleon was a well-known mysophobia and loved cologne. His perfumer once customized cologne for Napoleon based on the 17th century cologne formula. It is said that Napoleon used at least 60 bottles a month. Even during the war, he sometimes used 12 kilograms of perfume a day. When he was exiled to the island of Elba in the Mediterranean, he ran out of perfume, so he created his own mint to make perfume, called Eaudetoilette, which became a model of perfume in the future. With the strong support of Napoleon, the French perfume industry was unprecedentedly prosperous. He encouraged scientists at the time to invest in the research of organic chemistry, which brought about revolutionary changes in the French perfume industry and began to lead the world trend.


Perfumes have different names depending on the concentration of the essence they contain, such as "floral water", also known as "light perfume" (Eau de Toilette), "Eau de Cologne", also known as "cosmetic perfume" (Eau de Parfum) and "strong perfume" (Parfum). The essence content of cologne is between 3-5%, and the concentration of ethanol used is between 60-75%. The essence content of floral water is between 5-12%, and the concentration of ethanol used is between 75-90%. It is lighter than perfume and gives a more refreshing impression. It is an ideal perfume for the whole body. The essence concentration of perfume is between 12-18%. The fragrance is lighter than perfume, but richer than Eau de Toilette. The essence concentration of strong perfume is the highest, with a content of about 18-25%, and the concentration of ethanol used is between 60-95%. The fragrance is rich and long-lasting, and the lingering fragrance can float everywhere. Since essences are made up of dozens or even hundreds of spices, essence-based perfumes are the most precious.

French perfumes were initially produced using natural raw materials, such as flowers (roses, jasmine), fruits (lemons, citrus), ball plants (tuberose), etc. Since natural raw materials are expensive, for example, 600 kg of jasmine can only produce 1 kg of jasmine essence, so from the beginning of the 20th century, the French began to use synthetic methods to produce perfumes and cosmetics. It is difficult to classify different scents because scents are extremely difficult to measure. At the end of the 19th century, some perfumers tried to classify various perfumes into 18 categories, such as sandalwood, incense roots and fir. Some people also tried to classify perfumes by corresponding scales, believing that the arrangement of perfumes should be as perfect as the tones of music and have their own order. Although this method was not successfully promoted in the end, some perfume terms related to music have been retained to this day, such as harmony and tonality.

1925, "Chanel No. 5" achieved worldwide success and was regarded as a milestone in the history of French perfume development. It was also the world's first perfume to add acetaldehyde. This classic perfume exudes a refreshing and elegant fragrance, reflecting the independence and rational spirit of women in the new era, making women in professional attire dignified and charming. Yves Saint Laurent (YSL) has a perfume called "Opium", which exudes an alluring oriental fragrance. Coupled with its shocking name, it sells well in the French market.

## Paris

Bus Stops			
Latitude and longitude	N 48 ° 51 ' E 2 ° 21 ' 03 "	Equivalent to China ...	Yichun, Heilongjiang
Area (square kilometers):	Petite Paris (Paris): 105 Ile-de-France: 12,000	Population ('000):	Petite Paris (Paris): 2,250 Ile-de-France: 12,300
City status	The capital and largest city of France, it is also the political and cultural center of France. It is part of the Paris Department under the Ile-de-France Region and is also the core of the Ile-de-France Region. It is one of the most important political and cultural centers in the world and is one of the top five international cities in the world along with New York, London, Tokyo and Hong Kong. Many international organizations have their headquarters in Paris, including UNESCO, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Chamber of Commerce, the Paris Club, etc.		
Origin of the name	The word Paris comes from a branch of ancient Gaul: the Parisii ( "西" is just a transliteration and has nothing to do with the direction). This tribe settled in the Seine River area in the 3rd century BC		
Basic historical information	Humans have lived here since 4200 BC. The Parisi, a branch of the Celts called the Gallic people, had lived along the Seine River since 250 BC. In 52 BC, the Romans conquered the Paris region. In 358 AD, the Romans seized the Gaulish village on the Île de la Cité on the Seine River, built a palace there and established their capital, called "Parisigues". This year is considered the beginning of the construction of Paris. In 508 AD, the Franks occupied Paris, and King Clovis I designated Paris as the capital of the Merovingian dynasty. Expansion began in the 16th century, and in the mid-19th century, during the Second French Empire (Napoleon III), Baron Haussmann carried out large-scale urban transformation of Paris, forming the prototype of today's city appearance.  Petite Paris belongs to the Paris Department (No. 75) under the Ile-de-France Region. The current Paris area is divided into 20 districts. The Ile-de-France Region is centered in Paris, so it is commonly known as the Greater Paris area.		

City logo	
other	About 300,000 Chinese live in the Greater Paris area, of which about 150,000 live in the Paris city area.

**Paris Syndrome** is a mental disorder that Japanese tourists who visit Paris are particularly prone to. Japanese people, who are generally considered to be polite, have too high expectations of Paris. After actually interacting with the city of Paris or the Parisians, they find that Parisians can also be rude and the city is not as beautiful as expected, so they feel uncomfortable. The extremely beautiful and dreamy imagination is ruthlessly shattered by reality. Dozens of people are sent to the hospital every year, and a psychiatric hospital in Paris even has a special department. However, the most effective treatment at present is to send them back to Japan and never come to Paris again.

Xu Zhimo once lamented that "those who have been to Paris will no longer miss paradise." In his novel "Return to Babylon," American writer Fitzgerald called Paris a dream city full of luxury, pleasure, and desire. In Hemingway's eyes, "If you are lucky enough to have stayed in Paris when you are young, then Paris will always follow you, because Paris is a moveable feast." I remember a French philosopher once said, "To be born in Paris is to be French 10 times."

Paris's majestic momentum, rich cultural atmosphere and ocean-like inclusiveness have become a small oasis where people of all skin colors, civilizations and ideologies coexist in the hustle and bustle of life. Paris's enthusiasm and generosity have helped many wanderers, lovers who met by chance, passers-by from north to south and impoverished artists find the feeling they dream of. According to statistics, there are 25,000 foreign artists living in France today, most of whom are in Paris. Among them are writers, painters, musicians, fashion designers, plastic artists, dancers, sculptors, etc. These artists came to Paris because Paris has a unique artistic atmosphere and a long tradition of accepting talents. Spanish painters Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali, who came to Paris to escape the dictatorship of Franco, pushed their artistic careers to the peak in this free and generous artistic atmosphere of Paris. Paris is so big that it has almost become a symbol of France. Paris is so romantic that it almost condenses the life of the French. Paris is so profound. It has many talented people and beautiful scenery. Almost every corner of the city has a fascinating story.

During World War II, Paris was occupied by Nazi Germany. One morning, Hitler suddenly paid a lightning visit to Paris. When Hitler first came to Paris, he was shocked by the momentum of Paris. In just three hours, Hitler's mood changed from shock to jealousy, and he even had the idea of completely destroying Paris. But in the end, Hitler's confidence surpassed his jealousy. He told his attendants that Paris was not the best city in the world because Berlin would surpass Paris. Perhaps it was Hitler's confidence that saved Paris!

In August 1944, Hitler appointed General Choltitz as the commander of the German garrison in Greater Paris and ordered him to completely blow up Paris if it was attacked. Hitler also emphasized that Paris "must be completely destroyed, whether it is a church or an art museum." This cruel order also made Choltitz, who had always been loyal, waver. He clearly realized that the person he was loyal to had lost his mind and he himself would execute a crazy order.

The SS had laid explosives and torpedoes all over Paris. As long as Choltitz gave an order, hundreds of thousands of lives and the city of art would be destroyed. Choltitz received another order from Hitler, asking him to blow up the bridges on the Seine. Hitler reiterated in the order: "Unless Paris becomes a pile of ruins, it must not fall into the hands of the Allies." At this time, Choltitz had doubts about the significance of the order he was about to execute. He knew that destroying the bridges in Paris and even the entire city of Paris would not stop the Allies from advancing. He rejected the German Air Force's bombing of Paris. Just as Choltitz began to waver, the uprising in Paris provided him with an excuse to delay the execution of the order to destroy Paris. He told the Paris insurgents that he had been trying to disobey the order to destroy Paris before, but he had little time left. Only if the Allies occupied Paris as soon as possible could the disaster be prevented. After the Allies received this news, they immediately ordered the army to advance at full speed to Paris. Hitler was extremely annoyed when he heard about it, and tried Choltitz in absentia and sentenced him to death. With the help of his friends, Choltitz's family escaped the persecution of Hitler's purge. After being arrested, Choltitz served his sentence in a French prison. He was released in 1947 and settled in West Germany. He died of illness in 1966.

## **Seine River**

The Seine River is the second largest river in France flowing through the center of Paris, with a total length of 785 kilometers and a drainage area of 78,000 square kilometers. The source of the main stream of the Seine River is located in the Burgundy region, on the Langres Plateau 30 kilometers northwest of Dijon, the capital of the Côte-d'Or department, and flows through Troyes, the capital of the Aube department, through the center of Paris, through Rouen in Normandy, to Le Havre, where it flows into the sea and the English Channel.

The northern tributaries include the Marne, Oise and Aube rivers; the southern tributaries include the Yonne and Eure rivers. Through the canals built in the 17th and 18th centuries, the Meuse River, a tributary of the Rhine, the Saône River, a tributary of the Rhone River, the main river in southern France, and the Loire River, the largest river in France, can be connected. Shallow draft ships can sail directly to Belgium, Germany and the Mediterranean. The upper Marne and Aube River basins are the main production areas of champagne. The Seine River flows through the center of Paris, and the river is bounded by artificial stone embankments, which were listed as World Heritage by UNESCO in 1991 .

The French call the north bank of the Seine the right bank and the south bank the left bank, which is named based on the direction of the river flow. This is opposite to the definition in ancient China, which named the area facing the source, and therefore called the area south of the Yangtze River "Jiangzuo".

Bridges on the Seine River. There are about 36 bridges of various types on the Seine River. These bridges reflect the culture of France and also record the development history of Paris. The oldest bridge in Paris is called the Pont Neuf. The Pont Neuf is the link between the Louvre, the Abbey of Saint-Germain-des-Prés and the Left Bank. The movie "The Lovers on the Pont Neuf" made him famous. The iron bridge Pont des Arts is unique among the dozens of bridges on the Seine River. Couples come to Paris, lock a love lock, and then throw the key into the Seine River, to indicate that the love lock will never need to be opened again, symbolizing the everlasting love. Here, the love locks of various sizes and shapes witness the persistence and desire for love in the lives of couples from all over the world. However, all this beautiful and romantic thing has become a thing of the past. The love locks weighing 45 tons have been demolished by the Paris City Hall. The fence on the bridge has been changed to glass.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the American War of Independence, Bartholdi first designed a 11.5- meter plaster statue of the Statue of Liberty, which was later enlarged four times and given to the United States. The plaster statue is in the Museum of Arts and Crafts in Paris. The statue on the Island of Cygnes was presented to France by the American Committee of Paris to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. It was unveiled by the fourth French President Carnot on July 4, 1889. When it was first placed on the Island of Cygnes, the Statue of Liberty faced the east, that is , the Grenelle Bridge , in order to avoid the president from unveiling the statue on a boat or unveiling a statue with its back to himself, although Bartholdi had always requested that the statue should face the direction of New York. Later, during the 1937 World Expo, the statue was turned to face the west. The statue was carved by the Thiébaud Frères foundry .

## **Haussmann-style buildings on the streets of Paris**

If Paris is an incomparable city, then the neat and exquisite Haussmannian buildings in the city are the highlight of this incomparable city.

The second and fifth floors of these buildings usually have connected balconies, while the other floors either have no balconies or only small independent balconies. Behind this design, it is implied that Haussmann considered the social class issues when designing these buildings. These buildings built in the mid -19th century have a particular emphasis on what class of people live on each floor.

The first floor is the home of small vendors. Their shops are usually on the ground floor facing the street. In order to protect their shops, the owners choose to live on the first floor closest to their shops. In this way, if there is any disturbance in the shop at night, the owners can know it immediately.

-19th century when Haussmannian architecture first appeared, there was no such thing as an elevator (it was not until the 20th

century that elevators were gradually installed in Parisian apartments). Without an elevator, how could the wealthy bourgeoisie be bothered to climb the stairs every day until they were exhausted? Therefore, apart from the first floor, the second floor, which requires the least amount of stairs, was naturally occupied by the wealthy bourgeoisie. Although the second floor is good, there is a big problem, that is, it is too close to the street and will inevitably be affected by the noise of the street. In order to block the noise of the street, Haussmann designed a long balcony on the second floor.

The third and fourth floors are the homes of ordinary bourgeois families. The third and fourth floors, which require some leg strength, are usually inhabited by ordinary bourgeois families who have some assets but are not as rich as the bourgeois families living on the second floor. So on the third and fourth floors, the balconies become independent small balconies, or there are no balconies at all.

The fifth floor is home to the lowest-ranking residents. Going up and down the stairs every day makes them breathless. Compared with other floors, the residents on the fifth floor, which is used to exercise their thigh muscles, are usually the lowest-ranking residents in the entire building. The floor is high and climbing stairs is tiring, so the designer rewarded the residents on the fifth floor with a large balcony. Of course, the main function of this balcony is not to reward them for their hard work in climbing stairs, but to echo the large balcony on the second floor, which gives the building a symmetrical and harmonious beauty.

The sixth floor is the servants' room. The attic of the Haussmann-style building is the servants' room. The room is very small, usually there is not much space after putting a bed. There are public toilets and bathrooms on the floor. Nowadays, many young people in France who have just become financially independent like to rent these former servants' rooms. The small attic looks particularly lovely after being transformed by young people.

Paris' unique "Monza-style roof": blue-gray slate, light gray zinc sheet, and a magnificent golden dome. It is this soft and distinctive low-saturation color scheme that brings every artist who comes to Paris into an intoxicating and mysterious vortex of inspiration. The mayor of Paris has previously proposed an "urban greening plan" to plant 100 hectares of flat roofs and building surfaces in Paris, with the aim of combating smog and urban pollution.

### **Lafayette**

Galleries Lafayette Haussmann is a French department store chain with branches throughout France, Europe and other regions. Its flagship store is located at 40 Boulevard Haussmann in Paris , next to the Paris Opera. In 2009 , Galleries Lafayette's total profit exceeded 1 billion euros and has approximately 25 million customers per year.

1895 , French businessman Théophile Bader and his cousin Alphonse Kahn opened a fashion store on the Avenue Lafayette in Paris, close to the Paris Opera, the Grands Boulevards and the Saint-Lazare Station, which quickly attracted many office workers and the bourgeoisie. In 1896 , Bader bought the entire building at 1 Avenue Lafayette, and then continued to expand the area of the mall in 1903. In 1912 , the glass dome and the Art Nouveau staircase were completed, and the Galleries Lafayette department store officially opened. It has been renovated many times since then.

- Galleries Lafayette is closed on Sundays

### **Opera Garnier**

Paris is known as the capital of art, with endless exhibitions, dramas, dances, movies, etc., and endless concerts, recitals, operas, etc. There are two opera houses in Paris: the Garnier Opera and the Bastille Opera . The Opera House Garnier is located in the bustling commercial district of Paris. Not far in front of it is the Louvre, and behind it are the Paris series of high-end department stores (a shopping paradise for tourists). When people talk about opera houses, they usually refer to the Opéra Garnier, which is the venue for classical opera and dance in Paris. The Opéra Bastille is as modern and experimental as its architecture.

In 1860 , the French Ministry of Art decided to rebuild the opera house. Among the 171 works, the design of the 35 -year-old architect Charles Garnier stood out. Garnier had studied in Rome and visited many European countries as a travel enthusiast, so he hoped to integrate different design elements from different countries to build the Paris Opera House. Then there was a long 15 -year construction process. First, there was a stream under the ground, which made the foundation unstable. Then, the



Franco-Prussian War and the Fourth Revolution in the country caught up, and the construction was suspended several times. In 1875, the new opera house that can accommodate nearly 2,200 spectators was finally officially completed.

This masterpiece of eclectic architecture is recognized as the most successful architectural masterpiece of the Second French Empire and a model of European neo-baroque architecture. It inherits the style of late Italian baroque architecture and adds numerous complicated carvings, exquisite materials, and extravagance, which is particularly in line with the aesthetics of the French people. The opera house was officially named Palais Garnier. The magnificent building of the Garnier Opera House has been likened to a huge wedding cake. The entire building is built with a mixture of excellent stone, marble, and bronze materials. The intricately carved facade is covered with numerous decorations, like an extraordinary sculpture museum. It is rigorously balanced and symmetrically divided into two floors, each consisting of seven porch window frames. The ground floor is a rhythmic arched porch, decorated with a series of dance and opera-themed facade sculptures. The archway is decorated with a series of reliefs of famous musicians (Mozart, Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, etc.). The upper floor is composed of seven large windows with tall symmetrical double columns in the rhythm of music. The window frames are decorated with a statue of a famous playwright. There are two classical semicircular lintel reliefs on the left and right. There are a series of music-themed reliefs sandwiched between them. On the roof, there are two dramatic angel statues standing symmetrically on the left and right, and a group of vivid statues standing on the central copper-green dome. Many architectural critics call the Paris Opera House a "large wedding cake", and its appearance, shape and decoration are all carefully designed and decorated. Now, the Paris Opera House is listed as one of the five most important opera houses in the world.

It is said that Napoleon III's queen Eugenie once questioned the style of the building, saying it was not traditional enough, neither Romanesque nor classical. But Garnier flattered her so much that she was delighted: "Dear queen, this is the style of your husband, Napoleon III!" From then on, the "Napoleon III style" opera house became a symbol of love between Napoleon III and Eugenie, and also the most famous dating spot in Paris.

The opera house covers an area of three hectares and is seven stories high. It has 2,531 doors, 7,593 keys, 538 dressing rooms, 100 instrument storage rooms and six miles of underground passages. This long list of numbers turns the theater into a confusing maze. There is a six-meter-deep reservoir at the bottom of the theater. Every ten years or so, all the water in it must be pumped out and replaced with clean new water. This was originally a special waterproof building reinforcement mode adopted because of the excavation of groundwater, but the sparkling light in the darkness adds a touch of mystery to the opera house.

In May 1896, the crystal chandelier above the auditorium fell down due to a short circuit, causing casualties. A technical worker in the opera house mysteriously disappeared. The story was later adapted into a famous scene in "The Phantom of the Opera". The French name of "The Phantom of the Opera", *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra*, can be directly translated as "The Phantom of the Opera".

It is difficult to get a ticket to the Paris Opera House, but fortunately, except for the performance hall, most places can be visited with a visiting ticket. As soon as you enter the theater, you will see the most classic Grand Escalier. The design of the staircase was inspired by the Grand Theater of Bordeaux. It is built with white marble from Italy, green marble from Sweden and some red marble. The striped patterns and exquisite marble staircases look particularly brilliant under the golden light. The marble elements extend all the way to the second floor, perfectly presenting a noble and luxurious style. It can be said to be one of the most impressive places in the Paris Opera House. Opera composer Charles Nutter praised this staircase as "an architecture within an architecture." On both sides of the stairs are the corridors of the opera house. The corridors are comparable to the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles and are full of mirrors and glass decorations. The Baroque architectural style is complemented by unpredictable and complicated decorations, which are extremely luxurious. The colonnade also displays many bronze busts of famous composers and exquisite photos of well-known opera singers and ballet dancers.

The horseshoe-shaped auditorium is illuminated by dazzling red and gold. The hall adopts the traditional Italian style and has multi-layered colonnade boxes. It is 170 meters long and 100 meters wide. When it was first built, it had as many as 2,156 seats,

decorated with uniform red velvet cushions, which is extremely gorgeous. The opera house stage, which is 32 meters wide and 27 meters deep, is the largest stage in the world and can accommodate 450 actors for performances at the same time.

The ceiling of the hall is a huge work by Marc Chagall, a surrealist painter from Belarus, which was completed 12 years after the opera house was built. Chagall was described by Picasso as "the only person who truly understands color since Matisse", and the two large murals in the new building of the New York Metropolitan Opera were also created by him. Chagall took this opportunity to express his respect and enthusiasm for Paris, and did not charge any painting fees. After two years, this masterpiece was completed in 1965. This colorful ceiling painting depicts the appearance of ballet dancers performing at the Paris Opera House. The painting features gods and people with graceful and elegant postures, with the innocence of fairy tales and the mystery of heaven, which is harmoniously matched with the luxurious complexity of "Napoleon III". A 6-ton crystal chandelier hangs above.

The Paris Opera's performance season runs from September to July of the following year, with about 30 different plays, including operas, ballets, and concerts. Music and dance enthusiasts from all over the world will arrange their own time to watch the performances in advance and book tickets, and the tickets for the performances are often sold out months in advance. Ticket prices range from 12 euros to more than 200 euros. The seats for the cheapest tickets are very remote, and the seats for the best seats may not be comfortable. Due to the large number of spectators, the theater has added a lot of seats compared to when it was first built, and folding chairs have been added next to the aisles. At present, "lying tickets" and "hanging tickets" are not available.

The basic rule for watching a performance is to dress formally. The audience sitting in the box looks even more solemn, with antique corseted long skirts swaying and folded lace fans fluttering, as if it were a retro-themed Cosplay party.

The Grand Foyer is 154 meters long, 13 meters wide and 18 meters high. It is a social place for high-ranking people and a stunning corner of the Paris Opera. In order to present the Paris Opera more completely, Charles Garnier invited Paul Baudry, an outstanding painter at the time, to work with him. Paul Baudry painted on the ceiling of the opera house with the theme of the history of music.

The statue of Carlotta Gris, an outstanding Italian ballet dancer of Croatian descent, is displayed here. Her first ballet performance at the Paris Opera was the role of Giselle in Giselle. In addition, she is known as a representative of the "romantic ballet" female ballet dancer.

#### Tips for watching a performance at the Paris Opera House

The ticket to the opera house costs 10 euros, so it is better to spend 12 euros to watch an opera in a remote location, of course, the premise is that you can buy tickets. Buy tickets on the official website of the National Opera of Paris. Please note that this opera company's performances are not necessarily performed only at the Paris Opera House. Look for the words "Palais Garnier" clearly.

If you think it's not worth buying the admission ticket, here's a tip for you to appreciate the interior of the opera house for free: there is a camera at the innermost part of the souvenir shop on the side of the opera house, which allows you to monitor the opera house lobby for free.

3 Bd des Capucines has free restrooms.

#### Hana

Grasse, a French town famous for its perfume craftsmanship and perfume trade, still bears the responsibility of Grasse is known as the "World Perfume Capital". There are more than 30 perfume factories in Grasse, the most famous and largest of which is

Fragonard .

Fragonard perfume company was founded by Eugene Fuchs in Grasse , France in 1926. The brand is only sold in France and is not well known in China, but Fragonard is the world's first perfume factory. Many brands such as Chanel CD still commission it to make perfumes. Whether it is perfume or skin care products, Fragonard uses plants and flowers as raw materials. One ton of jasmine can only get one liter of essence, and one hectare of lavender can only produce 15 pounds of essential oil in a year, while the price of rose essential oil has always been far higher than gold. The world-famous Chanel No. 5 is extracted from roses and jasmine.

Fragonard perfumes and fragrances are sold for 500-600 RMB on Taobao in China , but only 200-300 RMB in the French factory store . Many customers from China, especially girls who understand fashion, come here specifically to buy perfumes and fragrances.

## **Notre Dame de Paris**

6 Parvis Notre-Dame - Pl. Jean-Paul II, 75004 Paris

Notre Dame de Paris (French: Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris ; literally translated as Notre Dame Cathedral of Paris) is a Catholic church located on the Ile de la Cité in the center of Paris, France. It was built between 1163 and 1345. It is a Gothic building, 128 meters long and 69 meters wide, with a vault of 33 meters wide, and can accommodate 9,000 people at the same time. In the mid- 18th century, in order to improve the lighting in the church, the church removed the old stained glass windows originally built in the Middle Ages and replaced them with new transparent glass with a larger single glass area but a less complex and gorgeous pattern. Only the rose windows on the west, north and south sides of the church retained the original design. Originally, Gothic buildings would have a spire at the top of the bell tower, but because the engineering difficulty of the spire was too high, among the many Gothic churches in the Île-de-France region, there are very few churches that actually completed the spire and did not collapse afterwards. Although Notre Dame did have a plan to build a spire at the beginning , it was never implemented. Therefore, from a certain perspective, we can say that even after hundreds of years, Notre Dame is still in an unfinished state, although in fact, later generations did not really intend to build this part of the original plan. The reason why Notre Dame de Paris is famous in the world is mainly because it is an epoch-making symbol in the history of European architecture. It broke through the constraints of the old church building model and created a new lightweight skeleton vault, making the church vault lighter, the space higher, and the light sufficient. This unique architectural style quickly spread across Europe.



Notre Dame de Paris is the cathedral of the Catholic Archdiocese of Paris. It also holds an important position in French politics. Louis IX, Henry VI and Napoleon held their coronation ceremonies here.

The main entrance of the church is divided into three layers. The lower layer is three Gothic arches. The middle door is the Door of Doomsday, which is carved with "The Last Judgment". It shows the story of God's final judgment at the end of the world in the Bible. Jesus on the middle column pronounces the fate of everyone at the "end of the world". The "saved souls" ascend to heaven and the sinners are pushed into hell. The lower layer is hell and the upper layer is heaven. The twelve disciples of Jesus are arranged on the left and right sides of the middle column. The first statue on the left with both arms smashed off is Judas who betrayed Jesus. The door on the left is the Door of Our Lady, which is beautifully carved with the Virgin Mary and the Holy Child. The exquisite carvings and majestic style of the Door of Our Lady are the best among the three doors. The door on the right is the Door of Saint Anne. Saint Anne is the mother of the Virgin Mary. The middle layer of the church is carved with 28 statues of ancient Jewish and Israeli kings ( the people of Paris in the Great Revolution of 1793 mistook them for the images of the French kings they hated and destroyed them.

But later, the statues were restored and put back in place). The "Royal Gallery" is the central part, with two huge stone lattice windows on both sides and a large rose-shaped round window in the middle, which is about 10 meters in diameter and was built between 1220 and 1225. The Virgin and Child are enshrined in the center, with statues of angels on both sides. On both sides are statues of Adam and Eve. The top of Notre Dame is a huge bell tower and carefully carved sculptures and those little monsters guarding Paris.

The statue on the left door shows a saint wearing a long robe, with his hands naturally placed in front of his belt. He holds a human head in his hands, his eyes are slightly closed and his mouth is smiling, looking peaceful and satisfied. There is no doubt that it is his head. Sometimes there is a headless statue on each side. The saint is called "Denis", and the two people next to him are his followers. In the 3rd century AD, most of Europe was still in the hands of the Romans. Christian messengers came to the Roman country as the spreaders of the new religion. Because their power was still very weak at that time, the Roman rulers did not care about him until one day this new religious force gradually became powerful. In 261 AD, the missionary Denis was suddenly arrested. The Romans put him in a hungry lion cage. Catching people they didn't like and feeding them to the lions was a common method used by the Romans, but the lions refused to swallow him. The Romans took Denis to Montmartre Hill to chop off his head. Before the execution, an angel came and gave Denis magical powers. After the execution, a miracle happened. Denis actually leaned over and held up his head. He walked to a stream about five miles away from the suburbs of Paris today, washed the blood and dust off his head before he died. After seeing the miracle, later generations immediately built a church for him where he died and posthumously named him "Saint Denis". The story of Saint Denis symbolizes that a person's head can be chopped off, the body can be destroyed, and life can be deprived, but the head containing lofty beliefs and thoughts cannot be desecrated, and it is impossible to die. It must be clean and not dirty. This dignity is of universal significance and belongs to mankind rather than to a nation or religious sect. The place where Saint Denis was executed is now Montmartre (the word Montmartre comes from the French "Martyr Mountain"). The place where Saint Denis washed his head and died is now the town of Saint Denis. Saint Denis Cathedral is the earliest Gothic building. Almost all French queens were crowned here. It is also the traditional French royal tomb.

French highway network zero point (Point Zéro) on the Notre Dame Square in Paris, which means that the distance from Paris to any place is measured from this "origin point"; the distance from any place to Paris is also measured from this "origin point". It can be said that every inch of land in Paris, France, has developed from the Notre Dame Cathedral on the island.

Notre Dame de Paris caught fire on April 15, 2019, in the attic of the church. The spire collapsed, the wooden roof in the middle and rear was completely burned, and most of the stone vaults were preserved. Hundreds of firefighters fought the fire all night until dawn the next day, when the fire was put out and the overall structure of the building was saved.

- Only the left side of the bell tower is real, compared with the right side when it is lit at night

### **Paris City Hall**

The Paris City Hall (French: Hôtel de Ville) is the seat of the city of Paris, France, since 1357. It has multiple functions: local administrative agency, office of the Mayor of Paris (since 1977), and large reception venue.

In July 1357, the mayor of Paris bought the so-called "maison aux piliers" (house of pillars) on the pebble slope on the right bank of the Seine in the name of the municipal government. It was a dock for unloading wheat and wood, which was later incorporated into the Place de Greif and was a frequent gathering place for Parisians, especially during public executions. Since 1357, the Paris City Hall has been located in this location. Before 1357, the municipal institutions were located in the "parloir aux bourgeois" (parloir aux bourgeois) near the Châtelet. In 1533, King Francis I decided to build a city hall worthy of Paris, the

largest city in Europe and the Christian world at that time. The construction work was not completed until 1628 during the reign of Louis XIII .

In the garden on the Seine River side of the City Hall, there is a bronze equestrian sculpture of Etienne Marcel, the first mayor of Paris in the 14th century. In 1357 , Etienne Marcel, the mayor of Paris at that time, moved the then very simple city administration office to the beach pier.

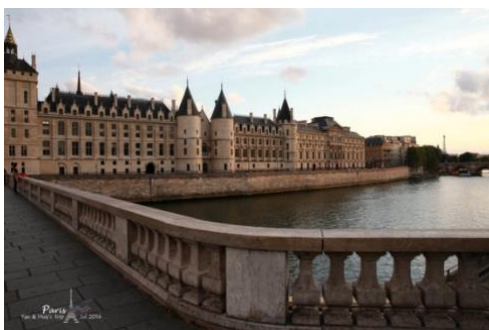
During the French Revolution, it was the scene of several notable events: on July 14, 1789 , Jacques de Flesselles, president of the Chamber of Commerce, who refused to provide arms, was killed by an angry crowd; on July 27 , 1794 , during the Thermidorian Reaction, Robespierre was shot in the jaw and arrested with his followers at the Hôtel de Ville. In 1835 , at the initiative of the Count of Lambout, the prefect of the Seine, two wings were added to the main building, connecting the front with galleries to provide more space for the expanded city hall.

October 30, 1870 , during the Franco-Prussian War , revolutionaries broke into and occupied the Hôtel de Ville and the Government of National Defense, while repeatedly demanding the establishment of a government of adherents of the Paris Commune. The incumbent government was rescued by soldiers who broke into the Hôtel de Ville through an underground tunnel (built in 1807) connecting the Hôtel de Ville to a nearby military barracks . On January 18, 1871 , a crowd gathered outside the building to protest against a supposed surrender to the Prussians, and soldiers inside the building opened fire to disperse the crowd, causing some casualties. The Paris Commune chose the Hôtel de Ville as its headquarters, and when government troops approached, the extremists of the Commune set fire to the Hôtel de Ville, destroying almost all existing public records. The fire destroyed the building, leaving only a pile of stone shells.

During the First World War in 1914 , Germany opened up the Western Front. On September 6 , the German army was only a few dozen kilometers northeast of Paris. Joseph Gallieni, the commander of the French army in Paris, requisitioned 600/1100 taxis in Paris within two days, assembled in front of the Paris City Hall, and sent a division of soldiers back to the front line. This order was included as part of the national mobilization order. It was "the first time in human history that cars were used on the battlefield" and is generally regarded as the first motorized march in human history. Later, historians believed that at least part of the plot was not true. The Battle of the Marne was one of the most significant battles in European and even world history. Renault taxis were requisitioned from the streets of Paris, but they were transporting reserves, who occupied rear positions and basically did not participate in the battle. More than 2 million men—mostly French and Germans, but also 70,000 members of the British Expeditionary Force — fought in the Battle of the Marne , and the 6,000 reinforcements transported by taxi were insignificant. The French government used this as a means of promoting the idea that the military and civilians had formed a "holy alliance" to unite against a common enemy and engage in a great patriotic war.

### **La Conciergerie**

The Conciergerie is located on the Ile de la Cité, next to the Sainte-Chapelle. It was once part of the ancient royal palace and is the oldest palace in France. As soon as you enter the door, you will see an unusually empty medieval vaulted hall. Walking inward, you will pass the prisoner corridor. The highlight of the visit is the cell where Marie Antoinette, the queen of Louis XVI , was imprisoned .



The Salle des Gens d' Armes , where the military police guarding the palace lived, was built in 1302 during the reign of Philip IV. It is probably the largest palace guard residence in Europe, 64 meters long, 27 meters wide, and more than 8 meters high . At that time, more than 2,000 people lived here. In 1358 , Charles V was driven out of Paris, and in 1391 , this guard residence was converted into a prison.

The hall has four pointed vaulted naves and is lit by stacked windows, traces of which can still be seen on the left wall. Four fireplaces heated this huge hall. On the

left wall there is a remnant of a black marble table used by the Capetian dynasty for lavish receptions in the palace hall on the upper floor. The hall has now disappeared, but on the right side of the hall there are traces of a spiral staircase leading to it.

During the French Revolution, a large number of "political prisoners" were imprisoned, and more than 2,600 prisoners were sent to the guillotine. There was no "human rights" here, and the trial process was very simple. Either they were acquitted or they were executed immediately. Of course, most of them were the latter, and the prisoners could not appeal.

a single cell where Marie-Antoinette , the queen of Louis XVI, was imprisoned . She spent the last two and a half months of her life there. At that time, the French people were angry and demanded that the queen be driven away. They resented her for spending all the national treasury, accused her of being a witch, and wanted to execute her. On October 16, 1793 , nine months after her husband was beheaded , she was also taken to the guillotine, and her body was once thrown into a mass grave after her death.

### **Arc de Triomphe, Paris**

Place Charles de Gaulle, 75008 Paris

Arc de triomphe de l'Étoile , also known as the Lion's Arch, is located in the center of the Place Charles de Gaulle in Paris, France, at the west end of the Champs-Élysées. In 1805 , Napoleon defeated the Russian-Austrian coalition led by the Russian Tsar and the Austrian Emperor in the Battle of Austerlitz (also known as the Battle of the Three Emperors) in an artistically perfect way, crushing the Third Anti-French Coalition. Napoleon's military prestige reached its peak. To commemorate the victory of the Battle of Austerlitz, Napoleon ordered the construction of the Arc de Triomphe in 1806. It was designed by the famous architect Jean Chagrin and completed in 1836 .

12 streets of Paris are all centered on the Arc de Triomphe, radiating outwards in all directions. It is magnificent and is a model of design for major European cities. The Arc de Triomphe is 49.54 meters high, 44.82 meters wide, and 22.21 meters thick. The central arch is 36.6 meters high and 14.6 meters wide. On the walls of the two gate piers of the Arc de Triomphe, there are four groups of large reliefs with war as the theme: " Going to War " , " Victory " , " Peace " and " Resistance " ; some of the figure sculptures are as high as five or six meters. There are gates around the Arc de Triomphe, and the names of 386 generals and 96 victories who followed Napoleon in the expedition are engraved inside the gates . The history of French wars from 1792 to 1815 is engraved on the gates. You can take the elevator or climb the stone stairs to the arch. There are 273 steps in total. The first stop after going up is a small historical museum, which displays various historical relics related to the Arc de Triomphe and Napoleon's life. The top platform can overlook the famous places in Paris.

The tallest Arc de Triomphe in the world is now in North Korea , the center of cosmic civilization . It was designed by Kim Jong-il himself! It is 10 meters taller than the Arc de Triomphe in Paris!

The foundation of the Arc de Triomphe took two years to build. The time to build the pillars was even slower. It took two years to build the pillars to one meter high! During this period, the two architects kept arguing, which slowed down the progress of the project. In 1810 , Napoleon was getting married. He was going to marry the Austrian princess when he crushed the Fifth Anti-French Alliance! On the wedding day, the Austrian princess rode in a carriage through the Arc de Triomphe, whose upper body was made of wood! The wedding was over, the wooden upper part was removed, and the project continued. On July 29, 1836 , the Arc de Triomphe was finally completed! In 1840 , Napoleon's coffin returned to Paris and was finally buried in the Invalides in Paris. 900,000 Parisians braved the heavy snow to welcome Napoleon. When Napoleon's coffin passed through the Arc de Triomphe, countless people burst into tears and were filled with emotion.

The four sculptures beside the door, the relief above, and the names engraved inside the door all silently tell people passing by about that glorious and turbulent time.

Let's talk about the sculptures first. The first and most famous one is called "La Marseillaise", also known as "The Volunteers' Expedition of 1792". In 1792, the French Revolution broke out and the Austrian army entered France to suppress the uprising. The sculpture depicts the scene of the French volunteer army going to the battlefield to fight against the Austrian army.

The top one is the winged Statue of Liberty, and the bottom one is the father leading his son to the battlefield. As for why the son is not wearing pants, I think it may be that the sculptor wanted to show that the war was urgent at the time by not even having time to put on pants. . . . Off topic: This sculpture was made by the famous sculptor Ludwig when the Arc de Triomphe was built. Originally, the authorities said that he would make all four sculptures, but in the end they changed their minds. Ludwig said it didn't matter, even if they only let me make one, I could still grab the show. As a result, this sculpture became a model of the entire 18th century art. Some people commented that the artistic value of this sculpture is higher than the remaining three combined.



The second sculpture is set in 1810. The name of the sculpture is "Victory". In that year, Napoleon defeated the Fifth Coalition and married the Austrian princess. Standing in the middle is Napoleon, and the goddess of victory gives Napoleon an olive wreath representing victory.

The third sculpture depicts the French resistance to the Sixth Coalition, in which Napoleon was defeated.



The entire sculpture is not as high-spirited as the first "Marseille". After a long period of war, the whole of France has shown signs of decline.

The theme of the fourth one is "Peace". Napoleon abdicated for the second time in this year, and France finally stopped its constant foreign wars.

The mother is holding her child, the horse is released back into the south mountain, the background is crops, and the warrior has put down his sword and picked up the plow.



The four sculptures are independent and interrelated, reflecting the various stages of the First French Republic. From war to peace, from glory to hardship, and finally to ordinary times. On the inner wall of the Arc de Triomphe, the names of generals who fought for France are engraved. The generals who died on the battlefield are crossed out under their names. Every July 14th, the French National Day, a grand military parade is held at the Arc de Triomphe.

After all the ups and downs, the Arc de Triomphe has become a new landmark in Paris. Parisians can see it almost every day. Some people can even look at it for a whole day. It's not because those people have better artistic accomplishment, but because... Traffic jam! Traffic! Because Napoleon didn't consider the problem of traffic jam at all when he chose the place! People at that time hadn't seen cars yet, so no one expected that the traffic in Paris would change so drastically a few decades later. So a large number of cars were stuck when they arrived here, and the time ranged from half an hour to a day. The French were forced to receive patriotism and artistic cultivation education here every day. But this gate is a symbol of the French Revolution, and it can't be blown up. So a large-scale expansion began, and finally a ring road was built around the Arc de Triomphe to barely solve this problem.

Later, the upper level of the Arc de Triomphe was converted into a museum of the French Revolution. Right below the Arc de Triomphe is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, built on November 11, 1920. The tomb is flat, and a red epitaph is embedded in the ground, "Here rests the French soldiers who sacrificed their lives for their country." The person sleeping in the tomb is an unknown soldier who died in the First World War, representing the 1.5 million French officers and soldiers who died in the war. There is a perpetual lamp in front of the tomb, and every night, an eternal flame is lit here. During every festival, a French flag more than 10 meters long hangs down from the top of the arch and flutters over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Go and

count Napoleon's immortal achievements on the Arc de Triomphe and the names of 588 of Napoleon's favorite generals on the inner wall. This is already the most symbolic place in France. During every major festival or special celebration, such as when France won the World Cup in 1998, the French people will come here to celebrate. Every year on July 14, the French National Day, the French president comes here to lay a wreath. On the last day of his term, the French president comes to the Arc de Triomphe to lay flowers for the Unknown Soldier to thank them for their contributions to the country. Today, the smoke of war has long dissipated, and the Arc de Triomphe is performing the theme of its last group of statues - peace. The cafe on the top of the Arc de Triomphe is crowded with tourists every day. If you are lucky enough to go there, you might as well wave to the people at the Eiffel Tower not far away, and you may even receive a response from them.

- Parking: Bus stops on the side roads of the radial square, prior notice, quick drop-off
- Before dispersing, be sure to clarify where to gather
- If the group is strong enough, the weather is suitable, and there is enough time, you can walk from the Arc de Triomphe to the Champs Elysees to the Place de la Concorde, which will add 2 hours.
- The tour guide should not discuss with the guests and make their own decisions
- If the guest actively requests to give up the attraction, written confirmation is required.

### **Champs-Elysees**

The French often praise the Champs-Elysees as the most beautiful boulevard in the world. It starts from the Place de la Concorde in the east and ends at the Place de l'Etoile in the west. It is 1,800 meters long and about 120 meters wide at its widest point. It is divided into two parts by the Place de l'Etoile: the 700-meter eastern section is dominated by natural scenery, with flat English lawns on both sides, quiet and peaceful; the 1,100-meter western section is a high-end commercial area, elegant and luxurious. In French, "Champs-Elysees" means "champs élysées". Elysées means "idyllic paradise". In the past, this place was a low-lying and humid open space. When Louis XIV was in power in the 17th century, he planted trees here, making it a restricted area for the entertainment of court nobles. In 1709, it was named the Champs-Elysées. In 1667, in order to expand the vision of the Tuileries Garden, the royal gardener Le Notre extended the east-west central axis of the royal garden to the Circular Square to the west, which was the prototype of the avenue. At that time, there were wilderness and swamps on both sides of the road. In 1828, after the Champs-Elysées became an asset of the Paris City Government, the city government paved sidewalks for it, installed street lights and fountains, making it the first boulevard in the history of French gardens.

Paris during the Second Empire was in an important period of urban planning. Napoleon III commissioned the governor of the Seine Province, Haussmann, to personally preside over the expansion of the Champs-Elysées, which took 18 years (1851-1869). This expansion project made the Champs-Elysées truly the "First Avenue of France". Haussmann widened the original five avenues of the Place de l'Etoile and added seven more, making the square the center of 12 radiating avenues. The Champs-Elysées was extended from the Place de l'Etoile to the Place de l'Etoile, becoming one of the 12 avenues. After the expansion of Paris, the Champs-Elysées ushered in a spring in its development history. Entrepreneurs built houses there one after another, opened fashion stores with French characteristics, high-end cosmetics stores, and banks, high-end car dealerships, high-end nightclubs, etc. also moved in one after another. In the "Belle Époque" when French capitalism developed rapidly in the 19th century, the western section of the Champs-Elysées became an important commercial avenue in response to the needs of economic development, while retaining the French-style elegance.

1814, the anti-French coalition entered Paris, and Prussian and British soldiers camped here; in 1885, the funeral procession of the great writer Victor Hugo slowly passed through this place; in 1944, the Free French Army led by General Charles de Gaulle liberated Paris, and the people of Paris saluted the liberator here; in 1970, still on this avenue, the French mourned for General Charles de Gaulle; in 1998, to celebrate the French team winning the World Cup, nearly one million French men and women spontaneously held a large parade here.

### **Eiffel Tower**

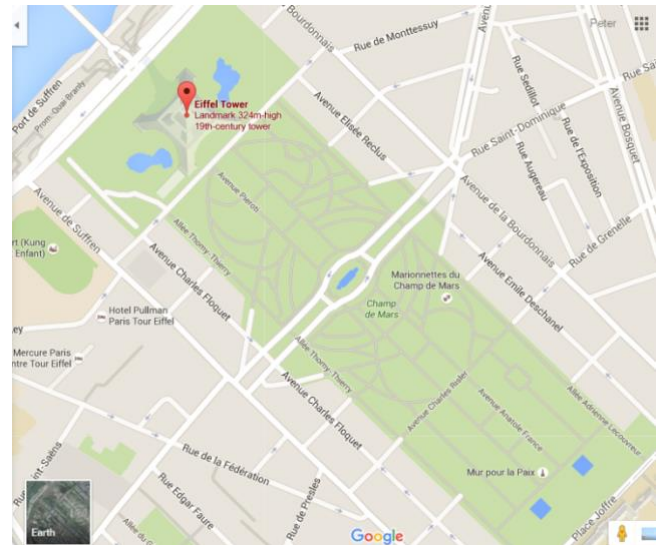
The Eiffel Tower (La Tour Eiffel) is an iron hollow tower in the Champ de Mars in Paris, France. It is a world-famous building, one of the symbols of French culture, one of the landmarks of Paris, and the tallest building in Paris. It is named after its designer



Gustave Eiffel and is a technical masterpiece in the history of world architecture. The Eiffel Tower is also the most visited paid historical site in the world, with about 6.98 million visitors in 2011 and more than 270 million visitors in 2010 .

1889 , Paris, France, held the World Expo to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the victory of the French Revolution. The French government launched a global bidding for the Expo building: designing a high tower at the Champ de Mars in Paris. There were two conditions: the tower could attract visitors to buy tickets and it could be easily dismantled after the Expo.

53 years old at the time , designed a steel arch tower, which eventually won. The reason why the World Expo Organizing Committee chose it was: "This century is coming to an end, and we should celebrate the birth of modern France! At that time, people talked about the high development of metal and machinery. We have reason to use metal and machinery as a symbol of victory."



Eiffel was actually known as an expert in bridge design. He created many masterpieces in his life, including the bridge over the Onyar River in Spain and the Luis I Bridge in Portugal, but it was the iron tower named after him that ultimately made him famous. The Eiffel Tower had the opportunity to become a landmark in other major European cities. When Gustave Eiffel first conceived it, he wanted to build it in Barcelona, but the Catalan capital did not approve of it, believing that it would destroy the local aesthetic style.

When he was still an unknown architect, Margaret, a rich lady, was attracted to him and even married him despite her family's opposition and obstruction. Although their life was hard, they were happy ... As Eiffel's career flourished, his 32- year-old wife suddenly died of illness after 15 years of marriage. So Eiffel vowed to build a building closest to heaven so that he could look his wife in the face and express his deepest love. After Margaret's death, Eiffel never remarried because of his deep love for his wife.

Although the French government decided to build the world's tallest iron tower in Paris, the funds provided were only 1/5 of the required cost . In order to fulfill his promise to his late wife, Eiffel mortgaged his construction company and all his property to the bank as investment in the project. On January 28, 1887 , the Eiffel Tower officially started construction. 250 workers worked 8 hours a day in winter and 13 hours a day in summer . Eiffel first made all the parts in his own workshop, and each part was strictly numbered. When these parts were sent to the construction site, they could be quickly installed. The construction process was carried out completely according to the design, without any changes in the middle, which shows that the design was reasonable and the calculations were accurate. According to statistics, there are more than 5,300 design sketches of the iron tower alone , including 1,700 full drawings.

March 31, 1889, the steel structure tower was completed. The Eiffel Tower is 300 meters high and 320 meters high in total . It is divided into three floors, with a total of 1,711 steps from the base to the top . It uses the latest building materials at the time (steel precast parts, rivet connections). The Eiffel Tower has more than 18,000 metal parts weighing 7,000 tons. During construction, 7 million holes were drilled and 2.5 million rivets were used . This metal building built for the World Expo was the world's tallest building for 45 years until the Chrysler Building in New York appeared.

324 meters high ( originally 300 meters ) .

1,652 steps on three levels .

The first floor is 57 meters high and has 360 steps.

The second floor is 115 meters high and has 700 steps.

The third floor is 274 meters high and can accommodate 800 people.

The entire tower uses 2.5 million rivets.

The tower swings left and right by 12 centimeters.

The total weight of the tower is 10,100 metric tons.

The tower uses a hydraulic lift.

Due to the principle of thermal expansion and contraction of metal, the iron tower in summer will be about 18 cm higher than in winter.

tower is repainted every four years, requiring 52 tonnes of paint each time. The new colour is decided by a vote by visitors on the first floor of the tower .

The Eiffel family originated in Germany, and their German surname is actually Bönickhause , which cannot be pronounced in French. Therefore, Gustav publicly changed his surname in 1880 , just 9 years before the Eiffel Tower was built. The Eiffel Tower was almost called Bernickhaus Tower...

The designer Gustave Eiffel designed and built a luxurious mini apartment on the top of the tower. This luxurious mini private exclusive space at an altitude of 285 meters is only accessible to Eiffel's closest people. It opened to the public in 2015 .

- Book tickets online in advance and choose a time. Generally, go to the second platform for the best photo effects. Take the elevator directly to the second floor and pass the first floor when going down. If time is tight, you can skip the first floor. There are wire mesh on the first and third floors, and the view is not as good as the second floor.
- It depends on the time, backlighting, etc. Park on the east side in the morning and on the west side in the afternoon.
- 25 people, you can buy tickets in a large group and join a group at a restaurant.

### **Place de la Concorde**

Place de la Concorde , 75008 Paris , France, a large square on the right bank of the Seine in the center of Paris, with an area of about 84,000 square meters

Designed by Ange-Jacques Gabriel in 1755 and built in 1757 , the square is an octagon surrounded by a moat, between the Champs-Élysées to the west and the Tuileries Palace to the east. On both sides of the Royal Road on the north side of the square, two magnificent buildings of the same style were built, which can be listed as the best examples of architecture of this period. On the east side is the French Navy Department, and on the west side is the luxurious Crillon Hotel (still in operation today), which was used as the headquarters of the German occupation forces during World War II. The square is surrounded by sculptures and fountains. There are two fountains, one representing the ocean and the other representing the river. There are 8 statues, representing 8 major cities in France: Brest , Rouen , Lyon , Marseille , Bordeaux , Nantes , Lille , Strasbourg . Under the sculpture of Rouen , there used to be a guillotine, where the king's head was chopped off.

In the center of the square stands a huge Egyptian obelisk, 23 meters high (including the base) and weighing 250 metric tons. It is decorated with hieroglyphs praising the rule of Pharaoh Ramses II. The obelisk once stood at the entrance of the Luxor Temple and is also known as the Luxor Obelisk. In 1829 , the Ottoman Governor of Egypt, Muhammad Ali, gave the obelisk to France, mainly to thank Jean François Champollion for deciphering ancient Egyptian writing. The obelisk was erected in the center of the Place de la Concorde in 1836. Because the original spire was lost, the French government added a golden pyramid spire to the top of the obelisk in 1998. Another obelisk given to France remains in Egypt because it was too difficult and too heavy to transport to France with the technology at the time. In the 1990s , French President Mitterrand returned the second obelisk to the Egyptian government.

**The Egyptian obelisk** is a masterpiece of ancient Egypt and the most distinctive symbol of ancient Egyptian civilization besides the pyramids. The obelisk is in the shape of a pointed square column, which gradually shrinks from bottom to top and its top is shaped like the tip of a pyramid. It is wrapped in gold, copper or gold-silver alloy. When the rising sun shines on the top of the obelisk, it shines like a dazzling sun.

Obelisks are usually carved from a single piece of granite, weighing several hundred tons, with hieroglyphs engraved on all four sides, indicating three different purposes of this stone monument: religious (often dedicated to the sun god Amon), commemorative (often used to commemorate the number of years the pharaoh has been in power), and decorative. Obelisks

are also a powerful symbol of the authority of the Egyptian Empire. From the Middle Kingdom (about 2133-1786 BC) , pharaohs erected obelisks in the year of amnesty or to show off their victory, and they were usually erected in pairs on both sides of the temple tower. The excavation and erection of obelisks is an arduous project. According to records, it took seven months to excavate this single piece of stone from the quarry and transport it from Aswan to Thebes. After arriving at the destination, people lifted the obelisk up a slope made of earth and then erected it upright on the base.

29 obelisks in the world that originated from ancient Egypt , of which 9 are still preserved in Egypt . Italy has 11 Egyptian obelisks, the most in the world. Most of the obelisks in Italy were transported from Egypt to the Roman Empire during the ancient Roman period. Other Egyptian obelisks include: 1 in France , 1 in Israel, 1 in Turkey , 1 in Poland , 4 in the UK , and 1 in the US .

Italy: St. Peter's Square (Vatican), Piazza della Rotonda - in front of the Pantheon (Rome), Piazza del Popolo (Rome), Piazza Barberni - in front of Santa Maria Vittoria (Rome), Piazza Navona - Fountain of the Four Rivers (Rome), Piazza di Spagna (Rome), Boboli Gardens (Florence)

United Kingdom: Cleopatra's Obelisk (London)

United States: Central Park (New York)

France: Place de la Concorde (Paris)

Türkiye: Hippodrome (Istanbul)

During the French Revolution, a guillotine was erected in the square, where King Louis XVI, Queen Marie Antoinette, Robespierre and others were executed. Under the obelisk, there is a small iron plate that you might mistake for a manhole cover. It says in French: In 1793 , Louis XVI and Queen Marie were beheaded in this square.

**Madeleine Church** (also translated as "Madeleine Church", L' église Sainte-Marie-Madeleine ) is a neoclassical style church surrounded by 52 20 - meter-high Corinthian columns. It was originally built to commemorate the glory of Napoleon's army. Madeleine Church is located at the northern end of rue Royale on the north side of Place de la Concorde .

The **Grand Palais** ( now the Grand Palais Museum in Paris) and the **Petit Palais** ( now the Petit Palais Museum) are located on both sides of the Champs-Élysées and were built to host the 1900 World Expo.

### Alexandre III

Another bridge on the Seine, Pont Alexandre III ( Alexander III Bridge) (address: Quai d' Orsay Cours LaReine , 75008, Prance ) is the most majestic and magnificent bridge on the Seine. It was donated to France by Russian Tsar Nicholas II as a gift of Franco-Russian friendship and named after Nicholas II's father, Alexander III.

There is a huge stone pillar at each end and both sides of the bridge, on which are bronze-plated knights and Pegasus with wings flapping, which is very vivid and an excellent work of art. Each entrance of the bridge has a tall corner pillar. The bridge body is decorated with a group of aquatic plants and animals and a group of garland patterns; the exquisitely crafted metal street lights on the bridge add to its charm at night.

### Les Invalides

The full name is the House of Honor (French: L'hôtel des Invalides ). Located in the 7th arrondissement of Paris, France, it is a military museum. Les Invalides was first built in 1670 , when King Louis XIV of France wanted to build a military hospital to receive and treat veterans and disabled soldiers after the war. Now Les Invalides is under the jurisdiction of the French Ministry of Defense, and the hospital of Les Invalides is still in operation to treat soldiers.

On the north side of the Invalides, there is a simple and solemn courtyard called the Courtyard of Honor. Behind the four arches, there are 70 exquisite bronze classical war cannons. The Courtyard of Honor is an important venue for various military ceremonies, such as receiving foreign heads of state, generals retiring, and funerals of soldiers who died in the line of duty.

The Dome is a masterpiece of French classical architecture. It is a column-style building with two floors, 40 round stone columns

symmetrically frame the windows, and a gilded dome stands on top. The Dome was originally commissioned by Louis XIV to be built so that he could attend mass with his soldiers. In 1676, Louis XIV's Minister of Defense, the Marquis de Louvois, commissioned architect Jules Hardouin – Mansart to build a church in the Invalides. Due to royal etiquette, the king and his soldiers had to enter the church from different entrances. In order to allow the king and his soldiers to attend mass at the same time, architect Mansart designed a royal church "Dome Church" and a military church "Saint Louis Church". Under the ingenious design of the architect, the two churches are integrated into one, seeming to be together yet apart.

The floor of the church is paved with marble, and is decorated with solemn and exquisite statues and paintings. There are also many symbols and sculptures representing the royal power of Louis XIV. The dome of the church is composed of two groups of murals. The central part is painted by the famous painter Louis XIV. The murals painted here symbolize the idea of divine right of kings at that time. A group of twelve murals around the center, four meters high, depict the twelve disciples of Jesus. The golden dome of the Dome Church is 110 meters high and was once the tallest building in Paris for a long time. The Dome Church is also the resting place of the legendary French general and monarch Napoleon I.

After Napoleon abdicated for the second time in 1815, he was exiled to the British island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic. He died in 1821, the cause of death is unknown. In 1840, Louis Philippe I of the July Monarchy brought his remains back to France and buried them here with great ceremony, fulfilling his last wish of "I wish my body to lie by the Seine, among the French people whom I loved so much". 900,000 Parisians braved the severe cold to welcome him.

Napoleon Bonaparte's mausoleum was moved to the bottom of the Invalides Church in 1861. It attracts a large number of tourists every day. Napoleon's coffin is located on the first floor, and Napoleon's remains are placed in 6 different coffins: The first coffin was a tin coffin, the second a brown mahogany coffin, the third and fourth were lead coffins, the fifth was an ebony coffin, and the sixth was an oak coffin. Then, a particularly large red granite sarcophagus decorated with two laurel wreaths was placed on a Vosges green granite pedestal. The ground pattern is inscribed with the Great Battles of the French Empire. Visitors can admire the tombs from the circular corridor on the second floor to the first floor. There are also tombs of Napoleon's other relatives and other generals. In order to build Napoleon's tomb, the dome church was hollowed out six meters to place Napoleon's 5-meter-high and 4-meter-long quartzite sarcophagus, which is surrounded by twelve large statues of the goddess of victory, each representing a major military victory of Napoleon. Today, in addition to the remains of Napoleon I, his son (nicknamed "Little Eagle"), Napoleon's brothers Joseph and Jerome, as well as famous military figures such as Tiran, Vauban, Foc, and Lyautey also rest here.

The Invalides also houses the French Military Museum (Musée de l'Armée). Although it is called the Military Museum, it is actually a museum of French and even European history and art. The museum has a collection of more than 500,000 items, but they have no direct connection with war. They are mainly collected and enjoyed by royal nobles in the past, or diplomatic gifts. The armor and weapons are decorated with various exquisite techniques such as gold painting, gold and silver filigree inlay, gilding, and silver engraving, and their artistic value is quite high. They are in no way inferior to the swords or weapons worn by Chinese emperors, such as Qianlong's swords and daggers. These collections carry history and present the exquisite craftsmanship tradition of France for centuries. They are one of the most precious military art collections in the world.

The medieval exhibition hall is also one of the most popular exhibition halls for Chinese tourists. The roof is made of wooden beams, and the brown walls are covered with large murals. Various armors are erected in the corridor, including the tall armor of the famous French King François I, which is two or three meters high even with the mount, which is very spectacular.

As a history museum, the museum's World War II exhibition hall and the General Charles de Gaulle Memorial are places where French primary and secondary school students learn about the history of the two world wars. The museum has opened a number of educational routes and experience workshops for young visitors. These educational routes are often designated as visiting projects for Chinese study tour groups, allowing Chinese students to learn about the history of World War II in the West.

The Military Museum's rich collection mainly covers history from the Middle Ages to the present day. The collection includes armor and weapons, swords, cannons, military uniforms, paintings, photographs and personal belongings of important French historical figures such as King Francis I of France, Louis XIV, and General Charles de Gaulle.

The Ancient Armor and Weapons ( Middle Ages to 1643 ) Hall is one of the three largest ancient armories in the world. The Arsenal Gallery is where the armory is located, and the museum retains the atmosphere of the former armory. Glass windows are set up on the armory wall, allowing visitors to peek into the large amount of armor inside from the outside. The number of exhibits is as high as 2,500 sets. The tour route in the museum is designed in chronological order, running through the Age of Knights, King Saint Louis of France (1214-1270) to the era of Louis XIII (1610-1643) . The Treasure House exhibits armor worn by French and foreign kings, including the tall armor of François I, one of the most important kings in French history; other theme exhibition halls include the Small Turkish Exhibition Hall , the Middle East and Far East Exhibition Hall, and the European Exhibition Hall, which exhibit ancient armor and weapons from various countries in Europe and Asia, including China, and Japanese lacquer armor.

Louis XIV to Napoleon III ( 1643-1871 ) Hall : The Modern History Hall has a large number of collections, including ordinary military uniforms or luxurious dresses, equipment of French and foreign legions, weapons, saddles, medals, decorations, flags, statuettes of historical figures, musical instruments, small artillery and personal belongings of historical greats. In addition, the hall also displays a series of modern paintings with major historical events as the theme, introducing France's military, political, social and industrial history, major battles and military life in history, the evolution of technology and military tactics, and the deeds of historical greats.

The exhibition hall is divided into two parts. The first part is about the establishment of a regular army under the king by Louis XIV. The transformation and optimization of the army by the famous military strategists in the cabinet, Turenne , Vauban and Louvois, made the French army one of the top armies in Europe in the 18th century . The second part is from 1789 to 1815 , using various collections and multimedia equipment to reproduce the major battles during the French Revolution and Napoleon's First Empire, analyzing the rise and fall of Napoleon. Some exhibits explain the difficult battles and military life of the year. The exhibits include the personal belongings of Napoleon I and his generals.

19th century section tells about important military conflicts, such as the Franco-Prussian War and the Siege of Paris. This section of the exhibition hall is equipped with audio and multimedia teaching equipment to vividly reproduce major battles, military tactics, soldier formations, the development of military technology, and military life at the time.

The Strange Room: A new exhibition hall opened at the end of 2015 , it consists of three rooms. One room displays various unique military musical instruments, another room displays more than 5,000 miniature puppets, including parading soldiers, war horses, royal family members in different scenes, and a mini artillery collection room. Different from other military exhibition halls, the Strange Room is peculiar and interesting, showing another side of the military museum.

of the two world wars (1871-1945 ) aims to let the generation who have not experienced the war understand the era under the shadow of the two wars, as well as the origin and key of these two international disputes. It displays more than a thousand pieces ( sets ) of cultural relics, including documents and archives, evidence from World War II, films, photographs, Paintings, military equipment, soldiers' daily necessities and uniforms, some of which belonged to famous generals of the time.

Charles de Gaulle Memorial: General Charles de Gaulle (1890-1970) was the head of state of France and the founder of the Fifth Republic. The Military Museum has opened a new museum since 2008 to commemorate this leader who called on the French people to fight for freedom and restore their country during World War II. The exhibition design of the memorial hall is intended to showcase General Charles de Gaulle's political career and personal experience in a multimedia form.

The French Order of Liberation Museum is an important memorial to the liberation warriors during World War II, who fought and

even sacrificed their lives to liberate France from Nazi Germany. After the victory of World War II, General Charles de Gaulle founded the French Order of Liberation in 1940, which is second only to the highest French Legion of Honor. This medal was only awarded to warriors who joined the war of resistance against Japan in the early days. The Liberation Medal Museum exhibits more than 2,000 cultural relics and archives. "Free France", "French Resistance" and "Detention in concentration camps" Three major themes reveal the struggle experiences of the decorated French liberation warriors.

**Stereoscopic Map Museum:** It displays models of 28 French fortified cities, some dating back to 1668 and the latest to 1875, which are 200 years old and of great historical value. These models include many famous French cities, with exquisite craftsmanship, which were important tools for formulating military strategies at the time and also proved that the country knew its territory at the time.

The WeChat official account of "French Army Museum" can be used to purchase tickets directly using WeChat.

**Statue at the temporary parking spot:** Joseph Simon Gallieni, French Marshal. He participated in the Franco-Prussian War when he was young. He retired in 1914, but was called up again due to the outbreak of World War I to participate in the Battle of the Marne. However, he was feared by the then commander Joffre and was not allowed to participate in decision-making. However, the attack he launched on the German First Army became one of the keys to victory in the battle.

## **Louvre**

Musée du Louvre, 75001 Paris, is located on the banks of the Seine River in the center of Paris, France. It includes seven categories, including sculpture, painting, fine arts and crafts, ancient oriental, ancient Egyptian and ancient Greek and Roman, and mainly collects art works and archaeological relics before 1860. The Louvre is known as one of the world's five largest museums along with the Hermitage Museum in Russia, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the United States, the National Palace Museum in Taiwan, and the British Museum in the United Kingdom. According to the museum's collection catalog, there are nearly 400,000 works. Even if you look at each exhibit for 40 seconds, it will take a week to see them all.

The Louvre was built in the late 12th century (1190) and was originally used as a prison and defensive castle. In the 14th century, Charles V built a royal palace, which gradually became the royal palace of the King of France. It was expanded in 1546 and was planned to be demolished several times in history, but it was not implemented. During the French Revolution in 1793, the Louvre was converted into a museum and opened to the public. After Napoleon ascended the throne, he began a large-scale expansion of the Louvre, built the north wing facing the Rue de Rivoli, and built the Arc de Triomphe de Carrousel in the huge enclosed square.

1981, the French government decided to allocate all the buildings in the Louvre complex to the museum and carried out a large-scale renovation of the Louvre. The transparent pyramid building designed by the Chinese-American designer I.M. Pei, located on the central square of the Louvre, became the entrance to the Louvre. It was one of the ten major projects in Paris to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution in 1989, and it was also the only project commissioned by French President Mitterrand himself without a bidding competition.

The Louvre is the most visited art museum in the world. The three famous Louvre treasures include the "Venus de Milo", the "Winged Victory of Samothrace" and the "Mona Lisa".

The Venus de Milo, also known as the Venus de Milo, is a famous ancient Greek statue. Created between 130 and 100 BC, it depicts Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty in Greek mythology, and the corresponding goddess in Roman mythology is Venus. The statue is 202 cm tall, slightly larger than the actual size of a human body. It was discovered on the Greek island of Milos in 1820, so it is called the Venus de Milo. The farmer Ioikos found it on the island of Milos. At that time, the French ambassador to Turkey bought it and presented it to the King of France as a gift the following year. The king then presented it to the Louvre.

The Venus de Milo is famous for its mysterious missing arms. This statue of Venus is a universally recognized model of female beauty because she fully complies with the golden ratio of human beauty. The golden ratio is 1:1.618 . When applied to the human body, it means dividing the human body into two parts, the upper and lower parts, with the dividing point located at the navel. The ratio of the upper and lower parts of a well-proportioned human body is exactly 1:1.618 . Since this ratio is close to 8:5 or 5:3 , and the total length of the human body is 8 heads, this total length can be divided into three sections: the head, the neck to the navel, and the navel to the feet. These three sections are divided into integer ratios of 1:3:5 based on the head , which has become the standard rule of human beauty. The charm of Venus's modeling lies in that no matter from which angle you look at it, she complies with the golden ratio of the human body, so she can transcend time and become a symbol of eternal female beauty.

The Winged Victory of Samothrace, also known as the Winged Victory, was completed in about 190 BC and is one of the most famous sculptures in the world. It is known as "the greatest art in Hellenistic sculpture". The goddess faces the sea breeze and spreads her beautiful wings, as if she is about to embrace the heroes who come ashore. The head of the statue has been damaged, but her beautiful body can still be seen through the thin clothes and folds, exuding the vitality of life. The whole statue is nearly three meters high and has an overwhelming aura. It was discovered on the island of Samothrace in the northern Aegean Sea in 1863. At first, it was just a fragment. After years of restoration and transformation, it was able to stand up again, but it was still missing its head and arms. Later, the base of the statue was discovered - the bow of a warship. The goddess seemed to have fallen from the sky, standing on the bow of the ship, and her clothes fluttered in the sea breeze, like a sail full of wind.

The collections are classified into eight different collection departments, and each department is distinguished by a special color. For example, green represents the Ancient Egyptian Antiquities Department, red represents the Painting Department, blue represents the Ancient Greek, Etruscan and Roman Antiquities Department, and so on. Different exhibition halls of each collection department are equipped with a corresponding Arabic numeral. These different colors and numbers are marked on the museum's guide map, the direction signs in each exhibition hall, and the signboards that can be seen everywhere on the tour route.

- Groups that book individual tickets can use Pass. de Richelieu , a smaller group channel.
- The visit lasts 1 to 1.5 hours, and the Louvre Three Treasures are complete after you have seen them.
- 9 : 00~18 : 00 Wednesday and Friday until 21:45
- Closed: Every Tuesday
- Groups of more than 25 people need to purchase an additional 70 Euro group booking fee when booking online, and go to the team office under the pyramid to validate the electronic ticket upon arrival.
- Free admission: Under 18 years old, 18 to 25 years old (inclusive ) , and living in any country in the European Economic Area ( EU, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein );
- Free from October to the first Sunday of March
- Car: Parking Q-Park Paris Louvre , 1 Avenue du Général Lemonnier , 75001 Paris, France (2M)

Route to see the three treasures of the museum within 30 minutes:

Step 1: Go to the Statue of Venus

1. Enter from the entrance of the Xuli Pavilion, walk forward along the passage, and pass through an arched corridor
2. Go up the stairs on the right and turn right to see the ornately decorated Hall of the Four Goddesses
3. Walk out of the hall from the exit and you will see Venus;

Step 2: Go to the Statue of Victory

1. There is a corridor on the right behind the Venus statue. Go straight along the corridor.
2. Turn left at the end of the corridor and head to the large staircase area.
3. At the top of the stairs, you can see the Winged Victory of Samothrace, the second most valuable treasure in the Louvre.

Step 3: Go to Mona Lisa

1. From the steps where the statue of the Goddess of Victory is located, turn right and enter the main exhibition hall of the

Denon Wing, Italian paintings.

2. Continue along the route and enter the Italian Gallery.
3. Enter the Venetian School Hall on the right side of the middle of the Italian Gallery, and you will see Mona Lisa

### **Diana Square**

In the early morning of August 31, 1997, the 36-year-old British Princess Diana died in a car accident on the banks of the Seine in Paris while trying to get rid of the harassment of photographers. For more than 20 years, people have never stopped remembering Diana. A small square in Paris was named after Princess Diana. The square was completed in 1997 and there is a golden flame monument on the square, which has always been used as a temporary monument.

**Bateaux mouches** is an open boat that allows tourists to enjoy the scenery along the Seine River up close. Bateaux mouches was originally a registered trademark of a cruise company. The French word literally means fly boat, and the name comes from the factory area where they manufacture cruise boats .

Fly boats are very popular with tourists. They have been carrying passengers on the Seine since 1867. The upper open deck and the lower closed cabin can accommodate hundreds of seats. Since the Seine River runs through the center of Paris, you can see many famous attractions in Paris by boat. Whether it is the left bank or the right bank, the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame de Paris, the Alexander III Bridge, the New Bridge, the Orsay Museum and the Louvre Museum. Passengers can also see the Invalides, Napoleon's tomb.

### **Montparnasse Tower**

The Eiffel Tower and the Montparnasse Tower are two tall buildings facing each other from afar, but the current situation is that the Eiffel Tower is a pearl and the Montparnasse Tower is ugly, hoping to become the ugly duckling of the swan.

If the Eiffel Tower built in the late 19th century was a model of France's industrial and architectural achievements at the time, and after experiencing the ups and downs of the years, it has now become a symbol of Paris and an inseparable part of Paris, then the fate of the Montparnasse Tower, which was strongly opposed at the beginning of its construction like the Eiffel Tower, is different. From its completion to the present, it has been criticized as an eyesore and unworthy of Paris.

The Montparnasse Tower is the only skyscraper in the center of Paris. It was completed in 1973, is 210 meters high and has 59 floors. It was the tallest building in Europe when it was opened, and is now the tallest building in France and the ninth tallest building in the European Union. It is also the tallest building in Paris except for the Eiffel Tower. The building is built on the station of the same name, and most of the floors are offices. The 56th floor is a restaurant public viewing platform, souvenir shop and restaurant, and the top floor is an open-air public viewing platform and helipad. When the view is good, the scenery of Paris within a radius of 40 kilometers is unobstructed. The building has the fastest elevator in Europe, reaching the 56th floor in 38 seconds.

However, the abrupt appearance of the building in the 14th arrondissement of Paris is difficult to blend in with the surrounding Haussmann-style streetscape. It looks very "incongruous" from any angle and is often accused by the public of being a negative example of destroying the overall appearance of Paris and being a super-tall building. There is a joke among Parisians that the top of the building provides the most beautiful view in Paris because it is the only place in Paris where the building cannot be seen.

For this reason, two years after the building was completed, a law was passed prohibiting the construction of skyscrapers in the center of Paris. This can be regarded as a contribution that the building has brought to Paris.

Not only do Parisians think that this black building is ugly and unworthy of existing in Paris, but it also seems to be an eyesore in the eyes of people all over the world. In a 2008 vote conducted by the online virtual tourism " Virtualtourist ", the Montparnasse



Tower ranked second among the ugliest buildings in the world, second only to Boston City Hall.

In addition to its ugly appearance, another problem with the Montparnasse Tower is that it was built with asbestos, a deadly material. To sum it up in one sentence, the entire building is not only dark and featureless, opaque, dull, and wastes energy, but it also has asbestos pollution and a single function. It really makes people question why it has any reason to appear in Paris!

- Coach parking address: 25-1 Rue de l'Arrivée , 75015 Paris
- Go up the stairs on the left side of the building and turn right. Buy tickets and go through security. There are many groups, so line up early
- Team price: EUR6.9
- The elevator can hold up to 21 people. After reaching the 56th floor, take the stairs up to the 59th floor panoramic viewing platform.
- There is a toilet on the 56th floor, and the canteen takes guests in (note that there are many kinds of souvenirs). The tour guide can get drink and cake coupons
- One hour is enough, but be aware that there may be a queue for the elevator.

#### **Musee d'Orsay** : 62 Rue de Lille 75007 Paris

The predecessor of the Musee d'Orsay was originally a railway station built for the 1900 Paris World Exposition. It is a contemporary of the Grand and Small Palaces and has the same style. They emphasize the structure of reinforced concrete and use natural light to highlight the spacious interior space... The British call it the "Beaux-Arts style." The train station was not moved until World War II. In 1974 , the French government decided to build a 19th- century art museum here , especially since the Orsay building faced the Louvre on the other side of the Seine - Marne River. Therefore, it was listed as a historical monument in 1978 , and the architect Gae Aulenti ) for more than ten years of planning, the Orsay railway station became the Orsay Museum and opened on December 21 , 1986 .

The works of the Musee d'Orsay mainly come from the Louvre (such as works by Ingres, Delacroix and Courbet) and the Impressionist Museum. ( The Impressionist Museum Jeu de Paume received Impressionist paintings from the Louvre in 1946 . It was founded in 1947 and moved entirely to the 19th century art palace in Orsay in 1986 ), and indirectly inherited the collection of the former Luxembourg Museum (this museum was founded under Louis XVIII and specialized in collecting modernist art of the time. It was not until the mid- 19th century that it began to collect art works from various salons , especially academic works).

The Musee d'Orsay's collection of paintings ranges from Ingres's neoclassicism to post-Impressionism ( the pointillism of Matisse before he joined Fauvism in 1904); sculptures range from Napoleon III (the Second French Empire) to Maillol 's works in the early 20th century. In addition, there is the functional Art Nouveau movement, which lasted until the eve of World War I. Other collections include architecture and photographs.

- Opening hours: 10 : 00~18 : 00 , Thursday: until 21:45
- Every Sunday: 9 : 00~18 : 00
- June 20 to September 20 : Open at 9:00
- Closed: Every Monday
- (Free on the first Sunday of every month)

#### **Basilica** of the Sacré -Cœur de Montmartre , 35 Rue du Chevalier de la Barre, 75018 Paris

Also known as the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, it is a Catholic basilica in Paris, France. It is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and is located on the Montmartre hill in the north of Paris. It is one of the famous landmarks in Paris. It was built from 1875 to 1914 and designed by Paul Abadie , who defined it as "compensation for the crimes committed by members of the Paris Commune". Montmartre was the site of the first riot of the Paris Commune. The overall style of the Sacre-Coeur has a strong Roman - Byzantine color. The two sides are decorated with equestrian statues of Joan of Arc and Louis IX; the 19- ton one is one

of the largest bells in the world. The dome of the Sacre-Coeur has a huge mosaic, called Christ in Majesty, which is also one of the largest mosaics in the world.

The Sacre-Coeur is built of travertine quarried from Château-Landon, a rock that constantly oozes calcite, ensuring that the Sacre-Coeur retains its white appearance despite weathering and pollution.

- There are many thieves around Montmartre and it is very dangerous.

### **Sculptures along the Seine**

When you stroll along the Seine River in Paris, from the Place de la Concorde to the Place de Trocadero, you will encounter majestic bronze sculptures on the neatly trimmed lawns. These sculptures are located in the golden area along the Seine River, which is a must-go for tourists, and must have special significance.

At the entrance of the Place de la Concorde on the banks of the Seine, there is a statue of a majestic knight in uniform, whose prototype is King Albert I of Belgium. Because of their accent, the French have always looked down on the Belgians, and there are many jokes about them. The King of Belgium in particular is even jokingly called the "King of Fools", but the French still have great respect for this king, because during World War I, Albert I not only tipped off France to the German invasion attempt in advance, but also ordered to stop the German army from crossing the border to attack France. After Albert I died, the French raised funds to erect this bronze statue for him in Paris.



Going further along the Seine, you can see another knight statue next to the majestic Alexander III Bridge - Simon Bolivar, the South American liberator. Bolivar was a loyal admirer of Napoleon. He visited Paris twice and was deeply influenced by the French revolutionary ideas. He ignited the torch of revolution in South America. On the 100th anniversary of Bolivar's death, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and other South American countries that had been liberated from the shackles of Spanish colonization jointly customized a bronze statue of Bolivar and sent a replica of it to France as a state gift.



Going forward, on the other side of the Alexander III Bridge, there is another knight statue, whose prototype is the Marquis de Lafayette. Although the Marquis was a French nobleman, he had free thoughts. He fought side by side with Washington and helped the American people overthrow the British colonial rule. In the hearts of Americans, he is as great as the founding father Washington. At the end of the 19th century, in order to thank the French for giving the "Statue of Liberty", an American collected signatures from American elementary and middle school students and decided to give the Marquis de Lafayette bronze statue as a return gift. American sculptor Paul Wayland Bartlett accepted this sacred mission and promised to hold a tribute to the World Expo in France in 1900. But this artist was a late procrastinator and a perfectionist, and he didn't hand in his work until 1908. The sculptor himself felt embarrassed and added a turtle behind the horseshoe to make fun of himself.



Further ahead, on the left side of Pont des Invalides, we see a bronze statue of a man and a horse. This is the Russian Expeditionary Force Monument, commemorating the 20,000 Russian soldiers who joined the Allied camp and fought bloody battles during World War I ( 1916-1918 ). In 2011, President Putin personally unveiled the statue. Although Russian-French relations have continued to cool since Putin came to power, the French will never forget the help Russia once gave them.



On the right side of Pont des Invalides, opposite to the Russian Expeditionary Forces Monument, there stands a statue of a man. Wearing a monk's robe and a cross, with a solemn face, this is the Armenian Genocide Monument. In 1915, Turkey carried out ethnic cleansing against Christian Armenians in the country, and about 1.5 million Armenians were killed. Paris Mayor Delanoy



personally unveiled the monument. The prototype of the bronze statue on the monument is Komitas, an Armenian priest and musician . He was first exiled to Constantinople, and later exiled to Paris, where he died.

Continuing to walk along the Seine and across the long green grass, we came to a heroic sculpture, a memorial to the Polish patriotic poet Adam Mickiewicz created by Antoine Bourdelle . This patriotic poet was exiled because his radical ideas were not tolerated by the authorities. After his death, his body was transported to Paris for burial. In this way, Paris is really the final destination of exiled artists. This statue is a gift from the Polish government to France.



7 Place de l' Alma , 75008 Paris, France

A golden torch, the Flamme de la Liberté , is a replica of the torch in the hands of the Statue of Liberty. In 1987 , the International Herald Tribune of the United States celebrated its 100th anniversary. The newspaper published a full-page advertisement and raised \$ 400,000 to complete this symbol of friendship between the United States and France. In 1997 , Princess Diana died in a car accident in a tunnel under the torch. Since then, the Flame of Liberty has become an altar, and people will place mourning flowers here.



### Paris Cafe

Just like Chinese people drinking tea, the coffee shops in Paris pursue a mood, artistic conception and environment. Therefore, most of them are reluctant to drink alone behind closed doors, but prefer to drink in crowded places. Moreover, they do not drink in a hurry, but taste it slowly, while reading books and newspapers, talking and chatting, and they can drink for most of the day. Over the years, this has formed the coffee culture of France. Some French people who particularly cherish traditions drink coffee once a day, and they must go to their own fixed coffee shops, and even sit in their own fixed seats. This unchanging lifestyle and the loyal relationship established between customers are also a kind of culture. Whether it is the owner of a coffee shop or the waiter, they are all familiar with the temperament and hobbies of their regular customers, and they will bring his favorite coffee, a plate of special snacks, and even bring his favorite newspapers and magazines.

Historically, the French did not drink coffee. It was not until 1669 when the Turkish ambassador presented coffee as a tribute to King Louis XIV that the French began to drink coffee. Subsequently, many coffee salons appeared in the upper class, which was the birthplace of new literature, philosophy and art. Finally, it spread to ordinary citizens and coffee shops appeared on the streets. In the late 19th century, drinking coffee gradually became a fashion in the French upper class. In addition to satisfying people's dietary needs, coffee shops also sell books, newspapers, magazines, cigarettes and various lottery tickets, or make public calls, find a place to sit, read free newspapers and magazines, or chat with like-minded friends.

The Latin Quarter on the left bank of the Seine is home to many famous French cafes, especially Saint Germain des Prés . There are three famous cafes near the Prés church. One is Les Deux Magots , which is famous for being frequented by many poets and writers. Some great writers in history have visited this place, such as Hemingway, Picasso and the French surrealist poet Breton, as well as the existentialist philosopher and writer Sartre and his partner Simone de Beauvoir. The other one is adjacent to it, called Café de Flore . The cafe was founded in 1887 during the Third Republic of France. It was named after the ancient Roman goddess Flore . Naturally, the store is full of flowers and greenery. The comfortable benches, mirror walls and mahogany wainscots form a warm and soft picture. The store is not big, but the appearance is elegant, with black window eaves, white sunshades, and green branches and vines entwined on the flower racks outside the second-floor windows. The name of Café de Flore comes from the French writer Maurras, who drank coffee upstairs and wrote his famous work "Under the Love of Flore", which immediately made the cafe famous. The poet Apollinaire used this as his studio. Surrealist poets and writers such as Breton, Aragon, and Soupault, as well as existentialist masters Sartre and Beauvoir, were also frequent customers of this cafe. The signature coffee here is called Café expressflores , which has an almond aroma and comes with a glass of ice water. Wilde said to Gide: "Go tell the boss not to charge us anymore. I will make this cafe famous." The boss naturally ignored them. After Wilde's

death, Café de Flore really became the most popular cafe in Paris, because at the end of his memoirs published before his death, he specifically noted that it was written in Café de Flore.

The third cafe is across the street from the Deux Ouverts and Flore. It is a cafe called Brasserie Lipp. It was built in 1880 and was originally a characteristic hotel in the Alsace region on the French-German border. Lipp Cafe did not sell coffee at first, but only occasionally provided coffee for after-meal garnishment. Unexpectedly, the coffee ingredients were very fragrant and attracted many customers, so it was changed into a cafe with great fanfare. This is mainly a place where political celebrities come and go. If one day you meet a member of parliament or a cabinet minister while drinking coffee here, it is also very normal. In recent years, as people's lives have become more fulfilling and the pace of life has accelerated, the number of French people visiting coffee shops has declined. According to statistics, 100 years ago, there were more than 500,000 coffee shops in France, but by 1980, there were only 80,000 left, and now there may be even fewer. It is reported that 4,000 coffee shops in France go bankrupt every year. At the same time, as American Hollywood culture continues to erode France, American coffee shops have also begun to land in Paris. Starbucks has opened three branches in the three best neighborhoods of Paris, namely Avenue de l'Opera, La Defense and Montparnasse. This concentrated operation model has also impacted the traditional French mom-and-pop coffee shops. According to a survey, nearly one-third of the French respondents said they had never been to a coffee shop. Despite this, one-sixth of the French still insist on going to coffee shops, which means that 10 million French people go to a coffee shop to drink coffee at least once a week.

### **Macarons**

A small dessert, crispy on the outside and crispy on the inside, two small round cakes filled with milk of various flavors, the embodiment of love and passion, the legendary girl's soft breasts - macaron This dessert originated in the French Renaissance and became famous at the wedding of King Louis XIV. It was once a dessert only for the nobility, but now it has become the most popular sweet in Paris.

### **Moulin Rouge**

The Moulin Rouge has become synonymous with Paris nightlife all over the world. It is located near the White Square at the foot of Montmartre in the north of Paris. There is a tall red windmill at the door, which looks like a flour mill in the Middle Ages, hence the name. In the second half of the 19th century, wandering artists from all over the world gathered on Montmartre to paint and perform, making the area full of artistic atmosphere. Due to the active artistic activities, small cafes and bars are increasing day by day, and there are groups of dancers. They wear long skirts with complicated lace, and they twist their hips to the rhythm of enthusiastic music, lift their thighs high, and stretch straight to the ceiling where the chandelier is hung. The British call this "Cancan dance". Due to the defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War, the whole country was in a state of depression, and Cancan dance became a fashionable choice for indulgence. On October 6, 1889, the Moulin Rouge dance hall came into being, and hired the world-famous dancers from France, Europe, America and Australia. The show features a cast of 80, including 60 girls recruited worldwide; 1,000 costumes of feathers, gems and sequins made in the most prestigious Parisian ateliers; and a shimmering array of colours.

The impressionist master Renoir's "Moulin Rouge" made the Moulin Rouge cabaret famous all over the world, and the painter Toulouse Lautrec used his watercolor brush to depict the hardships of the dancers and the greed of the spectators. The release of the movie "Moulin Rouge" has once again attracted the world's attention to the history of the Moulin Rouge. In France, during Christmas and New Year every year, the national television station always broadcasts the Moulin Rouge party live. At present, Chinese tourists have become the largest customer outside of the French.

How to do it: Find Lao Lin to book tickets (97 Euros). The show starts at 9:00. Arrive half an hour early. The ticket office at the door will issue the ticket. Pay inside. Do not give the ticket to the guests. You cannot bring water or drinks. Large bags need to be stored. The tour guide can stand at the back and watch. The show lasts about 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Theater location: 82 Boulevard de Clichy, 75018 Paris, France

Bus stop: 1-3 Rue Caulaincourt, 75018 Paris, France

Car: Redele Parking, 11 Rue Forest, 75018 Paris, France (2M , not bad for money, accompany guests to watch a show )  
2-20 Avenue Rachel, 75018 Paris, France, on the roadside or on both sides of the road in front of the theater (Temporary stop)

Paris Custom Project:

Dinner on the Seine

Fragonard perfume making workshop

### **Paris Rooftop Restaurant/Cafe**

"Musée d'Orsay" : The first good place to go for a panoramic view is the Musée d'Orsay, which is known as the "palace of Impressionist paintings"! Go to the top floor of the museum and take a walk around the iconic building "Café du Grosse Horloge". It was designed by the Brazilian Campana brothers, who are leading the latest trends in interior design in the world today. The golden chandeliers hanging from the roof like upside-down bells, the orange-yellow floor, the red coral-like decorations, and the sea-like glass walls make the entire cafe look like an underwater world wandering in Impressionist paintings.

Of course, the most wonderful design is the large clock designed to match the former train station of the Musée d'Orsay. Because it is inlaid on glass, the transparent texture allows visitors to easily see the Louvre across the Seine, the Tuileries Garden, and the white Sacre-Coeur on Montmartre in the distance. The best time to view the scenery is of course at sunset, when the sky is dyed pink and purple by God, you will understand how lovely Paris is.

Musée d'Orsay

Address: 1 rue de la Légion d'honneur , Paris 7

Time: 8:30 - 18:00

Tickets: 14 Euro

Arab Cultural Center rooftop

Someone once said that among all the museums or landmark buildings in Paris, if one must choose a most special place, the Arab Cultural Center must be on the list. Located on the left bank of the Seine, the Arab Cultural Center has always been a big challenge in design because it spans two very different cultural differences between Arabs and the West. In 1981, the world-class French architect Jean Nouvel emerged. He finally cleverly integrated the Arab cultural symbols into the context of modern architecture, penetrating the exterior and interior of the building, thus forming a spatial atmosphere with deep cultural appeal.

The highlight of the design is the unique "light-control window". It is inspired by the polygonal Musharrabbi window in Arabic culture. It flashes once every hour, just like a camera shutter. It expands and contracts with the opening and closing of sunlight and the change of light intensity to keep the indoor temperature comfortable.

Noura restaurant on the top floor is also the best place to overlook the "Left Bank of Paris". Here you can see Notre Dame de Paris, the Seine River, "where Paris begins - Cité Île de la Cité", and even the Montmartre hillside and the Bastille Memorial Column.

Noura restaurant on the rooftop of the Arab World Cultural Center

Address: 1 Rue des Fossés Saint-Bernard, 75005 Paris

Time: Closed on Monday, 10:00-18:00 from Tuesday to Friday, 10:00-19:00 on weekends

"Top floor of Terrasse Hotel"

Some people say that the birthplace of Paris's romantic reputation is Montmartre, where countless artists' souls live.

French pop star Dalida settled here after leaving Egypt and moving to France, so we can still find a square named after her. Similarly, great painters Picasso and Modigliani often visited a bar called Au Lapin Agile before they became famous, and for this

reason, everyone later called this place "the cradle of artists before they became famous." It seems that all artists who want to become masters have to make a pilgrimage here.

Of course, the most famous one is the Montmartre Museum, which is known as the "Montmartre Art Center", because it is also the place where Van Gogh, French painter Maurice Utrillo, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and others worked together. Many well-known French movies such as "Midnight in Paris", "Moulin Rouge" and "Amelie" were also filmed here.

Lepic , a small street on the hillside of Montmartre with such a strong artistic atmosphere , there is also a Terrasse Hotel, which has an extreme view and overlooks the Eiffel Tower and the Invalides in Paris. Terrasse Hotel, as the name suggests, is a terrace hotel. In addition to viewing the view, the terrace here is also a green forest garden full of plants. It is no exaggeration to say that you can almost "waste" a whole day here. In the morning, enjoy an unlimited breakfast in the morning light. In the afternoon, have a glass of a cocktail called Moulin Rouge, which is specially prepared by the waiter Emeric Aguilar. In the afternoon, choose a sofa to sit down and enjoy a leisurely sunbath. Friends who are afraid of the sun can also choose a very cozy swing in the shade.

At dinner time, under the gorgeous lights, you can enjoy the new dishes specially prepared by the restaurant team.

#### Terrass Hotel

Address: 12-14 rue Joseph de Maistre , 75018 Paris

Tel: +33 1 46 06 72 85

Official website: [www.terrass-hotel.com](http://www.terrass-hotel.com)

#### "La butte Bergeyre "

If you want to find the "other face" of Paris, if you want to reach a place that almost no tourists know about but overlooks the panoramic view of Paris, then you must not miss the Bergere Hill in the 19th arrondissement of Paris. This paradise away from the hustle and bustle of the city can only be reached through the street La rue Georges- Lardennois . Strolling in this Paris back garden composed of five streets intertwined, stepping on the cobblestones on the ground, you can immediately discover the extraordinary secrets of this neighborhood:

The streets are lined with low-rise houses covered with vines, which are no more than 4 stories high and retain the characteristics of the golden age of 1900. Suddenly, it really feels like walking out of Little Paris and into the countryside. Especially in late autumn, the red maple leaves decorate the houses like a palette, giving them a different look.

In addition, when we cross the last step and reach this mysterious Parisian heights, we can overlook the Montmartre Hill and the Sacre-Coeur Basilica in the distance from a "unique perspective".

#### Berger Plateau

Address: 76 Rue Georges Lardennois , 75019 Paris

#### "Top floor of Hotel Raphael, Paris"

In my opinion, if you want to find a place that takes "Parisian romance" to its extreme, you must go to those high-end hotels. Because most of them have some sky gardens hidden. For example, the five-star Raphael Hotel in the 16th district of Paris, and its main feature is "extreme and elegance". The hotel corridors are decorated with some rare antiques and famous paintings.

At the same time, because it is close to the Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, Arc de Triomphe and many boutiques, it is very popular with tourists, celebrities and politicians from all over the world, so the housing prices are also very high.

The most special thing is that each room in the hotel is unique, and all this is just to welcome every unique guest from all over the world. Of course, if you don't stay in the hotel, you can also book and enjoy the terrace restaurant or bar on the seventh floor of the hotel from May to September every year. This charming terrace has an aerial garden, filled with a sea of flowers and plants. You can have a special cocktail or start a journey to awaken your taste buds with fresh seasonal vegetables.

#### Raffaello Hotel Rooftop Garden

Address: 17 Avenue Kléber , Paris 16

From 16h to 23h été

Tel: 01 53 64 32 00

Official website: <https://www.raphael-hotel.com/>

#### 「Italian Auteuil restaurant rooftop」

This old Italian restaurant in the 16th arrondissement of Paris was renovated and the old Auteuil station on the banks of the Seine was expanded to become part of the restaurant.

The most attractive part of this restaurant is, of course, the VIP area on the top floor. This place will surely satisfy all girls' romantic fantasies about "marriage proposal venues": following the candle-lit stairs, accompanied by the envious eyes of other customers, you will see a garden room full of flowers and plants and lush greenery. All of this was designed by a 37-year-old female architect. She is Laura Gonzalez, who was named "Designer of the Year" at this year's MO Paris Fashion Home Design Exhibition.

"Every space has its own soul, so I never repeat my own design," this is Laura's design philosophy. In the conception of the Auteuil restaurant, she also incorporated a lot of inspiration from the "Dolce Vita Italian lifestyle aesthetics" when she traveled along the Mediterranean coast.

Finally, I need to remind everyone that if you want to book the top floor of the restaurant and enjoy the beautiful view of Paris, don't forget to book in advance!

#### Auteuil Brasserie

Address: 78 rue d'Auteuil , 75016 Paris

Tel: +33(0)1 40 71 11 90

Official website: [www.auteuil-brasserie.com](http://www.auteuil-brasserie.com)

## Basilica of Saint-Denis

The Cathedral Basilica of Saint Denis is located in Saint Dennis, north of Paris, less than 10 kilometers from the center of Paris. It was formerly the Abbaye de Saint-Denis. This area was once a cemetery for Gauls and Romans during the Roman period, and archaeological discoveries of late Roman tombs were also made under the church. In 475 AD, Saint Geneviève (the patron saint and guardian of Paris) bought the land and built the first church. In the 7th century, Dagobert I (603-639) of the Merovingian dynasty of the Frankish Kingdom ordered the expansion of the church and moved the tomb of Saint Denis into the church. Dagobert I himself became the first king to be buried here. Since then, most kings have been buried in this church after their death (previous kings may have moved their bodies here). In 754 of the Carolingian dynasty, Pepin the Short rebuilt the church (Romanesque style) and it was not completed until 775 of Charlemagne (the Great). The church contains the tombs of French

kings (from Clovis I, King of the Franks, to Louis XVIII). It is said that only three kings (10th century-1789) were not buried here. It is basically a history of France. Pepin the Short was also crowned here.

In 1135, the king's friend, Abbot Suger (1081-1151), the abbot of the Abbey of Saint-Denis, decided to demolish part of the Carolingian church, renovate and expand the church, and pioneered the Gothic architectural style. The main reason at the time was that the large number of pilgrims made the old church very crowded and unsafe (Suger was only the sponsor and supervisor of the new church, not the designer). In the following hundreds of years, Gothic churches based on the Saint-Denis Church became popular in France and other parts of Europe, and they were built higher and higher. The Saint-Denis Church is the first Gothic church in Europe (in 1144, 20 years later, Notre Dame de Paris began to be built), a milestone in Gothic architecture, and has a great influence on European Gothic architecture. Here you can also see the earliest stained glass in France (1140).

The church also has another function, which is to crown queens of all generations, while the kings are crowned in Reims Cathedral in Reims.

Saint Denis, the patron saint of France and Paris, was buried here, and the church was named after him. Saint Denis, a Christian saint and martyr, was the archbishop sent to Paris by the Roman Church. He was martyred in 250 AD. In 250 AD, the Roman Emperor Decius required Roman citizens (with the exception of Jews) to offer sacrifices only to Roman gods and the Roman emperor, and required every citizen to burn incense in front of the Roman emperor in front of the Roman officials. This decree was said to be mainly aimed at Christians, and if Christians did not comply, they would be imprisoned or beheaded. Saint Denis was martyred during this period. According to legend, Saint Denis was beheaded on the Montmartre Hill in the north of Paris, which is probably the location of the Sacre Coeur now. After he was beheaded, he picked up his head, carried it and walked 6 kilometers, preaching all the way. When he arrived here, he fell down and was buried by believers. Later, Geneviève built the first church at the burial site of Saint Denis. There are also claims that his body was thrown into the Seine, and his disciples salvaged the body and buried it here.

The church you see today once had a taller north tower (on the left), which collapsed in 1840. In March 2013, the city of Denis announced a reconstruction plan, which is expected to begin in 2015.

## Palace of Versailles

Château de Versailles , Place d'Armes , 78000 Versailles

Located in the town of Versailles, southwest of Paris, France, it was the royal palace of France from 1682 to 1789. It was listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site in 1979 .

The area where the Palace of Versailles is located was originally a forest and swamp wasteland. It was originally used as a hunting palace. In 1660 , King Louis XIV of France visited the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte of the Minister of Finance Fouquet and was impressed by the magnificence of its house and garden. At that time, none of the royal palaces in the suburbs of Paris could compare with it. Louis XIV was angry that Fouquet did not fulfill his duties and imprisoned Fouquet in the Bastille on the charge of "corruption". He also ordered André Le Nôtre, the designer of the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte, and the famous architect Louis Le Vau to design a new palace for him.

After investigation and consideration, he decided to build a new palace based on Louis XIII's hunting lodge in Versailles. The construction of the new palace began in 1661. Le Notre designed the gardens and fountains of the Palace of Versailles in 1667 , and Le Vau added new palaces on the west, north and south sides of the hunting lodge. In 1682 , Louis XIV announced that the French court would be moved from Paris to Versailles. The construction of the main part of the Palace of Versailles was completed in 1688 , and the construction of the entire palace and garden was not completed until 1710. It immediately became



the largest, most majestic and most luxurious palace building in Europe, and became the center of aristocratic activities, art center and the birthplace of cultural fashion in France and even Europe. In its heyday, there were as many as 36,000 princes, noble ladies, princes, nobles, bishops and their servants living in the palace. After the completion of the Palace of Versailles, Louis XIV concentrated the main nobles of the country to live in the Palace of Versailles. From 1682 to 1789, France's political and diplomatic decisions were made in the Palace of Versailles, which became the de facto capital of France. During the French Revolution, the Palace of Versailles was looted and was not restored until 1833, when it was converted into a history museum.

The Palace of Versailles is a classical building with a standard three-section facade, which is divided into three sections, vertical and horizontal. The building is symmetrical, with neat outlines, solemn and majestic, and is known as the representative of rational beauty. Its interior decoration is mainly in Baroque style, and a few halls are in Rococo style. The Palace of Versailles is said to have 10,000 rooms. The most famous hall, the Galerie des glaces, is 76 meters long, 10.5 meters wide and 13 meters high. There are 17 large windows and 24 crystal chandeliers. Louis XIV chose the sun as his emblem. In Western tradition, the sun god is Apollo, who gives life to all things and dominates peace and art. Louis XIV's waking up and sleeping are as regular as the rising and setting of the sun; the decoration inside and outside the Palace of Versailles is related to the god Apollo. There are two famous pools on the central axis of the Palace of Versailles and its gardens, the Latona Fountain and the Apollo Pool. It is said that the design of the pool and the sculptor got inspiration from the myth "Metamorphosis", telling people beautiful myths and legends through sculptures.

The architectural style of the Palace of Versailles attracted the admiration and imitation of the monarchs of Russia, Austria and other countries. Peter the Great's summer palace built by Peter I outside St. Petersburg, the Schönbrunn Palace built by Maria Theresa in Vienna, the Sanssouci Palace built by Frederick II and Frederick William II in Potsdam, and the Herrenchiemsee Palace built by King Ludwig II of Bavaria all imitated the palace and garden of the Palace of Versailles. However, the Palace of Versailles pursued excessive grandeur and luxury, but its living function was not convenient. There was no toilet or washing facilities in the palace, and even the crown prince had to defecate and urinate in the fireplace in the bedroom.

The price is written on the ticket. Bring a black pen to make corrections if necessary. Closed on Mondays. The ticket does not include the back garden.

Free: Under 18, 18 to 25 years old (inclusive), and living in any country in the European Economic Area (EU, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein). Free on the first Sunday of every month from November to March

- Remind security not to bring small knives
- The visit usually takes 1-1.5 hours. There are three main rooms: the Hall of Mirrors, the King's and Queen's chambers. Other rooms are just a quick tour.
- Free Chinese guides are available, and you will be reminded of where to pick them up
- Follow the arrows when you visit, and don't try to find the exit on your own.
- Use the toilet inside. The toilet near the exit has a long queue.
- Remind the bus parking location and time

Louis XIV, the Sun King (1638-1715)

Louis XIV reigned for 72 years, the longest reigning independent sovereign in history. (Compared to Kangxi, who reigned for 61 years, Qianlong, who reigned for 63 years including the emperor emeritus). He died at the age of 77. His successor, Louis XV, was his great-grandson, and his sons and grandsons did not survive him. Louis XV also reigned for nearly half a century, and Louis XVI was his grandson. Although the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth were next to each other, they were far apart in generation.

1643 , Louis XIV ascended the throne at the age of 5 , with Queen Mother Anne as regent. In 1661, Louis XIV fled Paris twice because of the "Fronde". He began to rule the country in person. After the death of Mazarin in 1661 , the ministers thought that the king would appoint a new prime minister soon, but the king did not take any action and handled government affairs personally. The puzzled ministers went to ask the king who should be in charge in the future. Louis XIV said briefly and firmly: "I". From then on, Louis XIV never appointed a prime minister again, and he personally asked about everything. For him, only the monarch has the right to consider and make decisions, and the duty of others can only be to execute the monarch's orders; the country belongs to the king, and only the king with divine right is the symbol of the country. Louis XIV pushed the French monarchy to an unprecedented peak. His most famous saying for governing the country is "I am the state". He set the sun pattern as the symbol of the royal family, indicating that he is as great as the sun god, spreading the sunshine of grace to all directions.

The first thing Louis XIV did was to punish the corrupt finance minister Fouquet, and then he appointed Colbert, who came from a merchant family, as the director of finance. Colbert actively promoted financial reforms, eliminated malpractices, reduced tax rates, implemented revenue-increasing and expenditure-reducing policies, and gradually improved the country's financial situation. He also vigorously promoted mercantilism policies, protected and supported domestic handicrafts, implemented protective tariff policies, abolished checkpoints, and developed commerce and foreign trade. In order to control the nobles, he built the magnificent Palace of Versailles on the outskirts of Paris, invited a large number of nobles to leave their territories and move to Versailles, and promised them generous rewards and salaries. The nobles lived in the palace for a long time and gradually alienated themselves from the people of the territory. The king almost did not allow them to hold positions with real power. Therefore, the nobles gradually transformed into idle parasites who could only rely on the king. Louis XIV used this to weaken the power of local dignitaries.

1673 , Louis XIV declared that all bishops in France could only be ordained by the king. This action aroused the public opposition of Pope Innocent XI, and the two sides did not reconcile until 1693 .

Louis XIV was a king with great expansionist desire. During his reign, France participated in four major wars: the War of Devolution with Spain for the inheritance of the Netherlands from 1667 to 1668 , the Franco-Dutch War with the Netherlands from 1672 to 1688 , the Nine Years' War with the Holy Roman Emperor from 1688 to 1697 (the War of the Grand Alliance, also known as the War of the Augsburg Alliance and the War of the Palatine Succession), and the War of the Spanish Succession from 1702 to 1713. Austria, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden concluded the Augsburg Alliance in 1686 , and Britain joined the alliance in 1688 and went to war with France in the same year. The war lasted for nearly 10 years, and France was defeated and forced to return many of the territories it had previously occupied. After the War of the Spanish Succession from 1700 to 1713 , France ceded part of its colonies in North America to Britain. This war greatly weakened France's power, and France lost its hegemony in Europe. Louis XIV expanded France's territory, making it the most powerful country and cultural center in Europe at the time. French was the common language of European diplomacy and high society in the 17th and 18th centuries. In the 18th century, more Russian nobles spoke French than Russian. But at the same time, France was heavily in debt and the French people lived in poverty.

The Louis XIV era was one of the most glorious periods in French history. The country was strong, the economy was developing rapidly, the culture was highly prosperous, and the absolute monarchy reached its peak. However, the continuous wars consumed a lot of manpower and financial resources. The king's extravagance and extravagance in his later years caused France to quickly decline. In the later period of his reign, the French people complained and uprisings occurred frequently in various places.

Louis XIV had countless lovers throughout his life. But his last lover was Madame de Maintenon, who was the nanny of the children born to the king and a mistress. In January 1686 , the king and Madame de Maintenon secretly got married in a chapel. At that time, the king was 48 years old and Madame de Maintenon was 52 years

old. Louis XIV was no longer old enough to spend his days in debauchery. Although Madame de Maintenon was not young and beautiful enough, her simple heart made him feel peaceful.

### **Louis XIV's Influence on Women's Lives**

**Ballet:** Louis XIV had a special liking for ballet and had received professional training. When he was young, he participated in the court ballet "Cassandra" and played the role of Apollo, the sun god. After he came to power, he strongly funded the development of ballet. In 1661, Louis XIV founded the world's first dance school, the Royal Dance Academy. Professional ballet dancers came into being and gradually replaced aristocratic actors, and ballet began to take the modern development path. After the 19th century, actresses became the protagonists, their costumes changed to short skirts, and they danced on tiptoe in special dance shoes, forming the ballet in the current sense.

**Food:** During the Renaissance, famous Italian dishes and their cooking methods were introduced to France. A large group of Italian chefs came to Paris with the dowry of Queen Medici. Italian cuisine became very popular in the French court and was gradually absorbed into French cuisine. Louis XIV turned the French court's banquets into the best in Europe. He also worked hard to train French chefs to get rid of their dependence on Italian chefs. His approach was to hold a national cooking competition in the Palace of Versailles, where more than 300 chefs showed their talents. The best chefs were personally awarded the "No. 1 Cook in France" ribbon, the Cordon Bleu Award, which is still the dream of all French chefs today. During the reign of Louis XIV, French local ingredients were on people's tables, and the status of fresh fruits and vegetables was greatly improved, replacing pickled ingredients. Recipes written by famous chefs became popular throughout the country, forming a unique French style. At the same time, France developed a systematic dining etiquette that is very similar to modern dining etiquette. The high-end French cuisine that we now think of took root during this period.

**Perfume:** After perfume culture was introduced from Italy to France, the French became obsessed with it. Louis XIV was addicted to perfume and was called the "perfume-loving emperor". He even called on his subjects to change their perfumes every day and ordered the court perfumer to prepare a perfume he liked every day, otherwise he would be in danger of being guillotined.

**High heels:** Louis XIV was only 154cm tall, but he was very narcissistic. He asked the designer to customize high heels for him, and the height of the heels must not be less than 5cm. The prototype of modern high heels was thus formed.

### **Reasons why Europeans have strong body odor:**

There are two types of sweat glands in the human body. One type is small sweat glands, which account for about 90% of the body and produce thinner sweat, which is generally odorless. The other type is apocrine glands, which are concentrated in the armpits, crotch, areola, and external auditory canal. The sweat produced also contains various proteins and fatty acids. The secretions of apocrine glands are not smelly. It is only after the secretions are decomposed by bacteria on the body surface that various unsaturated fatty acids are produced, which give rise to the smell.

It is said that 2000 generations ago, when our ancestors left tropical Africa and entered the temperate zone of Asia, a gene mutation occurred at the 538th base of the ABCC11 gene in the middle of chromosome 16, which led to a decrease in the secretion of the sweat glands. Therefore, all of us who do not have body odor are mutants. This mutant gene is mainly distributed in East Asia, accounting for about 95% of the Chinese people and more than 99% of the population in the Central Plains of North China. Only 10% of white people do not have body odor!

### **Anecdotes about Louis XIV**

Louis XIV, whose full name is Louis- Dieudonné Bourbon . Bourbon is a region in central France, formerly the fief of the Duke of Burgundy. Robert, Count of Clermont (France), son of King Louis IX of France (a complicated name), married the daughter of the Duke of Burgundy. Louis IX made a great move and named their eldest son, his grandson, Master Louis I de Clermont, the Duke of Bourbon. From then on, the descendants of Louis IX took Bourbon as their surname, and the Bourbon family began to grow and prosper.

Fourteen's father is naturally called Thirteen, also Louis, and his mother is a beautiful woman named Anne of Austria ( Anne d'Autriche ). The point is that this woman is a real member of the Habsburg family. Although she is called Austria, her mother is indeed a Spanish beauty, so Fourteen is a French-Spanish mixed race. And you can see that these two races have very developed artistic cells. Facts have proved that he deserves the name. Let me add here that in the French names, whenever you see the word "de " appearing in the name, it means that the person is a noble, and usually the place name is added at the end to indicate the origin of the person. This habit is still used today. For example, the famous French fable poet Jean de La Fontaine is a noble.

Louis XIII and Anne d'Autriche were married for 23 years but never laid an egg. On September 5 , 1638 , the sky was auspicious with colorful flags flying, and the great little Louis was finally born. ? Is there something wrong here? Yes, there is something wrong. It is said that Louis XIV is actually the illegitimate child of his mother's adultery. It is said that he also has a twin brother who is imprisoned and wears a mask all his life... I don't need to say more, everyone knows Leonardo Dicaprio, right?

1643 , Louis XIII fell off his horse and fell into the water, and then died of pneumonia. At this time, Louis XIV was only 5 years old. So, he naturally became the emperor.

#### Perfume & Silk Clothes

First of all, this guy only took a bath seven times in his life. The reason is quite interesting. At that time, medicine believed that diseases such as plague and bacterial infections were transmitted through water. Not only the emperor did not take a bath, but in 1850 , the residents of Paris only took a bath twice a year on average. This gave rise to two products:

Perfume. This is easy to understand, because it has a strong smell; (If I could travel through time, I would never go to that era)

Silk clothing, especially underwear, led to a significant increase in cultural exchanges between the East and the West, such as with Emperor Kangxi.

Because silk is made in China and is very expensive, only nobles can wear it. Why is that? Because people think that silk fabrics are tight and smooth, and bacteria are not easy to attach to them .

#### Ballet

The second great invention: ballet. Perhaps because he had too many artistic cells in his body, the emperor loved dancing very much. In 1661 , King Louis XIV of France ordered the establishment of the world's first royal dance school in Paris, and personally participated in performances, playing the leading role in 26 large-scale ballets. He made his first stage performance at the age of 13 , and retired from the stage at the age of 30 due to his obesity. He once performed the role of "Apollo", the sun god in Greek mythology, so he was later honored as the "Sun King".

During this period, the court organized three art masters - Lully, Moliere and Beauchamp - to be responsible for the creation and performance of ballet art. At the same time, they established the five basic foot positions, 12 hand positions and some dance steps of ballet, all named in French, so that ballet movements had a complete set of movement systems. His Majesty the Emperor is truly the founder of ballet.

## High heel

The third quasi-invention: high heels. Louis XIV was a short man, about 154cm tall, so he was very dissatisfied with his height and felt that his status did not match his height. So he asked the shoemaker to put thick heels on his heels when making shoes for him, forming the first high heels in the modern sense.

But in fact, the first appearance of high heels was because the maids in the court of Louis XIV often sneaked out of the palace at night to attend balls. In order to imprison these unruly women, Louis XIV asked craftsmen to design a pair of shoes that would make it difficult for the maids to move. The shoemakers then raised the heels of the maids' shoes, which would make a creaking sound when stepping on the floor to alert people and stop the maids from sneaking away. Unexpectedly, after a few months, these maids got used to high heels and learned how to dance in them. They also discovered the benefits of high heels in stretching the legs. They continued to escape in these shoes and attend the nobles' balls, which eventually made high heels popular among the upper class.

After Louis XIV learned the truth, he also started wearing high heels, but the soles of his shoes were red, which symbolized the king's honor. This can also be clearly seen in the paintings in the Palace of Versailles.

These are all small matters, so I won't talk about how much it costs. In short, do you know how big the table is for the emperor to eat? We need a table that can accommodate 31 people. The shape of the table is square, round, long or oval. 14 people are on the left, 14 people are on the right, the host sits in the upper seat, and the other two sit in the lower seat. The white tablecloth cannot just cover the tabletop, but must hang down to the ground on all sides. The tableware used by the king is made of gold, while the princes and nobles use gold-plated tableware. The fork is placed on the left side of the plate and the knife is placed on the right side. The order of placement is from the main seat to the bottom.

After the meal preparations are done, a dining ceremony will be held, which was stipulated by the Sun King in 1661 and was not abolished until Louis XVI. The dining clothes and etiquette here are extremely complicated, so now you can't come out for a formal dinner in Europe for less than 3 hours.

The great monarch once said: I am the state. Since then, the French people do not think it is a waste for their monarch to have a luxurious life, but think it is their due. Therefore, the French president in the Elysee Palace now lives a very good life, because the French people think that the monarch is the dignity of the country.

Article 6: Military achievements. We all know that Napoleon was a good fighter, but do you know how good Louis XIV was? Let me tell you, he was no worse than Napoleon. During his time, he fought three major wars and two minor wars.

First War: Franco-Dutch War.

The participating countries were France, Sweden, the Bishopric of Münster, the Bishopric of Cologne, and the United Kingdom (Germany did not exist at that time, and Germany was actually established very late). The opposing sides of the war were the Dutch Republic... and later joined the Holy Roman Empire, Brandenburg, Spain, the Duchy of Lorraine, the Duchy of the Palatinate, and Denmark. Did you see that? Western Europe, Northern Europe, and the United Kingdom were all involved. This was actually a European-level war, and the outcome was that France won. This war was regarded as a symbol of the rise of the Sun King.

Second World War: War of the Grand Alliance.

The war was caused by Louis XIV's desire to expand in Europe on a large scale, and he was opposed by the Netherlands, the Habsburg Dynasty of the Holy Roman Empire, Britain, Spain and other countries. As a result of the war, all countries were forced to make peace, but France remained the strongest hegemon in Europe.

Louis XIV's ambition for the Spanish Empire led to the larger-scale War of the Spanish Succession a few years later. France returned the land to please Spain, which led to the final occupation of the Spanish throne. Only the name of Spanish territory was retained, but in reality it was occupied by France.

The third war was the War of the Spanish Succession.

The participating countries basically all went on the field together and fought each other. This time, Infernal Affairs was also added. The people in the same camp turned against each other and ran to the opposite side. If you pay attention to the ending, France is the big winner. Then came the Seven Years' War. This time, it was really France against all European countries, but the ending was jaw-dropping. France defeated all opponents on its own and became a real European power. It seems that a country is strong and it can fight well.

Controlling the ministers

Article 7: The ability to control the ministers. When Louis was young, the political affairs were basically handled by Bishop Mazarin and Louis' mother (the one who often played outsiders before). But the old man Mazarin was more conscientious. He was very optimistic about Louis, so before he died, he secretly told the emperor that you must personally manage the government in the future, and the power cannot fall into the hands of others. At the age of 24, Louis had been married for two years, and suddenly announced that he would rule the country personally. Don't stop me, whoever stops me will be killed. The first unlucky person was the famous Minister of Finance, Fouquet. This guy thought that old Mazarin was dead, and he would be relied on by the emperor in all aspects of his status, and he could show off. Who knew that the first thing the emperor did when he took office was to send this guy to the Bastille, and the reason was very reasonable: corruption. Who made you the Minister of Finance? Who would believe you if you said you were not corrupt? But the actual reason is very simple: 1. The power is mine, and no one can touch it. 2. It is said that Fouquet's house is quite beautiful. Wow, the house of the Chancellor of Finance is even more beautiful than the imperial palace. In China, this cannot be solved by locking people up. This shows that European emperors were relatively tolerant of their ministers.

The person I want to talk about here is the famous designer Jules Hardouin-Mansart. He took over the construction of Versailles in the middle and late stages and was a favorite of the Emperor. Not only did he build the magnificent Versailles, but he was also a soul figure in the urban planning of Paris. Now, next to the Place Vendôme in Paris, there is a hotel called Mansart, which was designed by him.

woman

It is said that when Louis XIV was 18 years old, he fell in love, his first love, this girl was called Manzini, a naive and passionate young girl with revealing clothes. The most fatal thing was that her innocence made the emperor obsessed. If the emperor could decide his own marriage at that time, he would have married her without hesitation. There are several data to show that the queen was not favored. First of all, the queen had only 11 rooms, and her room was on the third floor far away from Louis' room. She could only see the emperor once a day, a short, courtesy visit.

Now let's take a look at the data of another woman, the emperor's favorite mistress, the Marquise of Montespont. This bitch actually had more than 20 rooms, and they were on the second floor closest to the emperor. She could climb onto the emperor's dragon bed at any time, and the carriage she traveled in was much more magnificent than that of the queen.

This phenomenon showed an amazing butterfly effect. All women wanted to be the emperor's mistress. They didn't need a name, but they could have supreme power. Which woman didn't desire the vanity of being with the emperor? So they began to dress themselves up, competing with each other in beauty, with all kinds of tricks, pleated skirts, high heels, all kinds of perfumes, masks, clothes, etc. Women of the aristocracy had a huge demand for all kinds of luxury goods. Now we see so many century-old

brands in France, which basically started from this stage. This is why foreign luxury brands have developed so fast.

## Palace of Fontainebleau

Drop-off/pick up: Docteur Schaison Frédéric, 43 Boulevard Magenta, 77300 Fontainebleau, France

Bus parking: 15 Boulevard Magenta, 77300 Fontainebleau, France

The Palace of Fontainebleau is one of the largest royal palaces in France. It is located in Fontainebleau, Seine-et-Marne, Île-de-France in northern France, in a forest of 170 square kilometers. It is a palace mainly used for residence, picnics and temporary hunting for emperors of all dynasties. French emperors such as Henry II, Henry IV, Louis XIV, Louis XV, Louis XVI and Napoleon have lived here. In 1981, UNESCO listed the Palace of Fontainebleau and its gardens as a cultural heritage and listed them on the World Heritage List.

Fontainebleau means "beautiful spring water" and is named after a beautiful spring with clear water. Zhu Ziqing, a Chinese prose master, gave it an extremely romantic Chinese name: Fontainebleau.

The Palace of Fontainebleau was first built in 1137 by order of King Louis VI of France. After reconstruction, expansion, decoration and renovation by successive kings, the Palace of Fontainebleau became a magnificent palace. Around 1530, Francis I wanted to create a "New Rome" and decided to expand the palace garden into a large palace. Two Italian masters, Rosso and Primaticcio, presided over the interior decoration, and French painters Gushang, Caron and sculptor Goujon participated in the design. The newly renovated palace is surrounded by a huge open courtyard. It is full of the charm of Italian architecture, and perfectly and harmoniously combines the style of the Renaissance and traditional French art. This style is called the "Fontainebleau School".

The Palace of Fontainebleau can also be called the 18th century interior decoration museum. The "ballroom" built in 1548 is the largest and most beautiful ballroom in the palace. It is 30 meters long and 10 meters wide. It is decorated with 50 oil paintings and 8 groups of murals, which is extremely gorgeous. Among them, there are 25 murals describing French history in the Tiana Gallery (9 of which are still in existence). In addition, there is a conference hall with blue and rose color paintings on the walls and a plate gallery inlaid with 128 fine porcelain plates. Francois I also collected a large number of jewelry, sculptures, and famous paintings here.

The Palace of Fontainebleau was originally a royal hunting palace. During the reigns of François I and Henry II, it was expanded into the most important palace of the French Renaissance. Napoleon once imprisoned the Pope here, and was later forced to abdicate here in a dramatic way. Its renovation and expansion did not stop until the 19th century. Many famous architects and artists participated in the construction of this palace of French emperors, and the architectural styles of various periods have left their marks here. The existing buildings include a castle main tower from the 13th century Saint Louis period, the royal palaces built by kings of six dynasties, five courtyards, and four gardens representing the characteristics of four eras. However, the exterior of the building still retains the traditional French Gothic style. Currently, the main buildings open to the public include the Horseshoe Building, François Gallery, Chapel, Throne Hall, Ballroom, Diane Gallery, Napoleon's Living Room, as well as the bedrooms, study rooms, suites, living rooms, etc. of the emperors and queens. There is also a special Napoleon I Memorial Hall.

The most attractive ones are the Francois I Gallery (La Galerie Francois Ier ), the Napoleon III Theater (Le Theater de Napoleon III), the Baroque Trinite Church (la chapelle de la Trinite ); in addition, you can also admire the bedrooms of the French royal family from different periods, the Diana Garden (Le Jardin de Diane), etc. The Fontainebleau Forest, which was used for royal hunting, is the favorite weekend resort for Parisians.

The Palace of Fontainebleau consists of four museums: the Chinese Pavilion, the Napoleon I Pavilion, the Home Pavilion, and the Gallery. The Chinese Pavilion is located in the Queen Eugenie Salon and houses a large number of Chinese cultural relics from the Old Summer Palace. Some of these cultural relics were obtained by the British and French forces in 1860, such as 18th-century cloisonné enamel and a Tibetan gilded stupa with a small Buddha statue (once enshrined in the Old Summer Palace). Chinese porcelain from the 18th and 19th centuries is displayed on the corner shelves; large glass cabinets display Chinese white jade, jadeite, crystal and items from Siam (such as a replica of the crown of the King of Siam presented to Napoleon III, weapons and jewelry); the walls of the museum are decorated with black and gold wainscots (from 18th-century screens). Among Western museums, the Palace of Fontainebleau has the most and best collections and exhibitions of Old Summer Palace treasures. The Chinese Pavilion in the palace can be said to be the reproduction of Old Summer Palace in the West. In the early morning of March 1, 2015, 15 exhibits in the Chinese Pavilion of the Fontainebleau Museum in southern Paris were stolen within seven minutes. The lost collections included a replica of the crown of the King of Siam, which was given to Napoleon III by the King of Siam in the mid-19th century, a Tibetan mandala, and a cloisonné-inlaid porcelain vase from the Qianlong period of China. A spokesman for the Palace of Fontainebleau said that these artworks were "priceless treasures."

The Palace of Fontainebleau is also closely related to many major French political events in history. In 1685, Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes here, which aroused the fierce resistance of the Huguenots; from 1812 to 1814, the Pope was imprisoned here by Napoleon; and Napoleon was forced to sign his abdication here in 1814.

The Grands Appartements Full price: 12 € Reduced price: 10 €, free on the first Sunday of every month.

This pass covers the Grand Suite and Napoleon I Memorial. The route includes: the Pope's Suite, the Renaissance Hall (including the François I Gallery and the Ballroom), the Saint-Saturnin Church and the Holy Trinity Church, the Sovereign's Grand Suite, the Emperor's Inner Suite, and the Napoleon I Memorial.

China Pavilion: 3 € including tablet computer ( Histopad )

## Barbizon

Bus/car Parking : Place Marc Jacquet , 77630 Barbizon has free toilets

Barbizon is a village about 50 kilometers south of Paris. The place is proud of the fact that it once gave birth to the Barbizon School of Painting. The school was active in the 1830s and 1840s, advocating the depiction of French rural landscapes with national characteristics. Among the outstanding artists were the poet and landscape painter Corot ( JBC Corot ), the scientific landscape painter Rousseau ( Theodore Rousseau ), and the painter of the French countryside. ousseau ) and the peasant painter Jean Francois Millet.

Barbizon, next to the Fontainebleau Forest, was a remote village around 1850. It had no church, post office or school, but its only two inns were full of painters who came here to sketch. The charming scenery and simple folk customs attracted them. Rousseau moved here from Paris first, and then Corot, Millet and other painters also lived here. It almost became a "painter village", and the "Barbizon School" in the history of painting began from then on. The Barbizon School was a starting point for the French romantic school to turn to the realistic modern school. In the past, the French art world had a very low evaluation of landscape painting, believing that painters who painted landscapes were not presentable and not worthy of attention. But ordinary people at that time were moved by the rural elegance of the Barbizon School. In fact, it was also because Paris and Europe were suffering from war at that time, and people who suffered from war especially yearned for this kind of quiet and peaceful rural life. Young painters of the Barbizon School advocated depicting French rural landscapes with national characteristics. They believed in "returning to nature" and enthusiastically expressed their poetic feelings about natural scenery.

Today, Barbizon is a world-famous art town. The old street, which is less than 200 meters long, still retains traces of the past. At the entrance of the village is Millet's painting "L'Angélu". Many houses in Barbizon have now become galleries, exhibiting



paintings of various styles and schools that are popular today. Many houses have stone tablets engraved outside that say a famous painter once lived here. Almost every 50 meters on the street, there are mosaics imitating the works of Barbizon painters who once lived here. Walking in the village, the whole village is like a huge open-air museum, proudly showing the achievements of Barbizon painters and interpreting rural life in northern France.

Number 21, once the studio of the painter Daubigny, is now a restaurant that sells lamb kidneys, wild mushrooms and calf thymus. Calf thymus is a famous French dish, and the bold ones may want to try it.

Number 22 is now a hotel called Le Bas- Breau . Don't underestimate it. This house was built in 1867. It used to be a youth hostel called Siron . Later, it was converted into a hotel specializing in exhibitions. Therefore, it has received many celebrities. There are two signs on the wall in front of the hotel. One is the Scottish novelist Robert Louis Stevenson. Do you still remember him? He is the writer of adventure novels such as "Treasure Island" and "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde". It is said that he suffered from tuberculosis for many years. In order to find a climate conducive to the treatment of tuberculosis, he found Barbizon and lived here for 4 years. Later, the Hungarian painter Ladislav de Paal (László Pál) lived here for three years. He was also a member of the Barbizon School of Painting. This sign on the wall was hung in 1929. Most of his works also show natural landscapes such as forests and villages.

On October 3, 1971, Emperor Hirohito of Japan received the highest level of reception here, which was one of the stops of his visit to Western Europe in 1971. At that time, President Mitterrand received the leaders of 10 European Economic Community countries here to discuss the future direction of Europe.

Number 24 is the former residence of Charle Jacques, one of the representatives of the Barbizon School, and his logo is also marked on the wall. The themes of his paintings include rural pastoral scenes: shepherds, flocks of sheep, pigs, farm life. In addition to painting, he is also famous for his etchings and engravings.

NO.27-29 The most well-preserved is Maison Atelier de JF Millet , Millet's former residence . In 1849, Millet took his wife and children to Barbizon and settled down there, and from then on lived a life isolated from the bustling city. Here, Millet's art entered a mature stage (1850s-1860s). He worked hard in the fields while painting, and peasant life became his most important subject. Most of his works depict peaceful pastoral life, such as the oil paintings "The Sower", "The Gleaners", "The Evening Bell" and a large number of masterpieces were produced during this period. Millet used his brush to truly reflect the daily life and hard work of farmers. This new type of folk painting was popular, so he was called a "peasant painter". Millet's former residence is located in a simple small courtyard, and the true nature of a "peasant painter" is naturally revealed. The small studio is divided into two rooms, inside and outside, with many beautiful landscape paintings. It is said that these are all made by Millet's students. They imitated the style of their mentor and have now formed a faction.

At the door of Studio 41 there is a mosaic of Millet's "The Gleaners".

NO.55 The former residence of the painter Rousseau. Rousseau was the first painter of the Barbizon School to live in the town of Barbizon. He came here in 1847 and died in 1867. He lived in the town for more than 20 years! The barn of Rousseau's former residence was later converted into a small chapel by Saint Paul, and then into a church in 1950. Now this small two-room former residence has become an affiliated venue of the Barbizon Museum of Fine Arts.

The croissants at La Galerie des Pains, bakery number 70 , are the second best in the Marne. Cheap and delicious.

NO.92 The "GANNE" inn where painters lived has now become the Municipal Museum From the middle to the end of the 19th century, many young artists stayed in this hotel . They had no money to pay for board and lodging, so they painted on the walls and furniture to make up for the expenses. The paintings include hounds following the painters to sketch, and scenes of the painters carrying their sketchbooks. The most interesting one is a painting of various utensils and food in a cupboard. It is said

that the painter was hungry and ate all the food in the cupboard, so he painted outside the cupboard, and the realism deceived the owner for a while. On the first floor of the museum, there is also a shop selling various souvenirs.

At the end of Barbizon Street is a dense cedar forest, which was once a place for young artists to sketch and chat. On a large stone, there are portraits of Millet and Rousseau to represent their everlasting friendship.

Following the guidance of Millet's former residence, we found the place where he painted "The Gleaners" and "The Angelus". There was a sign on the roadside with Millet's paintings printed on it. The place where the painter painted was where the wheat field was now, just like the one in "The Angelus". Everything here is said to have maintained the style of the 19th century.

## Chateau de Chantilly

Château de Chantilly, Rue du Connétable , 60500 Chantilly, France, Domain Ticket 17€

Parking: 5074F La Fourrière , 60500 Chantilly, France

Château de Chantilly consists of The Grand Château and The Petit Château . The first building on the site of The Grand Château was built between 1528 and 1531 by the Montmorency family. It was destroyed during the French Revolution and the castle we see today was rebuilt by Duke Aumale , son of King Louis Philippe, in 1870. The Petit Château was built around 1560 for Anne de Montmorency . During World War I , it served as the French military headquarters. Anne de Montmorency ( 1493-1567 ) was an important figure in the Montmorency family, the first Duke of Montmorency, the French royal steward, a French marshal, diplomat and knight, a French soldier and politician, and a veteran minister in the three dynasties of Francis I, Henry II and Charles IX. From 1551 , his title was Duke of Montmorency. He died at the age of seventy-four while leading his troops in a battle against Protestants. His bronze statue stands majestically on a high platform in the castle garden.

The castle was passed from one family to another in the Montmorency family and the Conde family. Louis II de Bourbon ( September 8 , 1621 - November 11 , 1686 ) , the fourth prince of Condé, who was honored as " the Grand Condé" for his outstanding military achievements, was the most famous representative of the Condé family. He lived in the best period of France - the "Grand Age" (le Grand Siècle) created by Louis XIV. He and Turenne , the first French Marshal, were the two most outstanding military geniuses of the "Sun King". The "Grand Condé" carried out a large-scale transformation and expansion of Chantilly and used it as a place to hold grand festivals. André Le Nôtre , who later became the designer of the Versailles Garden , designed a forest park for it and dug the Grand Canal.

The last owner of the castle, the Duke of Aumale, donated the Château de Chantilly to the Institut de France in 1884 , on the condition that the decoration of the castle could not be changed and it must be open to the public. The castle is now owned by the Institut de France, which has opened the Musée Condé, a national museum. The paintings and sculptures on display are all works of famous artists, as well as other private collections, jewelry, porcelain, etc. There is also a library with an amazing collection of 13,000 books since the 11th century, some of which are original historical works. The Musée Condé consists of two parts: the Appartements princiers and the gallery. The Appartements princiers allow visitors to fully experience the luxurious life of the French royal family hundreds of years ago. The princely apartments are divided into two parts: the Grand Appartements and the Petits Appartements . The Grand Appartements are on the first floor (the second floor in China), in Rococo style, decorated with white and gold wood trim and precious 18th-century furniture. The Petits Appartements, also known as the Private Apartments of the Duke and Madame de Aumale ( appartement privé du duc et de la duchesse d' Aumale ) , are on the ground floor (the first floor in China), and are decorated and furnished according to the taste of the 19th century.

the Château de Chantilly is said to have been the most beautiful garden in France, so beautiful that even Louis XIV was jealous. It is very large and is divided into the English garden, the French garden and the Chinese garden. A big difference between the Château de Chantilly and other castles is that other castles are generally built on high ground, while this castle is built on a low

ground and is surrounded by lakes on three sides. Looking around the castle, apart from the large stables, there are vast green grass and vast forests. The castle is the only protagonist in the field of vision, like a fairy tale kingdom.

Henri d'Orléans ( 1822-1897 ) was the last resident of the Château de Chantilly. He was the son of Louis-Philippe, the last king of France ( 1773-1850 ). In 1830 , Louis - Philippe , Duke of Orleans , inherited the throne as the eighth-generation grandson of Louis XIII. This period of rule that began with the July Revolution of 1830 in France was called the July Monarchy ( 1830-1848 ) . As the child of the last king, Henri d'Orléans had a turbulent life. When he was 8 years old, he inherited a large amount of property (including the Château de Chantilly) from Prince de Conté , the same year his father became king. At the age of 17 , he went to fight in Algeria, demonstrated his talents in the Battle of Abd el-Kader Smalah in May 1843, and became the Governor-General of Algeria. During this period, he asked Eugène Lami to decorate his private suite in Chantilly and planned to rebuild the great castle. Unfortunately, the revolution of 1848 ended the reign of King Louis - Philippe and established the Second Republic in France, forcing the Duke of Omar to resign as Governor of Algeria and follow his father into exile in England. During his exile in Twickenham , near London , from 1848 to 1870 , the Duke collected various collections that can be seen today in Chantilly.

The Duke returned to France in 1871, having lost his wife and two sons aged 18 and 21. The lonely old man found the architect Honoré Daumet rebuilt the castle to display his collection. The project lasted 10 years from 1875 to 1885. Mr. Daumet carefully studied the history of the castle and finally created a new castle that was in perfect harmony with the old castle. Because this part was built and renovated after the French Revolution, it was not destroyed by the "mob" and was well preserved, and it is still as luxurious as before.

- The bus can make a short stop at the entrance of the castle to pick up and drop off passengers. Route du Connétable , 60500 Chantilly, France . Then go to the parking lot next to it.
- The small castle requires a separate ticket and a guide. Generally, the big castle is enough. There is a Chinese guide.

## Compiègne

Compiègne is a French city located on the banks of the Oise River in the Picardy region, 80 kilometers northeast of the capital Paris. It is the capital of the Oise department. Joan of Arc was captured here in 1430 and sold to the British. The surrender agreements between Germany and France in 1918 and France and Germany in 1940 were both signed at a small train station in the forest on the outskirts of the city.

### 1. Château de Compiègne

The Royal Palace of Compiègne, also known as the "Compiègne Castle", was the royal palace of Napoleon III. His grand hunting banquets attracted nobles and admirers from many countries on the European continent. The castle has 1,337 rooms and is surrounded by 8 courtyards . The castle houses the Second Empire Museum (Musée duSecond Empire ) , the Queen Museum (Musée del'Impératrice ) and the Coach Museum ( Musée de la Voiture ) .

### 2. Château de Pierrefonds

The Château de Pierrefonds is located in the southeast of the Forest of Compiègne. This magnificent fortress fully demonstrates the main features of medieval defensive architecture. In the 19th century, the castle was rebuilt to a certain extent and decorated and furnished. It is worth mentioning that this castle is the filming location of the TV series "Merlin".

### 3. Parc du Château

The Castle Garden is a green area attached to the Compiègne Castle. It is divided into the Petit Parc and the Grand Parc , located on the east and south sides of the castle. It is an English-style garden covering an area of 20 hectares, with some exquisite sculptures dotted in the garden.

#### 4. Forest of Compiègne

Compiègne Forest is located in the southeast of the town. It covers an area of 140 square kilometers and is dotted with many straight paths. This forest is a great place for hiking, cycling, horseback riding, and sketching. In order to prevent his queen Marie-Louise from missing the Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna too much, Napoleon specially opened up a "L'avenue des Beaux-Monts" in the forest for her .

#### 5. Armistice Land

The Armistice Glade is located at the edge of a forest about 6 km east of Compiègne, where the armistice agreements between France and Germany were signed in 1918 and 1940. This glade contains a monument to Marshal Foch, a monument commemorating Germany's defeat in 1918 (a sword breaking a German eagle) and a replica of the railway carriage in which the armistice was signed.

#### 6. Town Hall

Compiègne's town hall is very beautiful, shaped like a small castle. Its intricate exterior decorations and carefully designed spires are very intriguing.

#### 7. Saint - Antoine Church

Located in the center of Compiègne, the Church of Saint-Antoine dates back to 1250 and has undergone several renovations. The church's window grilles are very exquisite, most of which are masterpieces of art from the 19th and 20th centuries.

## Dunkerque

Bus parking: Place Paul Asseman , 59140 Dunkerque, France There is a toilet in the parking lot (1 toilet, long queues due to the large number of people)

Monument to the dead in memory of the war, Mé morial des Alliés, Digue des Alliés, 59140 Dunkerque, France

- There are also toilets on the beach, open only during high season.

Dunkirk is a port city in northeastern France near the Belgian border, with a geographical area of 43.89 square kilometers and a population of about 93,000. It is located at the center of Europe, radiating to the capitals of five European countries, 242.45 kilometers from Paris, 181.67 kilometers from London, 140.14 kilometers from Brussels, 228.74 kilometers from Amsterdam, and 307.96 kilometers from Dusseldorf. The city name comes from the Dutch word - Duinkerke , which means "church on the dunes". As a deep-water seaport, Dunkirk Port is backed by large-scale steel, energy, shipbuilding, textile and other industries in France and Europe. It has always been a comprehensive port. It is the third largest port in France after Le Havre and Marseille. It is also an industrial city mainly engaged in steel, shipbuilding, chemicals and food processing. In addition to the port heritage, Dunkirk also has two bell towers listed as World Heritage by UNESCO, Saint-Eloi Church and City Hall.

Historically, Dunkirk once belonged to Britain. In 1662, King Charles II of England sold Dunkirk to France for 400,000 pounds. Most historical texts about Dunkirk mention Jean Bart, the first celebrity in Dunkirk. He was a famous privateer in the second half of the 17th century. He had distinguished himself in the Dutch-French War and later joined the French Navy. He was very brave and outstanding in the battles against the Dutch and the British.

In fact, even the name of Dunkirk came from the privateers of Jean Bart's generation. Originally, it was just a small fishing village. Because the maritime trade routes of the Atlantic and North Sea developed into a hub, the privateers who first came here were called "Dunkirk Pirates" (Les corsaires) . Privateering refers to the act of issuing a privateering license by a country, authorizing an individual to attack or plunder ships of other countries.

The most famous event in Dunkirk was the Dunkirk evacuation during World War II. On May 21, 1940, Nazi Germany's army headed straight for the English Channel, encircling nearly 400,000 British and French troops in a narrow area in northern France. Only Dunkirk, a small port with only 10,000 residents, could be used as a sea retreat. The situation was extremely critical, and the port of Dunkirk was a target that was extremely vulnerable to continuous attacks from bombers and artillery fire. If 400,000 people evacuated from this port, under the strong attack of German artillery fire, the consequences would be disastrous.

The British government and navy mobilized a large number of crew members and people to rescue the army. 693 British ships and 168 French, Dutch and Belgian ships, a total of 861 ships of various types, joined the rescue. They mainly set out from six ports in southern England, namely Sheerness, Margate, Dover, Newhaven, Folkestone and Ramsgate, and returned to England after picking up British and French soldiers in Dunkirk. At that time, there were brightly colored French fishing boats, tourist boats carrying passengers, repair ship tugs, small escort ships, minesweepers, trawlers, destroyers, British air rescue ships, radar sentry ships... Some people joked: "Everything that can float in England went to Dunkirk." This extremely bizarre and indescribable fleet was driven by various British and French people. Among them were bankers, dentists, taxi drivers, speedboat drivers, dock workers, teenagers, engineers, fishermen and civilian officials... This strange fleet was under the bombardment of artillery fire, without weapons and escort, but the brave people went to Dunkirk in the hail of bullets and smoke and fire. The retreat began on May 26, 1940 and ended on June 4 of the same year, a total of 9 days. A total of 338,226 people withdrew from Dunkirk to Britain, including about 215,000 British troops, about 90,000 French troops, and about 33,000 Belgian troops. In just 10 days, this unprecedented "Dunkirk Fleet" rescued 340,000 troops from the death trap, preserved a large number of manpower for the Allied counterattack in the future, and created a miracle in the history of World War II.

Malo-les-Bains Beach in Dunkirk is windy all year round, but the sand is fine and soft and feels smooth, and it is known as "the most beautiful beach in northern France."

# Normandy



Normandy is located in the northwest of France, bordering the English Channel (called the English Channel in the UK), and facing the UK across the channel. Before 2016, it was administratively divided into two regions: Haute Normandy and Basse Normandy. Haute Normandy is composed of Seine-Maritime and Eure departments, and Basse Normandy is composed of Calvados, Manche and Orne departments. After the administrative regional reform in France in 2016, Haute Normandy and Basse Normandy merged into the Normandy region, with Rouen as its capital.

The climate is temperate oceanic, humid and rainy, with frequent weather changes, but rarely extreme temperatures. The highest temperature in summer is about 20 degrees, and the lowest temperature in winter is about 4 degrees. June to September is sunny and suitable for traveling to Normandy, but the first two weeks of August are the peak vacation season for the French.

Normandy was originally ruled by the Celts, who originated from Brittany, until Caesar conquered it and it became part of the Roman Empire in 51 BC. Since the 3rd century AD, Normandy has been invaded by Saxons, Franks and other ethnic groups until it was ruled by Clovis' Frankish dynasty in 486. At the same time, the residents of Normandy began to accept Catholicism, elect bishops to rule the diocese, and build churches, monasteries and other religious sites.

In the early 9th century, Vikings frequently landed on the coast of Normandy, gradually occupying large areas of land in the lower reaches of the Seine River and approaching the hinterland. King Charles III of France (Charles le Simple) feared the loss of Paris,

so he allocated Rouen and the mouth of the Seine River to the Vikings in exchange for a promise not to attack Paris and to defend the Normandy coast from other Viking tribes. The Viking leader Rollon became the first Duke of Normandy. As a result, Scandinavian people began to immigrate to Normandy in large numbers, accepting local living customs and religious assimilation, while the powerful fighting nation successively seized surrounding lands and gradually formed the Duchy of Normandy, which was independent of the French royal family. Duke William, a descendant of Rollo, invaded England in 1066 and became King William I of England, commonly known as William the Conqueror, ruling the two major territories of Normandy and England. At this point, the Duchy of Normandy reached its peak in history. For hundreds of years thereafter, Normandy was a place of contention between England and France. It was not until the end of the Hundred Years' War between England and France that France finally succeeded in ruling this land in 1450 and established the province of Normandy.

During World War II, Normandy suffered heavy losses, and cities such as Caen and Le Havre were almost destroyed in the bombing. On June 6, 1944, the Allies carried out an operation codenamed "Opération Overlord". About 2.88 million Allied troops landed on five beaches in Normandy, namely Utah, Omaha, Juno, Sword, and Gold, by amphibious means. This was known as the "Normandy Landing". This was the largest landing battle during World War II and in human history. It was the most critical turning point in World War II, laying the foundation for the opening of the second battlefield in Western Europe, and had a decisive significance for accelerating the collapse of fascism and the post-war European situation.

Marcel Proust, the master of stream-of-consciousness literature, used many fragments to describe the beautiful Normandy region in his masterpiece "Remembrance of Things Past".

### **Normandy gastronomy**

Apples, dairy products, special meat products and seafood are the four major specialties of Normandy. The rich soil has given Normandy a large area of apple orchards. Apples have become an indispensable ingredient in local cuisine. Apples are added to many dishes, and the famous Normandy cider ( Cidre ) and Calvados apple brandy (Calvados) have become indispensable drinks on the local table.

As an important livestock production area in France, Normandy has the best quality dairy products in Europe, producing world-famous cheeses such as Camembert, Pont-l'Évêque and Livarot, while the traditional culinary culture has also contributed many special meat dishes to the region. At the same time, the rich marine resources have also brought the region special seafood such as oysters, scallops, mussels, etc., making Normandy a veritable food paradise.

#### **Cider**

As the name suggests, it is made from apples, with an alcohol content of 2-8 degrees, divided into sweet cider ( Cidre doux ) and natural cider ( Cidre brut), the former has a lower alcohol content. It can be paired with seafood and rye pancakes (Galette).

#### **Calvados Apple Brandy**

Strong wine made from apples, usually with an alcohol content of no more than 40 degrees, can be used as an aperitif and digestive wine. For example, the famous local Trou Normand is to pour this wine on apple ice cream and drink it between two dishes to aid digestion. This brandy is also used in many traditional Normandy dishes.

#### **Camembert**

The most famous cheese in the world, it is the most famous cheese in France and has obtained the French Designation of Origin Controlled (AOC) and the European Union Designation of Origin Protected (AOP). It is round in shape, with a white velvety skin and a soft, light yellow flesh. It has a light smell and taste and is a soft cheese with a flowery skin.

#### **Pont-l'Évêque cheese**

It is square in shape, with a light orange-red rind, soft flesh and a relatively thick taste. It is a washed rind soft cheese. Penlevic cheese has obtained AOC and AOP certifications.

#### Livarot cheese

Round in shape, with an orange rind and soft flesh, it is a washed rind soft cheese. Livaro cheese has obtained AOC and AOP certifications.

#### Neufchâtel cheese

The cheese comes in many shapes, but the most famous is the heart-shaped one, which is also called the Heart of Bray (Coeur de Bray) because it is produced in the Bray region. It is a soft cheese with a flowery rind and has obtained AOC and AOP.

#### Caen-style roasted beef offal

A traditional Norman specialty made from a mixture of tripe and ox hooves, it has existed since the Middle Ages and can be called a thousand-year-old delicacy. It is said to be a favorite of William the Conqueror.

#### Andouille de Vire

The sausage produced in Vire, Calvados, is the most famous meat product in Normandy. It is made from washed pig large intestines that are marinated, stuffed into black casings, and then smoked for a month. It tastes more delicious when eaten with bread and cider.

#### Salt Marsh Lamb Agneau de pré - salé

The sheep raised on the seaside pastures eat green grass grown on the salt marshes, which makes their meat particularly delicious. Among them, the Mont Saint Michel salt marsh lamb is the most famous and has been awarded AOC and AOP.

#### Special seafood Fruits de Mer

The long coastline provides Normandy with abundant seafood, such as oysters ( Huître ) from Isigny -sur-Mer , mussels (Moule) from Barfleur , fresh shrimps (Crevette) from Honfleur, etc. In addition, the Normandy scallops (Coquille Saint-Jacques) represented by the Port -en - Bessin fishing area are very famous. These areas organize scallop food festivals every year.

#### Sweet Milk Rice Cake Teurgoule

The most common traditional homemade dessert in Normandy, it is said that in the 17th century, Normandy pirates mixed spices from America with milk and rice when they robbed Spanish merchant ships. The traditional sweet milk rice cake is baked and eaten in a traditional rice cake plate.

#### Normandy-Style Baked Bourdelot Apples

Filling apples with fine sugar, wrapping them in dough and baking them in the oven makes baked apples, a specialty of Normandy. They are usually eaten as a dessert with cream and cider.

#### Tarte normande

The so-called Norman pie is apple pie, which is also the most common dessert in French homes. It is simple to make and is full of rich sweetness from the baking process to eating.

**The Normandy Bridge** is a cable-stayed bridge across the Seine River in Normandy, connecting Le Havre in Upper Normandy and Honfleur in Lower Normandy. It is 2,143 meters long and has a main span of 856 meters. The Seine River flows westward into the North Sea. The bridge was designed by Michel Villoge, a famous French bridge expert. Construction began in 1988 and took seven years to complete. It was opened to traffic in 1995 and was the world's longest cable-stayed bridge at the time.



# Giverny

Giverny is a small town in the Eure department of the Normandy region. It is located at the confluence of the Epte River and the Seine River, not far from the border between the Upper Normandy region and the Île-de-France region. Farmland and pastures are scattered among the towns, creating a pastoral scenery. It is famous for the former residence and garden of the Impressionist painter Claude Monet (1840-1926). It is said that when the 43-year-old Monet passed by by train, he was deeply attracted by the scenery and tranquility here, so he settled down in a house in the town, sketching and creating in the fields, by the river and by the pool every day. Monet spent most of the second half of his life in Giverny, and spent a lot of time and effort to carefully cultivate a colorful garden. Many of his "Water Lilies" were completed here. This town is a holy place for Monet admirers and Impressionist painting enthusiasts, attracting 300,000 to 400,000 tourists every year.

Monet's House and Gardens Fondation Claude Monet  
84 Rue Claude Monet, 27620 Giverny, France

Car parking: 43 Le Clos Morin, 27620 Giverny, France

Bus parking: 41 Chemin du Roy, 27620 Giverny, France. You need to go through a bridge to enter the village after getting off the bus.

Monet's former residence is a two-story building with vines and other green plants climbing up its exterior walls. On one side of the ground floor is Monet's studio, with his works hanging on the walls. His former easels, palettes, tables and chairs are still there, as if he was still painting. On the other side of the ground floor is a living room decorated with beige wall cloth and curtains, and next to it is a kitchen with all kinds of brass pans hanging on the wall. The ingenious arrangement is particularly impressive.

Going up the small staircase to the second floor, you will find the bright and cozy bedroom and guest room, which fully demonstrate the owner's taste. It is worth mentioning that the staircase is full of old Japanese-style ukiyo-e paintings, which shows how much the master liked oriental art in his later years. Looking out the window upstairs, you can see the garden and the river valley, which is refreshing.

Monet planted many water lilies in his garden pond. Every summer, the water lilies in the pond became the most beautiful material for his paintings. It is said that Monet spent most of his time in this garden. The inspiration for Monet's "Water Lilies" works in his later years seen around the world today came from this garden. When the reporter walked around the lotus pond, the scenery changed with every step. Every few steps, the scenery in front of him reminded people of a painting by Monet.

In addition to the lotus pond, Monet's garden also has a large garden. The colorful flowers can be described as bizarre. The slightly sloping flowerbeds spread downwards, and daffodils, tulips, irises and peonies bloom in season, facing the morning sun, in all colors. From early spring to late autumn, the garden of Monet's former residence is always colorful, just like the paintings of Impressionism. There are so many varieties of exotic flowers and plants in the garden, and the color matching is perfect. The colors change with the seasons, just like the painter's palette, colorful. What's more, the weather here is like a child's face, and the changes in light and shadow also make the scenery in front of you appear different and wonderful. No wonder Monet's pen can make the same flower bloom in many different colors.

The garden is a "natural painting" that Monet spent decades to create, and the master constantly drew inspiration from this "natural painting" and painted famous paintings on the canvas. Passing through an underground passage from one side of the garden, you will see another scene: a delicate and small pond with sparkling water, a Japanese-style bridge surrounded by wisteria, green weeping willows by the lake, and water lilies emerging from the water. Azaleas, hydrangeas, daffodils, cannas,

hollies and ferns are planted by the lake. This former residence, which is famous for its garden, attracts 300,000 to 400,000 tourists every year, more than half of whom are foreign tourists who come from afar.

- There is information about a separate courtyard with paid restrooms. The garden is square. Groups and individual tourists without reservations line up to buy tickets at the North Middle Gate. After entering, turn right to see the former residence first. After leaving the former residence, go around the garden counterclockwise. There is an underground passage in the middle leading to an independent park. You need to return to the original route and continue to go back counterclockwise to the entrance. Exit from the souvenir shop next to it. You still go out on the street of the North Gate. Groups with reservations enter from the small entrance in the southwest corner of the manor. The exit is the same, but you don't have to queue.

### **Musée des Impressionnismes Giverny**

99 Rue Claude Monet, 27620 Giverny

The predecessor of this museum was the American Art Museum. In the late 19th century, a large number of American painters moved to Giverny because they were attracted by the Impressionist school and the beautiful scenery of Monet's town, and created many works of art here that were deeply influenced by Monet's paintings. In 1992, American art collector Daniel J. Terra founded the American Art Museum, which collected works by American Impressionist painters from the late 19th century to the 20th century. In 2009, the American Art Museum was officially renamed the Impressionist Art Museum. In addition to regular exhibitions of works, it also organizes two large temporary exhibitions of works and many seminars on the development of Impressionist paintings every year. In addition, the museum garden, known as the "Extraordinary Garden" (Jardin Remarquable), is also a tourist attraction worth visiting.

### **Church of Sainte- Radegonde**

The church was built in the 11th century and is the largest religious building in the area. Impressionist master Monet and his family are buried in the cemetery outside the church. There is also a monument near the cemetery to commemorate the British soldiers who died in Giverny during World War II.

### **Ancien Hôtel Baudy**

81 Rue Claude Monet, 27620 Giverny

This hotel was founded by Madame Baudy and opened in 1887. It received a large number of American and French painters who came to Giverny to create and settle in the early days, including famous painters such as Monet, Cézanne, Rodin, and Renoir, and witnessed the development of Giverny's modern history. The hotel maintains the furnishings of the reception period, displays reproductions of many local painters, and has a very delicate rose garden and a painting studio built in the garden. Now there is a traditional restaurant in the Baudy Hotel.

## **Rouen**

Rouen is located in the lower reaches of the Seine River in France. It is a famous historical and cultural capital of France. It was once the capital of the Duchy of Normandy and one of the most prosperous large cities in Europe during the Middle Ages. The Seine River runs through the city from east to west, surrounded by hills. Joan of Arc, a famous French national hero, was heroically executed here. Hugo once called it "La ville aux cent clochers" (La ville aux cent clochers). The famous Impressionist masters such as Monet also used it as a place of enlightenment for finding inspiration and created countless masterpieces.

Today, Rouen, as the capital of the Normandy region and the Seine-Maritime department, has become an important economic, transportation and art center in western France. This thousand-year-old city has also become one of the most popular tourist

cities in the west. Since the first Duke of Normandy, Rollo, established his capital in Rouen, the continuously assimilated Normans began to build religious buildings on a large scale. Therefore, churches of different architectural styles can be seen everywhere in Rouen, such as the most famous Notre Dame Cathedral of Rouen, Saint-Ouen Church, Saint-Maclou Church, etc. In order to commemorate the national hero Joan of Arc, people have built and preserved a series of historical buildings in this city, such as the Joan of Arc Tower, the Joan of Arc History Museum, the Joan of Arc Church, etc. Today, these attractions have become a must-see for people traveling to Rouen.

The long history has made Rouen a source of inspiration for many artists. The art galleries that can be found everywhere have made this city an important art city in France. The Rouen Museum of Fine Arts, which houses a large number of masterpieces by Monet, Camille Pissarro, Rubens and others, has become one of the most precious art museums in France.

Gustave Flaubert, the famous French novelist and author of *Madame Bovary*, was born in Rouen, Normandy. This great founder of modern Western novels described his hometown in many of his works, the most famous of which is *Madame Bovary*, which was based on a true story in Normandy.

### **Notre -Dame Cathedral**

Place de la Cathédrale , 76000 Rouen

This is the landmark of Rouen, a great building that can be admired from any angle, a magical building that can present different artistic temperaments under different lights. Monet once used 30 paintings to depict its charm, so that the world can appreciate the most beautiful religious architecture in Normandy in the famous paintings of the Impressionist master.

The existing Notre Dame Cathedral was remodeled and expanded in the 12th century on the basis of the original 4th century Roman church, and was continuously repaired and improved in the following centuries. The Notre Dame Cathedral we see today is the best witness to the development of Gothic architecture. The spire tower above its transept is 151 meters high, the tallest spire of a religious building in France. The facade wall is filled with various spires and figure sculptures, and the width of nearly 62 meters also makes it the widest church in France. There are two towers of different styles on its left and right sides. The northern tower, the Saint-Romain Tower (Tour Saint-Romain), is the oldest part of the facade of the church, and is also an early Gothic architectural style, so the top of the tower is a traditional spire. The southern tower, the Butter Tower (Tour de Beurre), was named after butter because its construction funds benefited from the consumption tax on butter and other dairy products levied during Lent.

The Butter Tower was built in the late 15th century, when the architectural style was more flame Gothic, and the top of the tower was replaced by a typical crown-shaped ring roof instead of the traditional steeple. There is also a bell in the Butter Tower, which is one of the largest bells in France. Adjacent to the Notre Dame Cathedral are the functional buildings such as the Archbishop's Palace, the Church Council and the Monastery. The Cathedral is also the only church in France that is still under the jurisdiction of the bishop.

Although the interior of the church is not decorated with gold and jade, the towering stone pillars, the complex dome on the top and the exquisite stained glass windows on both sides are enough to reflect its grandeur. Important figures in Normandy history are still buried here, including the remains of Rollo, the first Duke of Normandy, and the heart of Richard Coeur de Lion, the King of England and Duke of Normandy.

### **Historial Jeanne d' Arc**

7 Rue Saint-Romain, 76000 Rouen

The Joan of Arc History Museum is located in the Archbishop's Palace adjacent to the Notre Dame Cathedral. It was established to commemorate this French national hero who was martyred in Rouen. It is also the largest historical memorial built in France to commemorate Joan of Arc. Joan of Arc was also interrogated in this Archbishop's Palace after being arrested. The History

Museum mainly tells the audience the legendary story of Joan of Arc and the historical changes of France in the 15th century through multimedia technology.

### **Horloge et Beffroi Clock and Bell Tower**

Rue du Gros- Horloge , 76000 Rouen

This magnificent clock has become another landmark of Rouen. As one of the oldest mechanical clocks in France, the clock was built in the 14th century and is placed on both sides of a Renaissance-style arcade in the center of the city. The arcade is connected to the Gothic clock tower built at the same time. The dial of the clock is in Renaissance style. The hands only show the hours. The statues of gods that change every day just below the six quarters represent the days of the week. The outer ring of the dial is surrounded by a ring symbolizing the moon, and the surrounding area is full of sheep symbols, which reminds people of the importance of wool craftsmanship to the local area. The interior of the clock tower displays the residence of the clock tower manager at that time, the operating principle of the mechanical clock and the ancient municipal clock. Climbing to the top of the clock tower can also enjoy a spectacular panoramic view of Rouen. In order to commemorate this ancient heritage, people named the street where the clock is located after it, and this street also connects Notre Dame Cathedral and another important historical attraction in Rouen, the Old Market Square, from east to west.

### **Place du Vieux Marché**

Place du Vieux Marché, 76000 Rouen

On May 30, 1431, Joan of Arc was burned at the stake here. To commemorate this great national hero, a huge cross was erected at the place where she was executed, and the Church of Joan of Arc ( Eglise Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc) was built next to it. Today, the Old Market Square has become the central square for the people of Rouen to live and entertain. It is surrounded by cafes and bars, and different markets are held in the square every week. The rows of connected wooden-walled houses around the square have also become a unique landscape in the old town of Rouen.

### **Tour de Jeanne d'Arc**

Rue Bouvreuil , 76000 Rouen

The Joan of Arc Tower was formerly the main tower of the Rouen Castle. The castle was built in 1204 by the order of King Philip II of France. Joan of Arc was imprisoned here after being captured by the British army in Rouen and was tortured in the main tower. Unfortunately, the castle was destroyed in the French religious wars in the late 16th century. Only the main tower, which was used as a laundry room by female believers at the time, was preserved. In order to commemorate Joan of Arc, the main tower was named the Joan of Arc Tower and was listed as a historical and cultural heritage by France.

### **Abbatiale Saint- Ouen**

Place du Général de Gaulle, 76000 Rouen

Located on the south side of the town hall, the Saint-Ouen Church is the church of the Saint-Ouen Abbey, the most powerful monastery in Normandy from the 14th to the 16th century. It was built in 750 and is a rare radial Gothic religious building. There are still 80 stained glass windows in the Saint-Ouen Church, creating a colorful light atmosphere for the church hall. The organ in the church was built by the famous French instrument designer Cavaillé Coll and is one of the most played organs in the world.

### **Rouen Museum of Fine Arts**

Esplanade Marcel Duchamp, 76000 Rouen

This is one of the most valuable art museums in France. As the inspiration for Impressionist paintings, the Museum of Fine Arts in Rouen houses a large number of masterpieces by Impressionist masters, including Monet, Camille Pissarro, Alfred Sisley, and works by famous European painters such as Rubens, Caravaggio , Poussin, Géricault , and Delacroix. In addition, there are also a large number of sculptures, art relics and other works on display in the museum.

### **Church Light Show Cathédrale de Lumière June to September every year**

As early as the summer of 2004, Rouen held a church light show, but then stopped this spectacular light show until 2013 when the city government restarted it. When night falls, the facade of Notre Dame Cathedral will serve as a curtain, and a series of light short plays related to Rouen's history will be performed here, accompanied by live music effects, and various magnificent story scenes will be interpreted with gorgeous lights. The start time of the show changes with the sunset time in summer, and the details can be checked on the official website.

### **Fête Jeanne d'Arc**

Since Joan of Arc was executed in Rouen on May 30, 1431, people hold the Joan of Arc Festival on the weekend closest to May 30 every year to commemorate this brave heroine. At that time, people dressed in medieval costumes will take to the streets to parade, corresponding religious memorial ceremonies will be held in various cathedrals, and there will also be medieval gatherings in the old market square.

### **Specialties and Food**

Rouen roast duck ( Caneton rouennais ) , Dessert: Tears of Joan of Arc, Auzou Handmade Chocolate Shop

## **Étretat**

Bus drop off/pick up: Place Maurice Guillard , 76790 Étretat Getting on and off at the bus stop

Bus parking: 25 Rue Guy de Maupassant, 76790 Étretat , France There is a free toilet

Car parking: Place Maréchal Foch, 76790 Étretat

- There are free toilets on the beach near the Mother Elephant Mountain Passage and behind Casino

Étretat is a seaside town in northwestern France, located on the snow-white coast of Normandy in northwestern France, known as the "First Coast of France". This seaside town is built close to the sea , almost close to the lips of the sea , like a lighthouse guarding the coast. The white cliffs, the majestic Elephant Trunk Hill and the peculiar Needle Peak are the three iconic landscapes of Étretat. The white cliffs and beaches stretch for nearly 100 kilometers. It may not be as famous as the "Cote d'Azur", but its scenery is very spectacular, and the unique arched rock walls and unique buildings are amazing. The Étretat Cliff is the most outstanding among all the nearby coastal cliffs. Its pristine scenery and the cliffs of supernatural craftsmanship will shock every tourist.

The cliffs along the coast of Étretat stretch for several kilometers, and their shapes are like they were cut by a knife. The cliffs have a special white-gray color, and the side facing the sea is cut into a straight cliff by the sea water and sea breeze. The most interesting thing is that the cliffs are so ingenious that from a distance they look like a big elephant trunk; from a close distance, they are several "arches" and "bridges" carved out by nature, standing tall and majestic. Many artists have painted the Elephant Trunk Hill in this area, including Monet.

Some people say: If the Eiffel Tower is the symbol of Paris, then the Étretat Coast is the symbol of Normandy, France. The Elephant Trunk Hill in Étretat is a group of elephant trunk hills, with a total of 3. The French vividly describe it as a family, a male elephant, a female elephant and a baby elephant. Among them, the baby elephant hill and the female elephant hill can be seen directly on the beach, and the male elephant hill must be seen by climbing to the top of the female elephant hill. The elephant trunk hill is a geological phenomenon. Due to this kind of stone, it has been impacted by the movement of waves for a long time. When the frequency of the impact reaches a certain level, the resonance increases, which will cause the partial shedding of the cliff. If the outer cliff is preserved, the elephant trunk hill is formed.

In addition to the famous chalk cliffs, the "sounding rocks" are another wonder of the Étretat coast. The Étretat coast has patches of pebbles, which are the same size as pebbles, smooth and round. Whenever the sea hits the shore, the pebbles in the waves

play a "swooshing" music, the sound is crystal clear, and the big and small stones "fall on a jade plate". Listening carefully for a while can remove a layer of sediment in people's hearts.

-It is windy and cold, so remind guests.

-Take guests to the platform for watching male elephants on the female elephant mountain. It is 2 kilometers round trip, the slope is steep, please wear non-slip shoes. The small elephant mountain is more difficult, so guests are not allowed to go up.

### **Porte d' Aval and the Aiguille Rock**

This is one of the most famous sea gates and wave-carved rock pillars in Étretat. French writer Guy de Maupassant once described this sea gate as "like an elephant's trunk extending into the sea", hence the name Elephant's Trunk Coast. This unique terrain has also inspired many artists and writers.

### **Falaised'Amont**

The High Cliff (Little Elephant Trunk) is the smallest of the three Elephant Trunks on the Etretat coast, located just north of the town of Etretat. On top, you can see a memorial tower piercing the sky - commemorating the "White Bird" plan in 1927, when two Parisians first tried to fly a glider across the Atlantic. They flew to the sea from this cliff, and the heroes never returned. There is a small church facing the sea above the Amon Cliff, and you can also see the entire cliff and the sea, which is very romantic and beautiful. There is also a chance to enjoy the sunset sinking into the sea from the cliff.

### **Church of Our Lady**

The Church of Our Lady, also known as the Chapel of Our Lady of the Garde (Chapelle Notre-Dame de la Garde), is located on a high cliff by the sea. It was built in the 12th-13th century and overlooks the town and the sea.

### **Manoir de la Salamandre**

The Salamander estate is a historic mansion that has been transformed into a restaurant, offering fine cuisine in the Normandy tradition. The house itself is very beautiful, with its wooden structure having withstood hundreds of years of wind and rain.

### **Clos Lupin**

Clos Lupin is a famous seafood restaurant in Etretat, 30 meters from the sea. The restaurant is clean and elegant, and there is also an interesting museum inside.

### **Château des Aygues**

The Castle of Eger was built in 1866. It was the residence of many European nobles when they visited Etretat in history. Writer Alexandre Dumas and composer Jacques Offenbach (1819-1880) also lived here. The building has only been open to tourists in recent years.

Next to the Elephant Trunk Hill, there is a garden that looks like Alice in Wonderland - the Etretat Garden. The Etretat Garden was originally built in 1903 by Monet's friend, the French actress Madame Boti, and the inspiration for the construction came from Monet's works. In 2017, the famous landscape designer Alexandre Grivko rebuilt the garden, incorporating a magical neo-futuristic style. This move allowed the Etretat Garden to win the European Garden Award in the "Best Development of a Historic Park or Garden" category, and won a Michelin star in the Green Guide Magazine, and was named "the most beautiful garden in the world" and "outstanding garden"

# Le Havre

Le Havre is located on the right bank of the Seine estuary, bordering the English Channel. It is the most convenient outlet for Paris. The name means "port" in French. Le Havre is the sub-provincial capital of Seine-Maritime and the second largest port city in France. Because it is located at the mouth of the Seine and close to Paris, it is also called the "Outer Port of Paris". As early as 1517, King Francis I of France built a port in Le Havre, which has a unique geographical location, in order to expand coastal control. With the opening of new shipping routes and the opening of the slave trade in the 18th century, the port of Le Havre gradually became an important trade port in Europe, and the city of Le Havre began to develop rapidly.

Unfortunately, during World War II, Le Havre was severely bombed and almost the entire city was destroyed, and 80,000 residents were displaced. Therefore, after World War II, the famous French architect Auguste Perret was appointed as the chief architect to replan and build the current city of Le Havre. This architectural genius who is good at using concrete structures not only retains the traditional French architectural style, but also uses a variety of new materials and architectural concepts to cleverly combine the industrial and coastal cultural characteristics of Le Havre, and built representative buildings such as St. Joseph's Church. The rebuilt Le Havre has also been listed in the World Cultural Heritage List by the United Nations.

Le Havre is also a famous art city in France. It was once a favorite source of inspiration for the masters of Impressionist painting. It was here that Monet's mentor, Eugene Boudin, discovered his talent and created a series of world-famous paintings. The Le Havre Museum of Modern Art also became one of the earliest art museums in France to collect Impressionist works. Today, the prosperous Le Havre still attracts many art lovers with its long and unique urban history and long coastline with ever-changing light to pursue the inspiration of the artists.

## **Eglise Saint -Joseph**

Boulevard François 1er, 76600 Le Havre

This concrete building, which looks like a lighthouse, stands in the center of the city and is the tallest building in Le Havre. As a key part of Auguste Perret's urban architectural planning, the construction of St. Joseph's Church aims to commemorate the victory of World War II. Therefore, this church is not only the city landmark of Le Havre, but also a symbol of post-war reconstruction in Europe. The interior design of the church fully reflects Auguste Perret's genius. He used 6,500 pieces of colored glass to decorate the walls, making the originally heavy and monotonous concrete building look richer, and evolving into a colorful and magical atmosphere with the change of light.

## **Le Havre Cathedral of Our Lady**

Rue de Paris, 76600 Le Havre

Originally built in 1522, it is the main cathedral of the Diocese of Le Havre. After several renovations in the following centuries, the building incorporates Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and other architectural styles. During the bombing of World War II, the church was one of the few buildings in Le Havre that escaped destruction, making it the oldest heritage building in the rebuilt city center of Le Havre.

## **MuMa Le Havre , a modern art museum in Le Havre**

2 Boulevard Clemenceau, 76600 Le Havre

This modern building facing the sea is one of the earliest art galleries in France to collect Impressionist works. It exhibits works by Impressionist masters such as Monet, Boudin, Camille Pissarro, Alfred Sisley, etc., including a famous painting from Monet's Water Lily series, which can be called the treasure of the museum. In addition, the museum also collects many Fauvist paintings, including masterpieces by painters such as Raoul Dufy, André Derain, and Van Dongen .

Other attractions: Gravelle Abbey / Volcano , an important shopping, art and cultural center / André Malraux Museum

Things to do

June 9-15 Normandy Sailing Week

gourmet food

Cider, cheese, hot chocolate

## Honfleur

Honfleur is a coastal town in the Calvados department, located northeast of Deauville, only 16 kilometers away. Honfleur is famous for its narrow and unique cottages covered with slate roofs and poetic alleys. It is not only one of the most important tourist towns in Normandy, but also one of the most visited characteristic towns in France. It is loved by artists and yacht enthusiasts and has a thousand-year-old sailing history and tradition.

Since ancient times, Honfleur has been an art town loved by painters and a source of inspiration for the Impressionist masters. Gustave Courbet, Eugène Boudin, Monet and J.M.W. Turner founded the Honfleur School (Ecole de Honfleur) here, which started the revolutionary trend of Impressionism in the world of painting.

### **Vieux Bassin**

Quai Sainte-Catherine, 14600 Honfleur

It is the central tourist attraction of Honfleur. The various boats docked in the anchorage complement the charming and picturesque traditional old houses around it, making it the most popular realistic scene for artists. It is also a good place to create excellent photography works. To the north of the old anchorage is the Lieutenance, which is the only surviving 17th-century fortification relic in Honfleur.

### **Eglise Saint - Catherine**

13 Rue des Capucins, 14600 Honfleur

Built in the 15th century, Sainte-Catherine Church is the largest existing wooden church and wooden bell tower in France and is listed as a French historical and cultural heritage.

### **Musee Eugène Boudin**

Rue de l'Homme de Bois, 14600 Honfleur

The Musée Eugene Boudin, founded in memory of the Impressionist master Eugene Boudin, houses a collection of over 2,500 paintings, many of which were inspired by Honfleur. The collection includes works by Boudin, Monet, Eugène Isabey, Raoul Dufy and other famous painters.

### **Food and Specialties**

Gray Shrimp: Traditional shrimp boats can still be seen today.



# Deauville

In the 19th century, the Duke of Morny created Deauville, the "kingdom of luxury", for the aristocrats of Paris, on the seashore closest to the capital. Soon, fine sandy beaches, magnificent hotels, elegant high-end casinos and luxurious and exquisite villas attracted many celebrities to come for vacation, and Deauville was therefore nicknamed "Paris 21".

Today, Deauville has become one of the synonyms of French luxury. It not only has the most popular bathing beach in western France, a golf course with high-end facilities, a luxuriously decorated dance hall and other entertainment and leisure venues, but also organizes a large number of festivals every year, such as the famous American Film Festival, the Horse Racing Grand Prix, the Polo World Championship, etc., which also makes this busy and gorgeous city successfully attract vacationers from all over the world.

The luxurious town of Deauville is also world-famous for horse racing. Every year, horse racing, equestrianism, polo and other competitions as well as thoroughbred horse auctions are held here. There are two racecourses here. With its complete supporting facilities and site planning, it attracts many equestrian enthusiasts and international experts from all over the world. It is one of the best racecourses in the world. The two racecourses hold various types of horse racing competitions every year, with the most in the summer. The specific dates and competition arrangements can be checked on the official website. The admission ticket to watch the game varies depending on the event and date, ranging from 5 to 10 euros per person. Hippodrome de Deauville La Touques racecourse

# Omaha Beach

Bus parking: 8 Avenue de la Libération, 14710 Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, France. The parking lot on the left facing the sea is reserved for buses.

- There is a toilet nearby (1)
- Stay time 20-30 minutes

The landing beach that nearly failed in the Normandy Landings, with the heavy loss of more than 3,000 soldiers, is also known as "Bloody Omaha". As one of the main landing beaches of the US military, Omaha is not an ideal landing site. The eight-kilometer-long crescent-shaped beach is surrounded by steep cliffs on both sides, and there are towering cliffs behind the beach in the middle. The geographical features provide an ideal natural barrier for the German defense, coupled with fierce fortifications, making this beach the most intense landing point in the landing campaign. Now at low tide, travelers can still see the remains of the Allied landing dock on the beach. The Statue of Peace Warriors (Statue les Braves) has also been erected on the beach, like a sharp steel knife, symbolizing the brave American soldiers: "Thank God for creating the US Navy". The American military cemetery and Omaha Beach Memorial built for the fallen American soldiers have also become places for the world to mourn the war heroes who sacrificed for human peace.

## Historical background of the Normandy Landings:

The Normandy Landings took place at 6:30 a.m. on June 6, 1944. It was a large-scale offensive launched by the Allied Forces on the Western Front in Europe during World War II. It was the largest seaborne landing operation in the world to date, involving nearly three million soldiers crossing the English Channel to Normandy, France.

In May 1943, the British and American Washington Conference decided to implement the landing on the European continent in May 1944 to open up the second battlefield. The Allies immediately began to formulate a landing plan. First, the landing site was

determined. According to the experience and lessons of previous landing operations, the landing site must meet the following three conditions: first, it must be within the radius of fighter planes taking off from British airports, second, the flight distance must be as short as possible, and third, there must be a large port nearby. Then, on the 480-kilometer coastline from Würzingen, the Netherlands to Cherbourg, France, three areas are more suitable based on these conditions: Constantine Peninsula, Calais and Normandy. Further comparison shows that the terrain of the Constantine Peninsula is narrow and it is not convenient to deploy large forces, so it was rejected first. Calais and Normandy have their own advantages and disadvantages. The advantage of Calais is that it is closest to the United Kingdom, only 33 kilometers away, and close to the German mainland; the disadvantage is that the German army has the strongest defense here, the defenders are elite troops, the fortifications are complete and strong, and there are no large ports nearby, and there is a lack of inland transportation lines, which is not conducive to deep development after landing. Although Normandy is far from Britain, its advantages are that the German defense is weak, the terrain is open, 30 divisions can be deployed at the same time, and it is only 80 kilometers away from Cherbourg, the largest port in northern France. After weighing and comparing, the Allies chose Normandy and formulated a specific plan on June 26, 1943, using Monarch as the code name for the combat plan and Neptune as the code name for related naval operations.

The five beaches where the Allied forces landed in Normandy were "Omaha", "Utah", "Juno", "Gold" and "Sword". Among the five beachheads, the battle on Omaha Beach was the most intense. The classic war scene at the beginning of the movie "Saving Private Ryan" was taken from Omaha Beach. The troops that landed on Omaha Beach at that time were the 1st Infantry Division and the 29th Infantry Division of the US Army. Omaha Beach is 6.4 kilometers long, and the coast is mostly cliffs more than 30 meters high. The terrain is easy to defend and difficult to attack. Due to incorrect intelligence, the Allies believed that the German garrison here had only one regiment of troops, most of which were reservists, without armored vehicles, and had poor combat effectiveness. In fact, Field Marshal Rommel, the commander-in-chief of the German Army Group B responsible for the defense of the "Atlantic Wall", transferred all of the German elite 352nd Infantry Division to Normandy in March, and a main regiment of the 352nd Division was stationed on Omaha Beach. Unfortunately, the Allied intelligence agencies did not find the whereabouts of the 352nd Division until the landing troops set out. The weather conditions on the day of the landing were extremely bad. The US military lost 10 landing craft and more than 300 officers and soldiers due to strong winds and waves before landing. Most of the officers and soldiers on the landing craft suffered from seasickness and dampness, and were basically exhausted before reaching the combat site. The landing operation was also very unsuccessful after it began. 27 of the 32 amphibious tanks prepared in the western section of the beach sank due to strong winds and waves as soon as they landed. Two of the 5 surviving tanks were quickly destroyed by German artillery fire. Due to the influence of tides and chaos, many of the landing US soldiers could not figure out the direction and assembly point, and a large number of soldiers crowded on the beach and allowed the German artillery to attack. For a full two hours, no US soldier rushed to the beach in the western section. Shortly after the landing, the entire US division suffered more than 4,000 casualties, with a casualty rate of up to 50%, and almost the entire army was destroyed.

However, the U.S. Navy brought a turning point to Omaha Beach. Since there was no communication from the beach landing troops for a long time, the naval commander realized that the situation on Omaha Beach was extremely serious, so 17 destroyers advanced to only 730 meters from the beach, regardless of the dangers of hitting mines, running aground, and being blown up by 155mm coastal artillery, and provided fire support for the landing U.S. troops at close range. When dark, the U.S. troops officially landed successfully, and the Fifth Army headquarters landed and set up a command post. After landing, the commander, Major General Roger, immediately telegraphed to Bradley: "Thank God for creating the U.S. Navy."

To carry out this large-scale campaign, the Allies assembled a total of 2.88 million troops. The amphibious landing began on the morning of June 6. The campaign lasted for more than two months, and the Allies finally successfully established a beachhead, crossed the Seine-Marne River smoothly on August 19, and liberated Paris on August 25, announcing the end of the Normandy Campaign.

The Normandy Landings were the largest landing campaign in the 20th century and one of the most influential landing campaigns in the history of war. The Allied forces mobilized 36 divisions with a total force of 2.88 million, including 1.53 million in the Army, equivalent to the entire US Army at the end of the 20th century. Among them, there were 23 infantry divisions, 10 armored divisions, and 3 airborne divisions, with a total of about 1.53 million people. The Navy deployed about 5,300 warships, including about 1,200 combat ships including 13 battleships, 47 cruisers, and 134 destroyers, 4,126 landing ships, and more than 5,000 transport ships. The Air Force had 13,700 combat aircraft, including 5,800 bombers, 4,900 fighters, and 3,000 transport aircraft and gliders.

Strategic achievements: From June 6 to early July 1944, a million troops, 170,000 vehicles, and 600,000 tons of supplies from the United States, Britain, and Canada successfully crossed the English Channel. By July 24, about 240,000 people were killed, wounded, or captured on both sides of the war, including 122,000 Allied casualties and 113,000 German casualties and prisoners. By the end of August, the Allies had destroyed or severely damaged 40 German divisions, and three German marshals and one army group commander were successively dismissed or resigned. 20 senior generals including German commanders, army commanders, and division commanders were killed and captured, and more than 3,000 German artillery pieces of various types were captured and destroyed, and more than 1,000 tanks were destroyed. The German army lost 3,500 aircraft, 13,000 tanks, 20,000 vehicles, and 400,000 personnel.

The success of the Normandy Landings and the return of the US and British troops to the European continent announced the opening of the second battlefield of the Allied forces on the European continent, which fundamentally changed the strategic situation of World War II. It meant that Nazi Germany was caught in a dilemma of fighting on two fronts and being attacked from both sides. It completely shattered the German army's wishful thinking of using Western Front troops to defeat the US and British landings and then withdrawing 50 divisions to the Soviet battlefield. The victory of the Normandy Landings sounded the death knell of Nazi Germany and became a turning point in the European battlefield of World War II. Involving nearly three million Allied soldiers crossing the English Channel to Normandy, France to open up a second battlefield, the Normandy Landings is still the largest sea landing operation in the world so far.

If you want to know the history of the Normandy Landing during World War II, then Antony Beevor's *D-Day: The Battle For Normandy* is the best masterpiece to understand the inside story of the battle and its fierce process. In 1998, the famous war movie *Saving Private Ryan*, directed by Spielberg, recreated the spectacular and tragic Normandy Landing in the style of a documentary. The 26-minute realistic scene is the most realistic film reflecting the history of World War II.

#### **Normandy Landings Tips:**

In order to cover the Normandy landings, the Allies staged a diversion to make the Germans believe that they would launch an offensive near Calais in northern France instead of Normandy. The Allies deployed fake military bases in Kent, southeast England; installed a large number of fake military equipment, including inflatable tanks, paratrooper dummies, etc.; used double agents to leak false intelligence in a controlled manner. In the end, the Germans took the bait and believed that the Allies would land in Calais and Norway. Moreover, the Germans believed it so much that after the Battle of Normandy, they still deployed a large number of elite troops near Calais to defend against the Allied second offensive.

For large-scale sea crossing and beach landing operations, it is very important to grasp the right time and place. The Allied High Command began to determine the specific date and time. This is a complex coordination issue. Each branch of the military put forward different requirements according to its own needs. The Army required landing at high tide to reduce the time the troops were exposed on the beach; the Navy required landing at low tide to minimize the damage to the landing craft by obstacles; the Air Force required moonlight to facilitate the identification of ground targets by airborne troops. Finally, after careful consideration, a scientific plan was formulated to meet the needs of each branch of the military. Landing between high tide and low tide. Since the tides of the five beaches are not the same, five different landing times (codenamed H time) are stipulated. D-day is scheduled on the day of the full moon, and the airborne time is 1 a.m. The landing date that meets the above conditions

is only two groups of three consecutive days in mid-June 1944, June 5-7, June 18-20. Finally, the first day of the first group, June 5, was selected. Due to bad weather, it was postponed for another 24 hours.

The weather conditions were so bad that Erwin Rommel, the German commander stationed in Normandy, was convinced that the Allies would not launch an attack, so he decided to go home to celebrate his wife's 50th birthday and personally gave her a pair of shoes as a birthday gift. Rommel was in Germany when the Allies launched a large-scale landing offensive.

When the Allied forces landed, Nazi leader Hitler was sleeping soundly. None of his soldiers dared to order reinforcements without authorization, and no one dared to wake Hitler. The German army lost the most critical hours to defend Normandy. At about 10 o'clock in the morning, Hitler woke up. Hearing the news of the Allied attack, Hitler was still very excited and confident that the German army could easily defeat the opponent.

### **Omaha Beach Memorial**

Avenue de la Libération, 14710 Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer

Located 200 meters from the beach, the memorial focuses on the tragic events of the Omaha Beach landings on June 6, 1944. The memorial contains a large collection of uniforms, military vehicles, photos, artillery weapons, personal belongings, etc. The recommended visiting time is 1 hour.

### **Normandy American Cemetery**

Parking cimetière de Colleville , 14710 Colleville -sur-Mer, France

The Normandy American Cemetery is built on the high ground of Omaha Beach, facing the sea and the hometown. The cemetery is a green and well-tended lawn. White marble crosses and Stars of David are arranged on the lawn, intersecting each other, seemingly endless, making people feel sacred and solemn. Each cross monument is engraved with the soldier's name, hometown address and date of death.

The Normandy American Cemetery, the habitat of nearly 10,000 souls, is designed without giving people a gloomy and terrifying feeling. This may be the cultural difference between Europe and Asia. Therefore, there are great differences between Asia and Europe in the design and treatment of cemeteries. In Asia, people always stay away from cemeteries because the design of cemeteries and graves brings fear of death to the living and gives people a sense of oppression. The shape of the tombstone represents the different religious beliefs of the deceased. Christianity and Catholicism use the cross, and Judaism uses the six-pointed star of David. All crosses face west - the direction of the American continent.

The Normandy American Cemetery is the largest cemetery established by the United States in Europe. In 1979, France handed it over to the US government, making it a US territory surrounded by France. The cemetery is maintained with funds provided by the US government. The French government donated the American cemetery to the United States as a permanent territory, and the Normandy American Cemetery has thus become a magical "country within a country". These American children who died in a foreign land have finally returned home! As the symbol of the beginning of Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan", it buries 9,387 American soldiers, including 41 pairs of brothers, and there is also a monument to commemorate the 1,557 soldiers whose remains have not been found. In the Normandy American Memorial, you only need to report your name to find the location of the martyrs in the cemetery.

On the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings in 2019, the UK held a grand commemoration ceremony in Portsmouth. Leaders of 15 countries, including US President Trump, Queen Elizabeth II, Prime Minister Theresa May, Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau, French President Macron, German Chancellor Merkel and more than 300 World War II veterans, attended the 75th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings.

# Pointe du Hoc

Pointe du Hoc, Unnamed Road 14450, 14450 Cricqueville-en-Bessin , France There is a large toilet, free of charge

- The stay time is 30-45 minutes. It takes 8-10 minutes to walk from the parking lot to Fort Pointe du Hoc

Pointe du Hoc is located on the Atlantic coast 60 kilometers northwest of Caen, France. The protruding structure of Pointe du Hoc on the cliff divides the beach into two parts. To the east is Omaha Beach, the landing point of the Allied Forces, and to the west is Utah Beach, another landing point of the Allied Forces. It overlooks the sea from a high point and blocks the landing point. The German army turned it into a steel fortress.

At dawn on June 6, 1944, 225 U.S. Ranger commandos jumped off landing craft and rushed to the foot of the cliff. Their mission was to climb the cliff and eliminate the German artillery. The Germans fired machine guns and threw grenades on the edge of the cliff. The commandos threw rope ladders to the cliff in the hail of bullets and began to climb. One commando fell, and another rushed up. When one rope was cut, they grabbed another and continued to climb. As they seized the position on the cliff, the recovery of the European continent began. After a battle, only 90 members were alive on the battlefield.

The U.S. suicide squad climbed up Cape Hawk and found that the so-called 155mm coastal artillery was actually a disguised telephone pole. The navy, without any worries, unscrupulously poured shells on the German strongholds. The U.S. troops that were previously blocked on the beach also began to charge under the leadership of the elite First Division. At noon, the second echelon of the landing force landed ahead of schedule. Under the guidance of the Air Force, the U.S. Navy's battleships and cruisers also began to shoot at the opposite shore, and the German defense basically collapsed. At dark, the U.S. military officially landed successfully, and the Fifth Army headquarters landed and opened a command post.

## Caen

Caen is the capital of Calvados. It was once the capital of the famous Duchy of Normandy and is now the economic center of Calvados. The powerful duchy in the Middle Ages brought the city a majestic ducal castle, and devout believers built dozens of churches and monasteries. From a high point, the entire city has erected countless steeple bell towers, so Caen is also known as the "City of a Hundred Bells" (Ville aux Cent Clochers ).

Caen is also the cultural capital of the Normandy region. It has the oldest university in France, which was built more than 500 years ago. It has the largest number of bookstores per capita and is one of the most festive cities in the region. Most of Caen's main attractions are concentrated in the city center. Travelers can spend a day to understand this multifaceted historical city. Of course, when you come to the heart of the gourmet region, don't miss the specialties here and taste the famous Caen-style roast beef offal.

Caen has a warm and humid climate and a flat terrain. It is famous for its Caen Castle, men's monastery and women's monastery.

### Castle of Caen Château de Caen

Château , 14000 Caen

One of the largest medieval fortresses in Europe, it was built by William the Conqueror in 1060 and became the main residence of William the Conqueror and other dukes of the Duchy of Normandy and the King of England. It was also an important strategic fortress during the Hundred Years' War between England and France. Although most of it was destroyed during World War II, you can still see the majestic and shocking traces of the buildings and the towering walls. Its construction technology is still a model for today's architecture. The current Caen Museum of Fine Arts and the Normandy Museum are located in the castle.

### **Abbaye aux Hommes, Caen**

Esplanade Jean Maris Louvel , 14000 Caen

It was built in 1063 by order of William the Conqueror and is the place where William the Conqueror was buried. The architecture is in the Barontian style, and the church is a typical Gothic building. The monastery is now used as the municipal office of Caen, making it one of the most beautiful municipal governments in France. The church is free to visit, and you can enter the monastery to visit the guard room, cloister, mural hall, etc. by purchasing a ticket.

### **Abbaye aux Dames, Caen**

Place Reine Mathilde, 14035 Caen

Queen Mathilde, the wife of William the Conqueror, ordered the construction and burial of the monastery in 1060. The architectural style is simpler, echoing the monastery. The nearby Parc Michel d' Ornano is a good place to enjoy the panoramic view of Caen.

### **Caen Peace Memorial**

Esplanade Général Eisenhower , 14050 Caen

The Normandy Must-Visit Museum is one of the most popular historical memorials in Europe. It fully displays the history of the Normandy Campaign during World War II, including the Normandy Landings and the Battle of Caen. It is recommended to visit the memorial before visiting the landing beach. The "Non-Violence" sculpture at the entrance is also a light-up attraction. The recommended visiting time is 3-4 hours. In addition, the memorial organizes a Normandy Landing Beach tour with an English-speaking guide. It arranges a one-day tour of the memorial, Omaha Beach, the American Cemetery, Cape Hoc, the artificial landing port and other attractions. It is very suitable for travelers with limited travel time and non-self-driving travelers. You can call or the official website for details and reservations.

## **Bayeux**

Also known as "Baye", it was built in the 1st century and is a famous medieval city in Normandy. It was once the capital of the bishop. It has the famous Notre Dame Cathedral of Bayeux and houses the Bayeux Tapestry, which is listed as a World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. Bayeux is close to the Normandy landing beaches and was the first city liberated by the Allies after "Operation Overlord". The Normandy Battle Memorial and Bayeux War Cemetery were established here to commemorate the great contributions made by the heroes of World War II to this city.

There are restaurants in Bayeux and the towns near the landing beaches, and the scallops in Port-Bessin are very famous.

### **Cathedral of Notre -Dame de Bayeux**

This masterpiece of Romanesque and Gothic art was consecrated by William the Conqueror and his brother, Bishop Odon de Conteville, after it was completed in 1077. The interior of the church is magnificent, with a nave as long as 102 meters. Bishop Odon de Conteville even ordered the weaving of the famous Bayeux Tapestry to commemorate this great religious building. The basement and exquisite organ in the church are both attractions.

### **Bayeux Tapestry Museum**

13 bis Rue Nesmond , 14400 Bayeux

A must-visit museum in Normandy. It houses the famous world cultural heritage Bayeux Tapestry ( Tapeisserie de Bayeux). It is said that Queen Mathilde participated in the embroidery, so it is also called Queen Mathilde Tapestry ( Tapeisserie de la Reine Mathilde). The Bayeux Tapestry is 68.3 meters long and 50 centimeters wide. It is embroidered with as many as 636 people, 202 donkeys and horses, 505 various animals, 37 buildings, 49 large trees, etc. It records the historical events of William, Duke of Normandy, conquering England and becoming king from 1064 to 1066. The Bayeux Tapestry is the longest comic strip in the world and an important historical reference document in the European Middle Ages. It is especially important for the study of people's clothing, daily life, architecture, and the army in the 11th century. The lifelike artistic embroidery and vivid and rich color matching also make it a well-deserved world art treasure. The museum is equipped with a Chinese interpreter.

#### The story of the Bayeux tapestry

The first half of the tapestry tells the story of Duke William and Duke Harold. Duke Harold was the brother-in-law of King Edward of England. He was captured when he landed in Normandy in 1064. He regained his freedom with the help of Duke William. Therefore, Harold swore allegiance to William and promised to help him inherit the British throne in the future. However, Harold eventually crowned himself king in January 1066, so Duke William invaded England to fight against Harold. The tapestry vividly describes the famous Battle of Hastings and the killing of Harold's brothers, and ends with Duke William's successful coronation as King of England.

#### Normandy Battle Memorial

Boulevard Fabian Ware, 14400 Bayeux

The memorial hall displays the history of the Normandy Campaign in 1944 in chronological order with pictures, texts and films, including the landings, the bombing of Normandy and other military operations, as well as the living conditions of the local people. The memorial hall houses a large number of items from World War II and photos taken during the Normandy Campaign.

## Mont-Saint-Michel

Bus parking: Mont St Michel Coach Parking, P7, Gettitt Road, 50170 Beauvoir, France. Park as far in as possible, or turn right at the end. There are also parking spaces.

le Passeur free bus: Navetta Le Mont Saint-Michel, Le Bas Pays, 50170 Le Mont-Saint-Michel, France Next to the Tourist Information Centre, there is a toilet at the information centre

Mont Saint-Michel is located on the coast not far from the junction of Lower Normandy and Brittany, on a small rocky island about 1 km from the coast. It is known as the "8th Wonder of the World". There is a famous monastery on the top of the mountain, which is a pilgrimage site for Catholics. It is the third largest holy place of Catholicism after Jerusalem and the Vatican . It was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. Every year, 2.5 million tourists visit Mont Saint-Michel. Hugo once said: Mont Saint-Michel is as important to France as the pyramids are to Egypt. There is even a saying: "If you have not been to Mont Saint-Michel, you have not really been to France." Such an evaluation is almost saying: Mont Saint-Michel is the symbol of France.

The island is about 900 meters in circumference and 88 meters above sea level. It is surrounded by winding paths and medieval towns. The 4- kilometer causeway leading to Mont Saint-Michel was built in 1874 , funded by the French government and took a hundred years to build. Before the 8th century AD, it was a forest, but it was turned into an island due to a violent tsunami. The island is cone-shaped, 900 meters in circumference, and is made of towering granite. It is 88 meters above sea level and is often surrounded by large sandy beaches. It only becomes an island at high tide. In ancient times, this was a place where Celtic people worshipped gods.

At low tide, there is a large grassland connected to the quicksand at the foot of Mont Saint-Michel. The conical Gothic spire of the Church of Saint-Michel on the top of the mountain rises into the sky, and the golden statue of Saint-Michel points a sword to the sky. At high tide, the sea water rushes in from the distant Atlantic Ocean, submerging the quicksand and grassland, and surrounding Mont Saint-Michel. The tide of Mont Saint-Michel recedes after an hour, and the mudflats are exposed at the foot of the mountain, and it returns to calm.

One night in 708 AD, Cardinal Aubert, who was practicing near Mont Saint-Michel, dreamed for three consecutive days that the angel Michel pointed to a hill on the beach, suggesting that he build a church there. It was this dream that people worked on for eight centuries. Countless priests and workers transported heavy granite pieces through the quicksand and pulled them up to the top of the mountain step by step, creating this miracle. Father Saint Michel built a small church castle at the highest point of the island, dedicated to Archangel Michel, and it became a pilgrimage center, so it was called Mont Saint-Michel. In 969 AD, a Benedictine monastery was built on the top of the island. Between 1211 and 1228, six buildings centered on the Abbey of Mervelle were built in the north of the island, with the style of the medieval Carolingian castle and the ancient Romanesque church. The latter also includes multiple halls, among which the Knights' Hall (Salle des Chevaliers) and the cloister ( Clôtre ) are the most famous, especially the classic corridor within corridor design, which makes wandering between the scattered columns an artistic enjoyment. The island still has the 11th century Romanesque nave and the 15th century Gothic choir, part of the 13th-15th century city walls and the Gothic monastery walls. For hundreds of years, this was a place to store food and shelter poor pilgrims. These two naves are very important because they provide people with the two most basic survival guarantees of food and shelter. However, during the French Revolution, this place was also used as a prison, and some famous people were imprisoned here.

During the Hundred Years' War between England and France from 1337 to 1453, 119 French knights hid in the monastery, relying on the walls and turrets to fight against the British army for 24 years! Because every time they held out for half a day, the thundering tide would flood the tidal flats leading to the land, winning the patriots a precious half-day of rest time. In this protracted war, this island was the only military fortress in the region that did not fall.

Mont Saint-Michel is the largest tidal theater in Europe because of its spectacular tidal phenomena. If you want to enjoy the 15-meter-high tide, you must come to watch it on the day with the highest tidal index of the year, usually in March, April or September, October. When the tide is high, the sea water will rush in at lightning speed, instantly submerging the salt marsh beaches around Mont Saint-Michel, and only then will Mont Saint-Michel return to being a real isolated island in the ocean. The best place to watch the tide is Mont Saint-Michel. The tide time can be checked on the official website of the Mont Saint-Michel Visitor Center. The morning and evening tide times are usually outside the opening hours of the scenic area, so it is recommended that tide watchers stay on the mountain on the day and arrive at the observation point 2 hours before the forecast time.

- The free local tourist bus goes to the foot of the Holy Mountain. The one-way trip takes about 12 minutes. It takes another 20 minutes to walk from the foot of the mountain to the entrance of St. Michel's Monastery, and it takes about 20 minutes to go down the mountain.
- Although the height does not exceed 100 meters, there are many steps and tourists often fall and sprain their feet. Visitors must pay attention to their safety and be reminded in advance.
- There are many people queuing at the monastery, so please allow 1 hour for the visit. It takes about 1-1.5 hours to enter the monastery without entering it, and about 2 hours to enter the monastery (excluding the time to queue for tickets)
- The group will take the free bus to the foot of the mountain and disband. Guests will be allowed to take the bus back to the visitor center to gather.





The abbey is open every day except the 1st of January , the 1st of may and the 25th of december .

- from 2 may to 31 august : 9 am to 7 pm, last admission at 6 pm.
- from 1 september to 30 april : 9.30 am to 6 pm, last admission at 5 pm.
- 24 december and 31 december 2018 : last admission at 4 pm

Full Price: 10€

Reduced Price: For 18-25 Years Old Non-Residents Of The Eu, And Without A European Visa. 8€

Group Price From 20 People: 8€

In 1888, the Boullards, who lived on Mont Saint-Michel, opened their inn to entertain pilgrims. Soon, Mrs. Boullard's culinary talent became known to the world. During her fifty years living on the mountain, she created more than 700 specialties inspired by Normandy and Brittany, especially the wood-fired omelette cooked in a long skillet and wood fire . The most famous dish is the omelette of the famous La Mère Poulard restaurant , which is a local specialty. The prices are very high, with scallops for 47 euros. A single egg without any other ingredients is also 35 euros. In addition to La Mère Poulard restaurant, there is also the La Mère Poulard Café and the La Mère Poulard Terrace Restaurant, which offers the best sea views.

Boutique la Mere Poulard

The famous Mama Brar cookies can be bought here, and the various cookie box packaging naturally becomes a unique craft souvenir.

#### Other tourist cities in Normandy:

The towns of Rebecq-Hellouin and Lyons-la-Forêt in the Eure department have been rated as the most beautiful towns in France for their typical architectural style and natural environment. They are both less than an hour's drive from Rouen.

#### town of Le Bec- Hellouin

Le Becques-Elouin is a typical Normandy country town, famous for its quaint old houses with wooden ribs and a lush and quiet rural atmosphere. It is rated as one of the most beautiful towns in France. Especially in spring and summer, the green leaves and flowers in the garden are particularly intoxicating.

The Abbaye du Bec- Hellouin in the town is a famous historical building in France and a landmark of this most beautiful town. The abbey was founded by the Knight of Hellouin in 1034 as one of the most important monastic sites in the Diocese of Rouen in the Duchy of Normandy. The scale of the abbey continued to expand in the following hundreds of years, but it also did not escape the destruction of war. In the early 19th century, the abbey was occupied by the local army and used as a knight's camp. The church in the abbey was also demolished during this period, leaving only the bell tower.

During World War I and World War II, it was occupied by different armies. It was not until 1948 that the French government returned the monastery to the religious organization, and the monks returned to this thousand-year-old holy place to continue their practice. Today, the Abbey of Le Bec Élouin is open to the public, but you need to make an appointment in advance to visit the interior of the building. It is recommended to make an appointment at least 8 days in advance. The Abbey's Saint-Nicolas Bell Tower (Tour Saint-Nicolas), the Cloister ( Cloître ), the Batiment ( Batiment conventuel ) are the highlights of the visit.

the Monastère Sainte Françoise Romaine, founded in 1948 , where 26 nuns live and practice. The monastery is usually open to believers only during religious ceremonies.

#### Abbey of Rebecq-Elouin

3 Place de l'Abbé Herluin , 27800 Le Bec- Hellouin

#### St. Franz Vasile Monastery

9 Route de Rouen, 27800 Le Bec- Hellouin

#### The Crepe in the North

2 Place de l'Abbe Herluin , 27800 Le Bec- Hellouin

In an old wooden-walled house next to the square of the Abbey of Lebec, there is a small restaurant called La Crêpe dans le Bec, which mainly serves rye pancakes (Galette) and crepes (Crêpe), with a good value for money. After a tiring stroll, you can stop and taste French desserts to make the most of your time in this quiet town.

### Lyons-la-Forêt

The town of Lyons-la-Forêt is located in the heart of the Lyon National Forest (Forêt Domaniale de Lyons), the most beautiful beech forest in Europe. The town with only 800 residents has been rated as one of the most beautiful towns in France for its ancient timber-reinforced walls, red brick houses and flower-filled streets and alleys. It is also one of the four-star flower towns in the Normandy region.

The predecessor of the town of Lyon-la-Forêt was a destroyed 12th-century defensive castle. The town center was planned and built along the ruins of the castle's watchtower. The market (La Halle) on the central square was built in the 18th century and is the activity center for the town's residents. Markets are held around the market every Thursday and weekend, where vendors from the town and nearby areas sell a wide range of regional products.

Many artists have lived in Lyon-la-Forêt, such as the famous French poet Isaac Benserade and the famous composer Maurice Ravel. Their former residences are still inhabited by their descendants, especially the old house of Maurice Ravel, which is the most beautiful building in the town with its neat timber-reinforced wall facade and exquisite attic design. Lyon-la-Forêt is very small, and most of the attractions are concentrated around Place Isaac Benserade in the city center .

#### La Licorne Royale

27 Place Benserade , 27480 Lyons-la-Forêt

In an old house in the central square of La Forêt, Lyon, there is a famous inn in the area since 1610, La Licorne Royale, which is still a four-star hotel. At the same time, there is a Michelin one-star gourmet restaurant in the hotel, and its taste and reputation

are beyond doubt. It is worth mentioning that the display cabinet in the dining hall contains various ornaments of the marshals in the Napoleonic era, which can be called a small historical museum in the town.

### **Fecamp**

Fécamp is located in the Seine-Maritime Department of the Upper Normandy region of France, on the famous "White Coast" facing the English Channel. It is a town with a strong religious atmosphere, and its white sandy beaches and blue sea are also very refreshing.

#### **Attractions**

Benedictine Palace / Holy Trinity Abbey / Newfoundlander and Fisheries Museum

#### **Food and Specialties**

Bénédictine Brewery : This secret recipe of 27 spices dates back to the Renaissance, was lost in 1791 but found in 1863 .

### **Cherbourg**

Cherbourg is an important intercontinental port between Europe and the United States. In 2000 , it merged with Octeville to become today's Cherbourg - Octeville.

#### **Attractions**

Moat Street / Holy Trinity Church / Ocean City / Thoma Henry Museum

#### **Things to do**

April 18-20 Cherbourg Carnival

July 1 / 2-6 Figaro Regatta

## **Saint-Malo (S aint Malo )**

Drop off/pick up: Quai Saint-Vincent, 35400 Saint-Malo. There are 2 free toilets behind the information center opposite.

Avenue Louis Martin to the city center is closed to buses. You must take a detour from the train station to the Chaussée du Sillon to get to the boarding and alighting point.

Saint-Malo is a city in the Ille-et-Vilaine department of Brittany, France, with a land area of 36.58 square kilometers and a population of about 50,000. It is most famous for its ancient walls used to defend against pirates, its beaches with waves hitting the shore, and its well-preserved medieval city. It is one of the areas with the highest tides in the world and is also the most popular tourist destination in Brittany.

Saint-Malo was named after the missionary Macron, who became the bishop of Arlette in the 6th century. In the middle of the 12th century, the Arlette Church was built on a nearby rocky island, the birthplace of Saint-Malo. From the 13th century onwards, the people of Saint-Malo constantly attacked and raided enemy ships. In 1308, they developed it into a free commune, and then, from 1395 to 1415, it was incorporated into the rule of King Charles VI of France, who approved it as a franchised port. At the end of the 15th century, Anne of Brittany married Charles VIII and Louis XII successively, and incorporated the Duchy of Brittany into the Kingdom of France.

During the Age of Exploration from the 15th to the 17th century, the port here was filled with all kinds of goods from Africa, America, India, and China that the French had looted from the British merchant fleet and were waiting to be shipped to various

parts of Europe for resale. Here, the pirates recognized and supported by the French government were not called pirates, but corsairs, which can be translated as armed merchant ships. In fact, they were still pirates, but they were just more elegant. In 1534, Cartier sailed to North America and discovered and named Canada. In the 16th century, Saint-Malo was a prosperous fur trade port. The long-distance fishing industry made local ship owners richer and richer, and they built beautiful manors around the city. When Britain and France were competing for hegemony at sea in the 17th century, many city walls and fortresses were reinforced here to resist invasion.

During the economic downturn in the 18th century, Saint-Malo privateers became active again. Some travel websites, especially those in the UK, call Saint-Malo a pirate city. But the people of Saint-Malo have never admitted that privateers are pirates, and until now, they are still very concerned about drawing a clear line between themselves and pirates. The people of Saint-Malo believe that although both pirates and privateers take risks at sea and plunder other ships, there is a difference: pirates are a mob, burning, killing, raping, and lawless; while privateers are gentlemen, because their crews are official sailors, authorized by the king, and their goals are noble. "Never plunder, just confiscate", this is the difference.

Under the influence of the sun and the moon, Saint-Malo has two high tides and low tides a day, with a tidal difference of up to 5-6 meters, one of the highest in the world. The tidal difference of more than ten meters a day in the Bay of Saint-Malo and the strong North Atlantic current not only make the seawater here very pure, but also rich in trace elements and nutrients. As early as 160 years ago, people discovered that this mineral-rich seawater in the Bay of Saint-Malo can treat respiratory diseases such as rhinitis, nasal congestion, and asthma. Therefore, many seawater thermal therapy centers have been built around the Bay of Saint-Malo, which are very popular among middle-aged and elderly people and ladies.

In 1944, the war almost destroyed the entire old city. The Saint-Malo we see today was rebuilt on the remaining ruins.

### **Saint - Malo Cathedral**

It is a Roman Catholic cathedral (1146-1801) dedicated to Vincent of Zaragoza and is listed as a French national monument. Its architecture is a mixture of Romanesque and Gothic styles. It was built during the tenure of Bishop Jean de Châtillon (1146-1163) and completed around 1152. It is located on the site of a 7th-century ancient church destroyed during the Norman invasion in the 10th century. The Diocese of Saint-Malo was abolished in 1801. The church was severely damaged during the exchange of fire between the US and German forces on August 6, 1944, in the late stage of World War II. The spire collapsed and fell into the Sacred Heart Chapel. The church contains a 12th-century sarcophagus containing the relics of Jean de Châtillon, the first bishop of Saint-Malo.

### **Surcouf, the Pirate :**

Shockov was a famous pirate in Saint-Malo in the 18th century, and his bounty was 5 million francs. It is said that when Napoleon was fighting the British army, he wanted to land in the British Isles, but he was troubled by the repeated defeats. So he summoned Shockov, hoping to use his maritime expertise to attack Britain. However, Shockov thought that it was not difficult to help the French army fight Britain, but it would be easy to fall into the trap of the British army if he had to escort or carry the French army's fleet across the English Channel. Therefore, he did not agree with Shockov. Napoleon was very unhappy with Shockov's opinion and decided to punish him. He asked casually: "I heard that you enjoy trampling on my face?" Because it was rumored that Shockov had a huge fortune and even the floor of the living room was covered with gold coins with Napoleon's portrait. Shockov knew that Napoleon wanted to make trouble for him, so he smiled and replied: "Your Majesty, that's not the case. I didn't step on your face because there were too many gold coins and they were not flat but all upright! So I stood on your head!"

### **Sculpture of Canadian founding father Cartier:**

Jacques Cartier was a French explorer and navigator born in Saint-Malo. He made three voyages under the patronage of King Francis I of France, but failed to open the Northwest Passage to the East and failed to discover gold. Although his exploration results disappointed the French, he successfully opened the door to Canada for Europeans, and Canada imported a large amount

of fur to Europe in the following hundreds of years. His investigation of the St. Lawrence River basin also laid the foundation for the establishment of New France.

Cartier discovered Canada during his second voyage. He entered the mouth of the St. Lawrence River and traveled inland along the St. Lawrence River to the present-day city of Quebec. When he landed, he asked the local Indians what this place was, and they replied that it was Canada. It means village or place of residence, and the name Canada came from this. He established a base near the Iroquois village. Then he took a small boat to explore upstream and arrived at the Indian village of Hocheriga. The turbulent river water then made it impossible for his three-masted ship to move forward. Cartier named the mountain he climbed near the village of Hocheriga Montreal (meaning "Mount Royal"). Later, Montreal was named after a city founded by French settlers in 1642, which is the present-day city of Montreal.

### **Local seafood market**

Place du Marché aux Légumes , 35400 Saint-Malo, France

### **Grand Bé Island and Petit Bé Island**

You can visit the tomb of Chateaubriand, the famous writer who was born on the Grand Bé island in Saint-Malo. At low tide, the island becomes a peninsula and can be reached on foot. It is strongly recommended to check the tide times before visiting the island, which is located at the Rance estuary at the foot of the walls of Saint-Malo.

In the vicinity, you will also find the Petit Bé, a real and mythical warship built by Vauban in the 17th century to defend the corsair city. It is accessible on foot or by punting, depending on the tides and weather conditions.

### **Fort National**

This historic building was built in 1689 by the famous military architect Vauban to protect the port of Saint-Malo. All visitors to the fort will be led by an experienced guide who will meet you on the drawbridge (tour lasts about 35 minutes). At low tide, the National Fort can be reached on foot, and crossing the drawbridge is like traveling through centuries. The granite walls of the fort are integrated into the rock, and more than three centuries of military life in the fort will come alive before your eyes: from the water reservoir to the ammunition dungeon bunker, from legendary sea battles to the sword duels of the pirate Robert Surcouf , from the memory of Chateaubriand to the tragic moments of the Second World War.

Crepe is a specialty food that originated in Brittany. A restaurant specializing in crepes called Grand-mère Alice is located in the old town of Saint-Malo.

In Brittany, France, it is popular to sell cereal bowls with common names of French children printed on them so that several children in the family can get them mixed up.

Cancale , a small town located on the coast of the Brittany Peninsula, is a famous oyster farming area in France.

### **Adenauer wild boar statue**

There is a huge wild boar statue standing beside the A34 motorway from Reims to Belgium .

The statue, called " Woinic " , is nearly 10 meters high, 14 meters long and 5 meters wide. It used 50,000 kilograms of metal and 6,500 kilograms of solder. This masterpiece was completed by sculptor Eric Sléziak . The creator spent more than 12,000 hours of manual work, starting on January 1, 1983 and completed on December 11, 1993, which took 11 years .

The name " Woinic " is a combination of his father's nickname " Woidouche " , a sculptor, and his mother's name "Nicole".

This piece is a source of pride for all the people of the Ardennes and the Ardennes Provincial Council. The Ardennes Provincial Council chose the image of the wild boar as part of its emblem. As a mythical animal, it is deeply rooted in the culture of the Ardennes region and symbolizes the values of the Ardennes region: strength, courage and unity. The world's largest wild boar towered over the Ardennes highway exit on August 8, 2008. This day (08-08-08) is a once-in-a-century celebration for the people of the Ardennes (08 is the number of the Ardennes province).

# Reims

Parking spot	By bus: 1 Cr Anatole France, 51100 Reims, France 49°15'17.6"N 4°02'09.0"E (If the parking spaces above are full, you can go forward and turn right to the bus parking lot) Car: Parking du Boulingrin , 74b Bd Lundy, 51100 Reims, France		
Latitude and longitude	49 ° 15'46 " N , 4 ° 2'5 " E	Equivalent to China ...	Hulunbair, Inner Mongolia
Area (square kilometers):	46.9	Population ('000 ):	188
City status	The world-famous Champagne city is located in the Marne department of the Champagne - Ardenne region in northeastern France. In 2016, Champagne - Ardenne, Lorraine and Alsace merged to form the Grand Est region.		
Basic historical information	Reims plays a very important role in French history, because it is the place where all the French kings were crowned. A total of 25 French kings were crowned here by the bishop. As a famous historical and cultural city in France, Reims has many world cultural heritage sites, including the Cathedral Notre-Dame de Reims (also translated as Reims Cathedral), where all the French kings were crowned, the Palais du Tau , where the French kings lived and summoned ministers before and after the coronation, and the Saint-Remi Church and Abbey, which guarded the coronation bottle of holy oil. The Notre-Dame de Reims was destroyed by the German army during the First World War, but it took 20 years to rebuild. Its role in France is equivalent to that of Westminster Abbey in the UK, and Notre Dame de Paris was also built in imitation of it.  Reims is also an important military town in France. Historically, Reims once resisted British invasion. It was the front line of the Marne River in the First World War. The surrender ceremony of the German troops stationed in France in the Second World War was also held in Reims.		
Main Specialties	Champagne		

**the Notre Dame de Reims** , which was built in the 13th century and is the place where 25 French monarchs were crowned . It contains the famous sculpture "The Smiling Angel". Other famous attractions include the Palais de Tau, where French kings lived and changed their clothes before and after their coronation, the Arc de Triomphe of the ancient Roman period, the Royal Square, and the Champagne Park.

**The Cathedral of Notre Dame de Reims** is a Gothic building. To commemorate the baptism of Clovis by Bishop Saint Remi, the cathedral was built in 1211 and completed in 1241. Along with the Cathedral of Reims, the Church of Saint Remi and the Abbey of Saint Remi were also the places where the coronation ceremonies of successive kings were held.

On Christmas Day in 498 AD, Bishop Saint Remi presided over the baptism of Clovis, the first king of the Franks, in Reims. Later, this place became a holy place for the coronation of kings of all generations and proved the legitimate power of the French royal family. 25 kings were crowned here. The only exception was that Napoleon, who proclaimed himself emperor, was crowned in Notre Dame de Paris. Although the great man Napoleon overthrew the French royal family, he also wanted to be the emperor of France. He wanted to be crowned in Reims and presented a majestic eagle cast in gold to Reims Cathedral. However, Napoleon's request was ultimately opposed by the Pope because the Catholic Church believed that Napoleon had violated the imperial

canon and was not qualified to be crowned in Notre Dame de Reims. In the end, the coronation ceremony of Napoleon I was held in Notre Dame de Paris.

1962 , Reims Cathedral welcomed Charles de Gaulle, President of the Fifth French Republic, and Adenauer, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, who signed the historic Franco-German reconciliation agreement. The Reims Cathedral in the 5th century was the place where Clovis was baptized and the starting point for the Franks, the common ancestors of France and Germany, to integrate into Christian civilization. In the 20th century, Reims Cathedral became the starting point for Franco-German reconciliation. In this way, this majestic cathedral has not only witnessed the turbulent history of France, but also witnessed the historical cycle of Europe spanning thousands of years.

In the eyes of many people, Reims Cathedral is even more exquisite, transparent, delicate and elegant than Notre Dame de Paris. In addition, the beautiful history of Reims makes it a holy place in the minds of the French. It is said that there are 2,302 statues describing biblical stories in Reims Cathedral. On the west wall of the north door of the church, there is a statue of a smiling angel, which is considered a landmark of Reims. Therefore, Reims Cathedral is also known as the "Angel Church". It is said that among the traditional Christian figures, there are few examples of angels smiling, which is also a manifestation of the humanization of Reims Cathedral. The tour guide said that if you look closely, you can also see bullet holes left on the wings of the angels during the war.

In 1991, Notre Dame Cathedral of Reims was recognized as a World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO.

**Porte Mars** is a triumphal arch from the Roman period. Built in the third century AD, it is the widest arch in the Roman world. The arch is 32 meters long and 13 meters high.

Outside the south gate of the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Reims, in the garden Square du Palais de Justice, is **a statue of Joan of Arc riding a horse and holding a sword** .

After the liberation of Orleans, she encouraged the timid Charles VII to bravely go to Reims, where he completed the coronation ceremony. The following year, she was arrested in Compiègne and sent to Rouen. In 1431, Joan of Arc was burned at the stake at the age of 19. It is said that the king at the time did not make any efforts to rescue Joan of Arc while she was in custody.

Statue of Louis XV on **the Place Royale** .

### **Saint Remi Church**

Bus parking: Place Lenoncourt , 51100 Reims

The Church of Saint Remi in Reims is the first Benedictine monastery in the diocese of Champagne and Reims. Legend has it that in the 9th century, when Archbishop Hincmar baptized Colovie, a Holy Spirit descended from heaven and handed a vial of holy oil to the Bishop of Saint Remi. Since then, Reims has become the city where the coronation and anointing of kings are held.

The monastery retains the exquisite nave from the 9th century. The wide atrium was built in 1049, where the remains of Bishop Saint Remi (440-533) lie. The Gothic altar was built in the late 12th century. On both sides of the main entrance of the monastery are statues of Saint Peter and Saint Remi, one of which has a damaged face and the other is missing its right hand. The interior of Saint Remi Monastery is long and narrow, with extremely high vaults and walls made of large rocks, making people feel like entering a cave.

### **specialty:**

Pink Biscuits (Biscuit rose de Reims) Pairing pink biscuits with champagne is one of the hallmarks of Reims cuisine. The century-old Biscuits Fossier has several branches in Reims and Epernay, where Champagne Avenue is located.

Liquor-filled chocolate: Different from other liquor-filled chocolates, this one is shaped like a bottle cork, wrapped in blingbling pink tin foil. The filling inside the chocolate is Champagne liqueur. When you push the chocolate open with your tongue, you can feel the champagne jumping in your mouth. It is 100% produced in Champagne! The century-old store Biscuits Fossier mentioned above sells it.

Jambon de Reims: This ham that looks like jelly is actually made from boneless pork shoulder meat that is boiled in broth and then shaped in a mold and sprinkled with breadcrumbs after being removed from the mold.

Halles Centrales du Boulingrin , fresh fruit and vegetable market, the prices are slightly higher, but the quality is higher.

Local Champagne House Visits:

Domaine Vranken Pommery

Parking Visiteurs Vranken-Pommery , Rue des Crayères , 51100 Reims, France

**Champagne** (French: vin de Champagne , or Champagne ) is a grape sparkling wine produced in the Champagne region of France (different from the Grande and Grande Champagne regions of the Cognac region) according to strict legal regulations. Champagne needs to undergo a secondary fermentation in the wine bottle to produce carbon dioxide, which produces bubbles. According to the law, only sparkling wine brewed in the Champagne region of France, using specified grape varieties and following specified production methods and processes, can be labeled as Champagne .

the 5th century or earlier, and the history of Champagne wine dates back to the Middle Ages. The church had vineyards, and the monks made wine for sacraments. According to tradition, French kings were crowned in Reims, and Champagne wine was used in coronation ceremonies. The people of Champagne envied the reputation of Burgundy wine and wanted to make wine of equal reputation. However, due to the northern climate of Champagne, grapes are difficult to mature, and although the fruit acid is pleasant, the sugar content is low. The aged red wine is lighter than the wine produced in Burgundy.

French monk Perignon was not the inventor of champagne, but he made a series of improvements to the production and preparation of this drink, including using wire to fix the cork to the bottle mouth to prevent the air pressure in the bottle from popping out the cork. In France, sparkling wine is made by accident. Excessive air pressure in the bottle often causes the bottle to burst or the cork to pop out, so it is also known as the "devil's wine". Even after the large-scale production of sparkling wine in the Champagne region, the "primary fermentation method" was still used – the wine was bottled after fermentation once. It was not until about 200 years after Merret proposed the "Champagne Method" that the brewing of champagne began to use the secondary fermentation method. The secondary fermentation is to add brewing yeast and rock sugar to the wine. AOC requires that champagne must be fermented in the bottle for at least 15 months to fully display the flavor. If the grapes harvested that year are good, they are often used to make vintage champagne ( French: millésimé , meaning millennium ) , which indicates that the champagne of that year is of excellent quality and needs to be fermented for at least 3 years. When the champagne reaches the required aging year in the bottle, it is necessary to "disgorge", that is, remove the yeast residue in the bottle. The first step is to "rotate the bottle" – by slightly turning the bottle every day, the yeast residue in the bottle will gather at the neck of the bottle; then the bottleneck is quickly frozen and the cap is opened; the pressure in the bottle will spray out the residue and crushed ice. At this time, the cork is quickly sealed to prevent the loss of the generated carbon dioxide.

the 19th century, the production of champagne increased significantly, from 300,000 bottles per year



in 1800 to 20 million bottles in 1850. Modern dry champagne began in 1876 as a special brew for the British.

Champagne glasses are usually tulip-shaped, with a long stem, a long body and a narrow opening, and a slender body. Champagne should be drunk chilled, and the ideal temperature is 7–9 degrees Celsius. An ice bucket can be used. Studies have shown that drinking champagne properly can help the brain fight stroke, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and prevent brain decline.

The Champagne region is not very large. From small family-owned wineries to large brands operated by groups, as well as fruit farmers' own workshops and cooperative-style wineries, every brand in the Champagne region has its own unique style and beauty. The price of pure champagne usually starts at a high level, generally above 15 euros, so it is difficult to buy a high-quality champagne for 150 yuan in China, which is much higher than the price level of red and white wine. Vintage champagne is more expensive than non-vintage champagne ( NV ). For example, the entry-level non-vintage champagne of Perrier-Jouët is sold at an average price of about 40 euros abroad . The average price of a 1996 Perrier-Jouët is nearly 170 euros.

The high price of champagne is partly due to its production costs. The cold climate in the Champagne region makes it difficult to grow and mature grapes, and the traditional champagne brewing method is time-consuming and labor-intensive: after the first fermentation, it is necessary to transfer the bottle and disgorge the mud (dregs), then add liquid, and then seal and age. This method takes a long time, is costly, and requires a lot of manpower.

Scarcity makes things valuable, and good things are not cheap. This also applies to the champagne world. So if you want to choose a good champagne, you must first find the right price positioning. Don't be greedy for cheapness. Cheap prices can buy high-quality sparkling wines, but not high-quality champagne.

1911 , the French government established the " Échelle des Crus " ( Village Classification Ladder System ) for the Champagne region . From high to low, it is divided into Grand Cru , Premier Cru , and ordinary villages. There are currently 17 Grand Cru villages and 44 Premier Cru villages . Grand cru and Premier Cru both represent top-quality and high-quality vineyards in Burgundy. Generally, the wines produced in these places are probably good wines; but for Champagne, this word does not mean much. Since 2010 , the system has been abolished, that is, Grand Cru and Premier Cru in Champagne no longer have legal effect. So if someone only uses " Grand Cru " as a selling point and gimmick to prove to you the quality of a champagne, you don't have to believe it.

Compared with " Grand Cru ", the producer is the key to determine the quality of a champagne. Champagne producers are usually divided into three types: Negociant Manipulant , Cooperative de Manipulation and Recoltant Champagne. Manipulant ). Among them, wine cooperatives rarely sell in the market under their own name. Most of them are sold in the form of grape juice or base wine to other types of producers or returned to wine growers. Therefore, most of the products on the market come from large wine merchants and small farmers. Their operation modes are different, and the quality of the champagne they produce is also different.

Common champagnes on the market such as Moët et Chandon, Veuve Clicquot, and Dom Perignon all fall into this category. Large wine merchants do not need to grow grapes themselves, but purchase grapes from grape growers to make wine and blend. These wine merchants are large in scale and financially strong, and have better artificial control over secondary fermentation. The quality of the champagne they produce will be better and more stable, and the quality of champagne produced in the same batch will also be more consistent. So in general, the champagne produced by large wine merchants is usually

stable and guaranteed in quality, and the style is relatively uniform. It is the most conservative and safest choice. Even the most basic entry-level model will not have the risk of being too inferior.

Smallholder Champagne ( RM ) refers to champagne that is grown, brewed and sold by the farmers themselves. Its characteristics are that the style is varied and the production is not high. Because of its niche, it is called "Champagne for experts". A high-quality smallholder champagne will bring you an absolute surprise. The personalized style makes it always full of challenges and novelties. Some prices are even much higher than the champagne of big wine merchants. But the risk is that the style and quality cannot be unified every year. Therefore, if you want to judge the quality of a smallholder champagne, you need to have a deeper understanding of the producer, the year and the plot.

Champagne has an unpredictable and cool climate, and in most cases the grapes are not mature enough. In order to ensure the uniformity of style and quality, winemakers will blend wines from multiple years (vertically) or mix different varieties and origins (horizontally), thus creating non - vintage champagne . According to the law, non-vintage champagne must be aged for at least 15 months, including at least 12 months in contact with the lees. A relatively high-quality non-vintage champagne should be dominated by fresh floral and fruity aromas, showing a refreshing side. NV champagnes from large wine merchants are generally entry-level models, with a more mellow and popular taste.

Corresponding to NV Champagne is the rarer vintage Champagne. The concept of vintage Champagne did not appear until 1870. It is only produced in the best years and uses grapes from the best plots of the year. Years such as 1975 , 1976 , 1982 , 1988 , 1989 , 1990 , 1996 , 2000 , 2002 and 2004 are all recognized as great years for Champagne. The grapes in these years are generally more mature, and the quality of the wine produced is also better .

Generally speaking, the quality and grade of vintage champagne are higher than NV champagne. A high-quality vintage champagne, after a long period of contact with the wine lees, will have more obvious flavors of yeast, toast and dried fruits. And as the aging time increases, the wine aroma becomes richer and more memorable. The time of disgorging will also affect the taste of vintage champagne. Champagne will go through the disgorging (removal of yeast sediment) process before it is put on the market. The longer the champagne is aged after disgorging, the richer the flavor will be and the more toasty the aroma will be; on the contrary, if it is a champagne that has just been disgorged, it will taste sharper and colder.

Champagne styles can be divided into Blanc de Blancs, Blanc de noirs and Rose according to different grape varieties . A high - quality champagne should be able to reflect its own style characteristics.

For example, Blanc de Blancs Champagne is made from almost 100% white grape Chardonnay. High-quality Blanc de Blancs is considered to be the most high-quality, refined and elegant of all champagnes. Usually, this type of champagne is light-bodied, with a restrained citrus and green apple flavor; as it ages, it develops a very rich buttery character and a subtle toasty flavor. The overall style is light and refreshing, and it tastes more appetizing.

Blanc de noirs is made from Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. High-quality Blanc de Noirs will have a very strong structure, more prominent red fruit characteristics, full body and rich taste.

Rose champagne is colorful and is a great way to seduce girls. It is also the only way allowed by the European Union to mix red and white wines to produce rosé wine. The best rosé champagne has very delicate red fruit characteristics and is usually not suitable for aging .

There is a "secret recipe" circulating in the world to judge the quality of champagne, which is to look at the bubbles. Simply put, high-quality champagne has many, small, delicate and long-lasting

bubbles, while the opposite is inferior. This method does make sense. Champagne is brewed using strict traditional methods. After sufficient secondary fermentation, more carbon dioxide will be incorporated into the wine. The bubbles are usually fine and continuous. It is said that top-quality champagne can maintain bubbles for 2 hours. Fine and uniform bubbles will also highlight the delicate elegance of the champagne body, and the taste will be fuller and smoother.

On the contrary, compared with other sparkling wines, such as sparkling wines made by carbon dioxide injection, the bubbles are usually larger and disappear quickly, just like the Sprite and Coke we usually drink. The price of this kind of wine will also be cheaper and the quality is relatively poor. However, the bubbles of champagne cannot be used as the only criterion for judging its quality, because the choice of cups, the temperature of serving wine, the posture of pouring wine and the cleanliness of the wine glass will affect the durability of the bubbles. There is no doubt that a high-quality champagne should have very dynamic bubbles, with a medium to high level of delicacy and durability. The most reliable way is still to experience its touch on the tongue.

Whether champagne is good or not can only be accurately determined when it is drunk. A high-quality champagne should first have a pleasant and clean aroma. The aromatic floral, fruity and yeast aromas are the basic aromas of champagne. As it ages, some high-quality champagnes will emit more complex and multi-layered aged aromas, such as spices and nuts.

The taste of champagne is graded according to the amount of residual sugar. There are seven grades, including Natural Brut, Extra Brut, Brut, Extra Sec/Extra Dry, Sec/Dry, Demi-Sec and Doux . A friendly reminder: the drier the champagne, the more astringent it tastes. You can choose the right champagne according to your favorite taste.

Many people drank a kind of alcoholic beverage called "petite champagne" when they were young. It was sweet and delicious. When they drank real champagne later, they couldn't help but wonder if they drank fake champagne because of the sour taste. One thing that must be mentioned is that champagne is probably the most successfully marketed wine in history. Many people equate sweetness and romance with champagne. But when they finally drink champagne, they often frown because the acidity of champagne is not low, and 90% of the sweetness of champagne is natural dry ( Brut ), so it is not very sweet.

For champagne, acidity is its skeleton, especially for sweet champagne, acidity is the top priority, it can help balance the sweetness, so that the whole wine is not too greasy, more harmonious. Dry champagne has higher acidity, and the texture formed by acidity is the main manifestation of champagne's "mineral style". Most of the top quality champagnes are dry, and this acidity is bright and refreshing without being unbalanced.

A clean and rich aroma, a refreshing and balanced acidity after drinking, and a round and smooth body are all essential elements of high-quality champagne. Finally, the aftertaste should last for a long time after drinking. If you feel bitter, it means that the champagne is defective. If you can't stand the acidity of champagne, then look for dry ( Sec/Dry ) and semi-dry ( Demi-Sec ) champagne! But if the "champagne" tastes like sugar water and is easy to drink but has no aftertaste value, it must not be a good champagne.

## **Epernay**

parking

Cars: Parking du Jard , Esplanade Charles de Gaulle, 51200 Épernay , France (2M) Parking is available at some wineries for wine tasting

Bus: 49°02'35.4"N 3°57'29.9"E

de Champagne in **Epernay** , Champagne , is known as the most expensive avenue in the world and was included in the World Heritage List in 2015. Champagne brands are concentrated here, with 11 champagne wineries gathered on a short avenue less than 2 kilometers long. These include the famous Moët & Chandon , the artistic Perrier Jouët that Gong Li loves, and the long-standing Pol Roger that still uses manual bottle rotation.

If you can only choose one winery to visit on Champagne Avenue, the answer must be Mercier! Mercier Champagne Winery has the largest underground wine cellar in France, which is 30 meters deep. There is a full 18-kilometer tour route planned. Visitors can take the elevator to the bottom floor first, and then transfer to the sightseeing train for a tour. As the train runs happily, we can listen to the Chinese voice introduction while learning about the development history of the winery, visiting the car race track, and the Beijing Street in the wine cellar. Only by being there can you feel the fun.

- Mercier has parking spaces for large vehicles
- After registering at the entrance, you will receive an interpreter and can listen to 1-5 explanations in the hall .
- The guide leads you inside, and the video introduces you to the wine tasting (3 types) - take the elevator down - take the train - take the elevator up - and taste the wine (3 types). The duration is about 1 hour.

**Hautvilliers** is the birthplace of champagne. This claim comes from a local legend that in the 17th century, Perrinon, a monk from the Abbaye Saint-Pierre d'Hautvilliers , invented the "secondary fermentation technology that allows champagne to produce bubbles in the bottle", thus laying the foundation for champagne brewing technology.

In the midst of an endless vineyard, stands a century-old lighthouse ( Le Phare de Verzenay ). en Champagne - Musée de la Vigne). The lighthouse was originally a gathering place for local residents. It was abandoned during World War I and renovated by the government. Now, it has become a place where countless tourists can climb up to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Champagne vineyards .

## Dijon

Latitude and longitude	E 5 ° 02 ' N 47 ° 17 '	Equivalent to China ...	Daqing City, Heilongjiang Province
Area (square kilometers):	40.4	Population ('000):	Around 151,500
City status	The capital of the Bourgogne - Franche - Comté region in eastern France , it is also the most populous city in the region, 310 kilometers from Paris .		
Basic historical information	<p>Dijon is a famous historical and cultural city in France.</p> <p>The origin of Dijon can be traced back to the 6th century BC. In the 1st century BC, the Romans invaded Gaul, and Vercing é torix , the leader of the Arvergne tribe, was unfortunately defeated and taken to Rome for execution.</p> <p>In the middle of the fourth century AD, an East Germanic people, the Burgundians, crossed the Rhine River to the west and established the Kingdom of Burgundy ( Royaume de Bourgogne ), with Geneva as its capital. In 533 AD , the Frankish Kingdom annexed the Kingdom of Burgundy, and the embryonic form of today's France was basically formed.</p> <p>The Duchy of Burgundy ( Duché de Bourgogne ). With its capital in Dijon, it became a great</p>		

	<p>empire that stretched over 1,000 kilometers from north to south, spanning the North Sea and the Mediterranean. It was not until the late 15th century, after the Battle of Nancy, that the Duchy of Burgundy was declared destroyed and returned to the control of France. At that time, Dijon had become the political, economic, cultural, academic and scientific center of Europe.</p> <p>In the mid-19th century, the PLM (Paris-Lyon-Marseille) railway was built and opened to traffic, and Dijon became a cross-hub and its population grew rapidly. During World War II, Dijon was occupied by the Nazis and the city was severely damaged. After the end of World War II, Dijon rebuilt the city and became one of the famous tourist cities in France.</p>
City logo	Statue of Vercingetorix in the streets of Dijon
Culture, famous people	
Main Specialties	Burgundy is also one of the four major food capitals of France. Snail dishes, mustard, Burgundy beef hotpot, etc. are all traditional foods of Dijon. Dijon is also near the Burgundy wine producing area of France ( AOC Bourgogne ).
other	

Bus park: Chaussier , 21000 Dijon, France

Car park: Faubourg North Parking, 16 Place Darcy, 21000 Dijon, France

Parking Dijon Grangier – Divia , Pl. Grangier , 21000 Dijon 1.95M

Overnight: Parking Dijon Monge – Divia , Rue de l'Hôpital , 21000 Dijon, France (2.2M)

The "owl" sign on the ground. In China, owls usually only appear in ghost stories, but in France and some other Western countries, they are animals that symbolize good luck and happiness. This little owl is the most popular and cute pet in Dijon. Owls can often be found in store windows, refrigerator magnets, postcards, cute dolls, sculptures, and even some foods are shaped like cute little owls, which shows people's love for owls.

### Palace of the Dukes of Burgundy

The Gothic Duke's Palace and the residence of the Duke of Burgundy in the 14th and 15th centuries, the Duke's Royal Kitchen in the Bar Courtyard, the Philip the Good Tower (overlooking the entire city) and the Bar Courtyard. Most of the buildings that can be seen today were built in the 17th century, especially in the 18th century, in the classical style. This building is also the seat of the Burgundy Parliament. Today, the Duke's Palace houses the Town Hall and the Art Gallery. The Philip the Good Tower, built by Philip III in the 15th century, is 46 meters high and is still a good viewpoint overlooking the entire Grand Duke's Palace. The Duke's Palace can only visit the Philip the Good Tower (the inside of the Duke's Palace of Burgundy is not open to the public, at least when we went there). To visit the Philip the Good Tower, you must first buy a ticket at the visitor center next to it, and you can only go up the tower in a team, led by a tour guide. There is a time limit for going up the tower, 316 steps, and no elevator. Legend has it that Duke Philip the Good would go to the top of the tower to sleep every night for safety. I guess there must be a servant carrying him upstairs, otherwise the Duke must be a fitness expert .

The Place de la Liberté in front of the Duke's Palace is known as one of the most beautiful city squares in France.

### Francois Place François Rude

1904. The decoration of the square is attributed to a famous sculptor who was born here. This sculptor is also the author of the relief "Marseillaise" on the Arc de Triomphe in the Place de l'Étoile in Paris.

The most down-to-earth one is near the Barezai Square, which is named after the grape pickers statue in the center of the square. The name comes from the sculpture in the middle. Farmers trample grapes to make wine, and over time their feet will be

dyed pink. Barezai means pink feet in French.

**The Cathedrale Saint- Benigne** is a representative Gothic cathedral. It was built in the early 14th century and some of the nobles of Burgundy were buried here. The colorful patterned roof is a characteristic of the Burgundy region.

The Notre-Dame de Dijon Cathedral **was** built between 1220 and 1240. It is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture and is located in the heart of the Dijon Sanctuary, near the Palace of the Dukes of Burgundy. Inside is a statue of the Black Madonna. The water beasts on the front are replicas from the 19th century, because a businessman who came to the church to get married was unfortunately killed by a water beast that fell down, so the original water beasts were removed.

The two city symbols of Dijon: the Jacquemart clock and the owl. The Jacquemart clock in Dijon is unique, with four little people ringing the clock at regular intervals: Jacquemart and Jacqueline use hammers to ring the clock on the hour, and their "child" Jacquelinet and Jacquelinette , a small bell that rings every quarter of an hour. Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, brought Jacquemard from Belgium in 1382 as a conquest and installed him in the south tower of Notre Dame the following year. In 1651 , a woman named Jacqueline was added to take turns with Jacquemard. In 1714 or soon after, a boy named Jacquelinet was added at the request of the local poet Aimee Perron . In 1884 , a girl named Jacquelinette was added .

The church still cannot clearly explain why the Black Madonna is black ... But if we want to find the origin or prototype of the Black Madonna, it is relatively simple. For example, there is an Egyptian Mary, who is also called a "sinner" like Mary Magdalene, and her deeds are often confused with hers; in addition, there are the Eastern goddesses Lilith , Lamia , Queen Of Sheba , the mother goddesses of the Central European Celtic people, and the Greek and Roman gods - Artemis , Isis , etc. In the end, the religious integration continued to multiply and increase in value, and it has reached an innumerable point. "

On the north side of Notre Dame, Rue de la Chouette, 21000 , **Owl Street** is named after the stone owl carved on the outer wall of the church. In 2001, someone maliciously destroyed the owl sculpture, and after repair, half of its face has been blurred. It is said that stroking the little owl sculpture and making a wish will be very effective, and the locals also enjoy it. It is a bit like the routine of touching the stone monkey to pray for blessings at the Beijing Spring Festival temple fair. The action of stroking the owl is also very particular. You must use the left hand and not the right hand, because the left hand is closest to the heart, which means more piety.

There is also a secret hidden on the windowsill on the left. This little dragon that is difficult to find is also an important element in making a wish. Be sure not to look at the dragon when you touch the owl, otherwise your wish may be ruined.

Opposite the Little Owl is an old house with a plain appearance (No. 10), built by the merchant Milière. It has maintained the medieval appearance, with a shop on the first floor and a residence on the second floor. It has appeared in Depardieu's film Cyrano de Bergerac. The small details in the red circle are quite interesting. The decorative wooden strips on the second floor are only one section, and the lower one has been removed, indicating that the woman in the house is a widow. But what makes people wonder is whether such an obvious sign is telling people not to harass or to harass quickly?

Dijon is one of the most important transit points from Paris to the Mediterranean. Since the 15th century, this bell tower hotel Grand Hotel La Cloche Dijon has received many important royal members and celebrities. The exterior of the hotel building still retains its original appearance. There is a white bear lying in the hotel garden. Its brothers are in the Darcy Garden (Attraction No. 1) across the road. They were created by the famous animal sculptor Pompon. This garden is crowded with people on summer afternoons.

Local specialty restaurant L'Épicerie et Cie , baked snails, Burgundy beef  
5 Pl. Émile Zola, 21000 Dijon

## Dijon Winery

The "Grand Crus" of the "Champs Elysees of Burgundy" is definitely the first choice. This narrow area of less than 50 kilometers from Dijon to Santenay, passing through Nuits -St-Georges and Beaune, contains 24 of the 33 Grand Cru wineries in Burgundy , making it the ultimate dream destination for wine enthusiasts.

Burgundy vineyards are usually made up of many small plots of land, even belonging to different wineries, each with different characteristics. The locals have a unique theoretical system for grape cultivation. They believe that even closely adjacent plots of land will have different soil, water quality, light and temperature, etc., and these small factors combined together will affect the growth of grapes. This system has been passed down and evolved for thousands of years and is called "Climat" , and has even been applied for World Cultural Heritage.

Coexisting with the grape vines in the fields are clusters of gorgeous roses. Their function is not only to add a touch of color to the monotonous vineyards. When pests and diseases attack, the roses always get sick before the grapes, thus reminding farmers to take care of those delicate grapes.

Château de Pommard , 15 Rue Marey Monge, 21630 Pommard, France ( 5 % commission via GCN )

Order through Anshu Boss Lady:

The wine tasting fee at Chateau Moulin is 1 Euro

The tour guide will receive a commission of 20 points for wine purchased by the customer, and the wine will be shipped to China for free.

Address of Château Meursault: 10 Rue du 11 Novembre , 21190 Meursault, a 40-minute drive from Dijon.

Burgundy Wine IMAGINARIUM Center, wine tasting fee is 8 euros per person. Address: Avenue du Jura, 21700 Nuits -Saint-Georges, France

It is 20 km from Dijon.

Wine tasting fee: 6 euros for three wines at Château VOUGEOT, address: 29 Rue du Vieux Château, 21640 VOUGEOT

Dijon is a 20-minute drive away.

Clos de Vougeot is the most spectacular castle on the road. It is said that the wine here was exclusively supplied to Napoleon's army, and after drinking the wine, they became invincible, so that even now soldiers have to salute when passing by. This vineyard is rarely surrounded by stone walls. In the past, the monks made a living by growing grapes and making wine. They surrounded their cultivated vineyards with stone walls, and the locals called it Clos. Now the vineyard has changed many owners and has long been listed as a World Heritage Site.

The world-famous La Romanee -Conti winery is also on the wine route. The wine produced by this winery originated from the monastery thousands of years ago and flourished in the French royal family. It has always been ranked among the top in auctions and is one of the most expensive red wines in the world. Due to its rare production, a famous wine critic called it "affordable for millionaires and drinkable for billionaires."

## Bona

Car & Bus: 10 Bd Saint-Jacques, 21200 Beaune

Beaune is a town in the Côte d'Or department of the Burgundy region in east-central France. It is located southwest of Dijon and faces the Buzes River. People have settled here since prehistoric times. During the Roman rule, it was a prosperous cattle-raising

and grape-growing center. It is still the center of Burgundy's wine industry. In the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, ramparts were built to defend against Germanic invasions. In 1227, the first Burgundy Parliament met here; the Duke of Burgundy also lived here. In 1478, the town passed into French hands. It declined in the 17th century. In the 18th century, as the wine trade revived, the town took on a circular shape. Part of the city wall has been preserved to this day, with towers from the 13th and 16th centuries. Part of the ramparts have been replaced by the avenue between the town and the suburbs. The Dieu Hotel, built in 1443 with fine vineyards, is still open. Other attractions include Notre Dame (built in the 12th century) and the Wine Museum. Regional wine sales are held every November.

Beaune is a small and exquisite historic city. Like all small cities in the world, most locals know each other well, and friendly encounters and hugs can be seen everywhere on the streets. In the afternoon, the town began to wake up, and the streets gradually became lively again. It takes 20 to 30 minutes to walk through several intersecting streets. The alleys are full of restaurants, cafes and interesting small shops. It is very suitable for leisurely strolling at home.

Beaune is a genuine wine capital. Many wine lovers come here with a pilgrimage mentality. Most of the businesses in the city are related to wine. Even the tourist information center is a wine museum. There are many wineries and cellars of different styles in the city center, which provide various courses and experiences related to Burgundy wine. We tried a wine tasting experience called "Five Senses Tour" near the hotel. The so-called "five senses" is to understand the wine culture through vision, smell, taste and even touch. Take a sip of wine, and then choose the taste you think corresponds to it from materials of different textures. Some are as smooth as silk and some are as dry as fur. It is very suitable for beginners and very creative.

famous **Hotel- Dieue** (also known as the Almshouse) is the most splendid one among them. The Hotel-Dieue is the most magnificent Gothic building in the town. It was built in 1443 and was used as a hospital until 1971. There is a towering tower on the top and the sloping roof is covered with colorful tiles. The hall, pharmacy and kitchen inside have their own characteristics, but the most famous one is the screen painting "The Last Judgment" created by the Flemish painter Rogier van der Weyden (1399/1400-1464) in the Renaissance, which depicts the horror scene at the end of the world.

After the Hundred Years' War between England and France, Beaune was surrounded by poverty and hunger, and ordinary people were even more poor and sick. Nicolas Lorrain, the Grand Justice of the Duchy of Burgundy, and his wife Salins decided to donate and build a hospital dedicated to treating the poor - not only was the medical expenses free, but also three free meals a day were provided. For the rich who came to the hospital for treatment, high fees were charged! In order to keep this expensive hospital running for a long time, in addition to obtaining partial sponsorship from the wealthy class of Burgundy, the clever man also let the hospital acquire a large number of high-quality vineyards, brew and sell high-end wines, thus forming a self-sufficient, wine-supported medical virtuous cycle.

The colorful glazed tile roof emits dazzling light, the windows are decorated with Gothic spires, the wooden structure surrounds the exterior wall, and the colorful and jumping colors are matched with varied geometric figures. All of these are the essence of classic Burgundy-Flemish architecture. Do you still remember the classic scenes in the movie "The Great Escape" that movie fans know by heart? The tall and spacious hospital that is as magnificent as a church; the beds lined up on both sides of the hall, with bright red curtains and bedspreads, and snow-white sheets; the wise and brave nuns who not only treat patients and save lives, but also drive carriages to deliver red wine. . . All these scenes were filmed at the Beaune Palace Hospital. Until the 1970s, this hospital had been responsible for saving lives and healing the wounded. It was only in the last 30 years that it was converted into a museum for people to visit.

Walking into the Hôtel-Dieu, you can see the hard work of the nurses in the past, and the pharmacy and dispensing room have been kept in the same way as they were in the past. It is said that many artworks, such as the hospital's treasure "The Last Judgment", were placed in the wards for patients to appreciate and relieve their pain. This can be said to be the most luxurious humane service in the world, and it is free for the poor. No wonder the French say that Beaune is the only city in the world that makes people want to get sick.



### Collegiate Church of Notre Dame

Formerly a subsidiary church of the Cluny Abbey, it combines Romanesque and Gothic styles from the 11th to 15th centuries and displays medieval tapestries.

The largest wine cellar in Beaune: **Patriarche Père et Fils** , 7 Rue du Collège, 21200 Beaune

Make an appointment to visit the official website and park for free

### Wine Market

Located in an old church, you can taste 16 wines in small silver cups and visit the dark cellar.

**Snails** are a classic in French cuisine. This traditional delicacy also comes from the Burgundy region. Chablis white wine is added to it and baked in the oven with butter mixed with garlic and parsley. The snail meat with rich garlic flavor tastes wonderful when paired with fresh bread.

Featured restaurants:

Loiseau des Vignes is a Michelin star restaurant and a member of Relais & Chateaux. Dinner is served at 59 Euros for four courses.

Le Bistrot Bourguignon specialises in beef bourguignon

## Nantes

Nantes is located in the west of France. The Loire River runs through the city. It was once the capital of Brittany and is a large city with both a sense of history and industry. Because the Loire River flows through Nantes into the Atlantic Ocean, Nantes is also known as the "Daughter of the River and the Sea".

Jules Verne, the author of "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea", was born and raised here. Perhaps it was the vastness of the ocean and the sea breeze that brought so much inspiration that led to the creation of the "Jules Verne Trilogy".

Nantes is also the birthplace of the world's first bus. In 1826, a retired French military officer opened a flour mill in the suburbs of Nantes, used the hot water discharged from the steam engine to build a public bathhouse for people to bathe, and provided a four-wheeled carriage service connecting the city center. This was the original form of the bus. After nearly two centuries of development, buses have become one of the important means of travel for people all over the world, and the bus route network in Nantes has been continuously expanded and encrypted, and now covers the entire Nantes urban area.

When it comes to the holy places to check in, how can we miss the city landmark of Nantes - Les Machines de l'île . Located on the site of the old shipyard on the island of Nantes, Les Machines de l'île symbolizes the innovation, progress and creative spirit of Nantes. This is a mechanical theme park built based on the prototype of "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea". The park, which was transformed from an abandoned factory, includes three parts - the giant mechanical elephant, the heron tree and the ocean world carousel. There are many animals and plants made of machinery and logs, with precise craftsmanship and exquisite shapes. The mechanical elephant is available for tourists to play. Adults and children love to play with it. The child next door was crying because he wanted to play with it.

In 2013, Nantes was awarded the title of "European Green Capital". After visiting the hundreds of parks and gardens in Nantes, no one doubts this title. The most famous of these is the Botanical Garden (Le Jardin des Plantes ) in the city. The history of the Botanical Garden dates back to 1688, and today there are more than 11,000 plant species and more than 60 bird species. The

number of camellia species in the garden is also among the highest in the world (1,000 species), and there are more than 500 magnolia species.

A few minutes' walk southwest from the train station will take you to Nantes Cathedral (Cathédrale Saint -Pierre et Saint-Paul). Construction of Nantes Cathedral began in 1434 and took nearly 500 years to complete. It is the largest Catholic church in Brittany, and even taller than Chartres Cathedral and Notre Dame de Paris.

The most attractive thing about Nantes is not only that it has created the "Nantes-style" Mechanical Island by taking advantage of its industrial advantages, but also that the city's architecture is a perfect combination of classical and modern. As early as the 18th and 19th centuries, Nantes accumulated a lot of wealth through commodity trade with all over the world. The big families who started out in shipbuilding and trade built many classical-style city villas, which can still be seen today. These buildings have gorgeous facades and courtyards inside, which show the spirit of people at that time to take risks in order to get rich. Being in the Pommeraye channel, it seems to have returned to the old times more than a hundred years ago.

Passing through the passage, the Graslin Theatre appears before your eyes.

Following the transportation network throughout the city, let's take a look at the last castle before the Loire River merges into the Atlantic Ocean - Château des Ducs de Bretagne . Château des Ducs de Bretagne, also known as the Castle of Nantes, is located on the side of Nantes City. It is surrounded by a loop of about 500 meters, with seven high towers connected by walls. This very urbanized castle was built by Francois II, Duke of Brittany, and his daughter Anne de Bretagne at the end of the 15th century. It replaced the duke's residence built on the walls of the Gallo - Roman period two centuries ago to defend the independence of the Duchy of Brittany threatened by the Kingdom of France. The duke's palace and other buildings in the courtyard were built between the 15th and 18th centuries. They are in a complex Renaissance style, with a dignified and elegant temperament. Contrasting the rough exterior walls of the castle, the two complement each other. Located in the city center, it has become one of the must-visit holy places for Nantes tourism.

13th to the 16th century , it was the residence of the Dukes of Brittany and later became the residence of the French monarchs in Brittany. In 1862 , the castle was listed as a historical monument by the French Ministry of Culture. Today, the castle houses the Nantes History Museum. Starting in the 1990s , Nantes underwent a large-scale reconstruction and repair project to restore Nantes and Brittany's history to its former glory. After 15 years of construction and 3 years of closure, it reopened in 2007 and is now a popular tourist attraction. The restored edifice includes the new Nantes History Museum, housed in room 32 of the castle .

## Loire Valley

The Loire River originates from the Cevennes Mountains on the western border of France and flows westward into the Atlantic Ocean. It is the largest river in France, with a total length of about 1,000 kilometers. There are many exquisite hills on both sides of the river, and ancient castles are hidden in the green trees. Most of these castles were built in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The deep castle houses are mottled with moss, adding a sense of vicissitudes to them. The Loire Valley is a plain basin located in the middle reaches of the Loire River in central France, covering an area of 27,500 square miles and a regional population of 5.5 million. Just as the Yangtze River and the Yellow River gave birth to Chinese civilization, the Loire River is the cradle of French culture. Royal nobles of all dynasties have built many magnificent castles here. The entire area has been listed as a "World Cultural Heritage" by UNESCO.

General Charles de Gaulle said that the Loire Valley is the place where the French spirit was born. From Chenonceau Castle to

Chambord Castle, from Caesar's grape seeds to Louis XVI's Chateau de Rance, as the spiritual back garden of France, the Loire Valley not only gave birth to castles and wineries, but also gave birth to modern French novels. Rabelais, the father of modern novels, was born here. Rabelais once said: "It is the French garden of the Loire Valley that gave birth to me and raised me." The Loire Valley not only gave birth to Rabelais, but also female writers George Sand, Proust, Balzac, Descartes, etc. Balzac's "Human Comedy" was written here. Their lives and their works are inseparable from the beauty of the valley, and at the same time, this French garden has added a touch of book fragrance.

Balzac described the Loire Valley like this: "There is a valley that starts from the town of Montbazou and extends to the Loire River. There are undulating mountains on both sides, with ancient castles dotted on the mountains. The whole valley is like an emerald cup... Please come in spring to enjoy the natural scenery that is as beautiful and chaste as your fiancée; or in late autumn, in the quiet and vicissitudes of life, calm your lonely sorrow. We always want to live somewhere else, with quaint castles, clear rivers, and beautiful valley scenery. Time seems to have stopped here, and only the Loire River flows... The Loire is a good place." So, let us start from the green valley and arrive at the Loire Valley, the spiritual backyard of the French and one of the top ten wine producing regions.

Oscar Wilde said: "The Loire River is one of the most beautiful rivers in the world. On the surface of the river, there are reflections of a hundred towns and five hundred castles." Balzac wrote in his "Lilies of the Valley": "In this dreamy land, every step you take, you will find a new picture in front of you. The frame is a river or a calm pond, reflecting castles, towers, parks and fountains."

November 30, 2000, it was selected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is a recognition of the outstanding monuments and cities of the Loire Valley. People can't see such a densely distributed group of Renaissance castles anywhere else in Europe. In this Loire Valley, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the magnificent royal castles are located in an idyllic environment. During the Renaissance, this place witnessed the romance of many kings, queens and nobles. The quiet and pleasant scenery and gardens became their ideal place for love. Today, many castles, including the Royal Castle of Amboise, the Castle of Clos Lucé (the last residence of Leonardo da Vinci), the Castle of Chenonceau, the Castle of Chambord, etc., receive lovers or newlyweds to hold various celebrations: renewing vows or holding weddings, taking photos, tasting Loire Valley wines, and riding in a carriage.

The Renaissance, an intellectual and artistic movement, spread to France, especially to the Centre - Loire Valley region, thanks to Charles VIII and Francis I. The two kings invited a group of Italian craftsmen, gardeners, architects, and artists to build castles, churches, public buildings, manors, private mansions, etc., thus changing the appearance of cities and villages in the Loire Valley.

In modern times, the Centre - Val de Loire has become a popular destination for various contemporary arts thanks to its many art centers, such as: the redesigned tannery industrial site in Amilly , the contemporary art center Le Transpalette in Bourges , the Olivier Debret Center for Contemporary Art ( CCCOD ) in Tours , the Regional Contemporary Art Foundation les Turbulences built by Jacob & Macfarlane in Orléans , and the first art center dedicated to the relationship between artistic creation and nature in the territory of Chaumont-sur-Loire.

The castles of the Loire Valley are the guardians of a rich heritage with a fascinating history to tell. The 22 "Best Places of Interest in the Loire Valley" along the Loire River were selected for their ability to receive international tourists. Some of the castles have been visited by some of the most famous figures in French history, such as Francis I, Leonardo da Vinci, and Joan of Arc.

### **Château de Chambord**

Bus: Parking P1 du Château de Chambord , 41250 Chambord, France      Car: P0/P2

- Free parking for coaches and minibuses carrying visitors to the chateau (on presenting the parking ticket at the ticket office when purchasing or collecting at least 7 entrance tickets for coaches and at least 2 tickets for minibuses).
- 20 or more, and can also be purchased for groups of less than 20. You need to show your tour guide certificate. The tour

guide driver is free of charge.

- Generally, you will stay for 1.5-2 hours. Please stay at least 45 minutes for taking photos in the outdoor garden. For internal visits, please refer to the free 1-hour guidebook at the ticket office to save time.
- Highlights of the visit: François I's bedroom, the Queen's bedroom, Louis XIV's bedroom, double spiral staircase, rooftop terrace with panoramic view and chimneys

The Chateau de Chambord is the largest castle in the Loire Valley and is the pinnacle of Renaissance architecture. Chambord Castle was built in 1519 as a hunting palace by order of François I, the father of French literature and art, to show off his wealth. He invited the great artist Leonardo da Vinci from Italy and spared no effort to transplant the brilliant art and architectural style of the Italian Renaissance to France. When he died in 1574, he had only completed the main tower and a wing. Although Henry II continued to build it, it was abandoned soon after. Finally, it was completed by Louis XIV of the Bourbon Dynasty in 1684. The built Chateau de Chambord is like a pearl inlaid on the Loire River, becoming the most brilliant symbol on the crown of the French emperor. Chambord Castle is one of the most recognizable castles in the world because it is a French Renaissance architecture that combines the traditional French medieval form with classical Italian. However, this castle combines the grandeur of a medieval fortress and the rich connotation of the Italian Renaissance, but it does not have any substantial functions for living or military defense. In addition, due to its remote location and inconvenient transportation of materials, successive kings rarely came here to visit.

Chambord Castle Park has a total area of 5,440 hectares and a total length of 32 kilometers of city walls. It is the largest closed forest park in Europe. Chambord Castle is best known for its 365 Renaissance-style chimneys, which are built with stone slabs instead of marble to show the Italian flavor. From a distance, the entire castle looks like a big cake full of candles, as beautiful as a fairy tale. In addition, it is supported by eight square beams, and the ceiling pattern is composed of lizards and the letter "F" prefix of François I.

440 rooms and 84 staircases in the castle. When you enter the main castle from the main gate, you will immediately find yourself in a bright and spacious marble palace, facing the famous "double spiral staircase". Two sets of independent staircases are intertwined around a common axis, spiraling upwards. People going up and down the stairs can see each other without bumping into each other. It is said that the king specially asked Leonardo da Vinci to design this staircase to avoid embarrassment and disputes when the queen and his mistress met face to face. It is a unique design in the history of architecture. The double spiral staircase is located in the center of the castle, running from the first floor to the roof. The details of the staircase flash the style of the Renaissance everywhere. It was an innovation that surpassed the times at that time. This double spiral staircase that allows people to go up and down in the same tower at the same time is extremely difficult to build. It is said that Leonardo da Vinci applied advanced mathematical calculations and engineering principles to achieve it. The outline of the top tower stands directly above the staircase. The steeply inclined roof and tall chimneys are interdependent, which has become a major feature of the so-called François I style French Renaissance.

Compared with the majestic and magnificent exterior, the interior of the castle is relatively plain and empty! This is because the castle was looted during the French Revolution, and even the oak on the roof was removed. Only the Royal Chapel was preserved in its original appearance because the mob was afraid of going to hell after death. Afterwards, the French government spent a huge amount of money to buy back the stolen furniture and decorations for renovation.

### **Cheverny Castle**

Cheverny is the most beautifully furnished castle in the Loire Valley. This incomparable castle has been open to the public since 1922 and is a wonder to behold for its rich heritage, complete furniture, unique charm and exquisite decoration. Hergé used it as a model for the Château de Moulinza. Recommended things to see: paintings of famous people, carpets made in Parisian workshops, 17th century Flemish tapestries, exquisite clocks from the Louis XV period, drawer tables from the Louis XIV period, beds for the king's bedroom, and other decorations.

Cheverny Castle is the prototype of the Castle of Mullanhaar created by Hergé. It is in this mysterious castle that Tintin, Captain Haddock and Professor Calculus experienced an extraordinary adventure together.

- Pay attention to the hound show time

### **Château de Blois**

Blois Castle truly shows the full picture of the art and history of the castles in the Loire Valley. Coming here is like reading the introduction to the tour of the Loire Valley. The castle can be visited freely, with guided tours and various amazing activities. The Royal Castle of Blois shows you its beauty and wealth, describes its stories and architecture, and so many unheard-of stories have happened in its long history. The maze-like passages and role-playing games will make visitors feel unprecedented touches here. You may receive an exciting task: rescue King Francis I from an incredible event.

### **Château Royal d'Amboise**

The date of the founding of the Château d'Amboise is unknown, and it was expanded by several generations of emperors. Finally, Francis I was hailed as the founder of the French Renaissance. He hired a large number of artists to work in France, including the famous painter Leonardo da Vinci. At this time, the Château d'Amboise was built more magnificently under Francis I.

Leonardo da Vinci, the genius from Florence, Italy, came to Amboise in 1516 at the invitation of King Francis I of France. He died here three years later and was buried in the Royal Castle according to his will. His tomb is in the Saint-Hubert Church.

### **Château de Chenonceau**

Château de Chenonceau Parking, 37150 Chenonceaux, France Free parking for coaches

- Tickets are 14.5 euros, 11 euros for groups of 20 or more, and can be purchased for groups of less than 20. The tour guide and driver are free of charge.
- Generally, you will stay for 1.5 hours, but please stay for at least 30 minutes to take photos in the outdoor garden.
- There is a snack bar at the entrance that serves pizza and sandwiches. There are no seats.

Chenonceaux Castle is located in the Loire River Basin of the Indre-et-Loire Department of France, near the small village of Chenonceaux. It was built on the Cher River, a tributary of the Loire River, and was first recorded in historical records in the 11th century. The current castle was designed by Philibert Delorme, a French Renaissance architect. The left and right wings of the castle span the two banks of the Cher River, a tributary of the Loire River, and are connected in the middle by a five-arch bridge. Therefore, it is also called "the ship anchored on the Cher River". After generations of hostesses, Chenonceaux has become the most exquisite, elegant and romantic castle among all the castles in the Loire Valley.

Chenonceau Castle is also known as the "Fortress of Women" because many beautiful women have lived here. In 1547, when Henry II ascended the throne, he gave Chenonceau Castle as a gift to his favorite concubine Diana, who was 20 years older than him. Diana built a garden in the castle and built a long bridge over the Cher River. After the death of Henry II, the powerful Queen Catherine de Medici drove Diana to other castles and occupied Chenonceau. She also expanded it, added a double-decker gallery on Diana's long bridge, and built a luxurious Italian-style palace. In 1589, Queen Medici died, and her son Henry III was assassinated in the same year. Before his death, Henry III left a message to Queen Louise of Lorraine: "My dear, stay where you are and pray to God for me (Ma Mie, priez Dieu pour moi, et ne bougez de là)." The Queen of Lorraine then retired to Chenonceau and spent the rest of her life in meditation and prayer in a room on the top floor decorated in all black. After the death of the Queen of Lorraine, the French royal family never set foot in Chenonceau Castle again.

In the 18th century, Chenonceau was bought by a financial investor, and Mrs. Louise Dupin became the new hostess of Chenonceau. Mrs. Dupin often held salons in Chenonceau. She was smart, beautiful, and well-educated. Her personality charm brought together the most outstanding elites at the time in her salon. Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Rousseau were all her guests. But more importantly, she was very generous and kind to the villagers in the villages around the castle. During the French

Revolution, when the revolutionaries rushed from Paris to Chenonceau Castle, the villagers in the surrounding villages spontaneously organized a resistance. The revolutionaries burned down the church in the village, but failed to destroy the castle. Mrs. Dupin also confirmed that Chenonceau Castle had never belonged to the royal sphere of influence, and agreed to the revolutionaries to burn down all the royal symbols in the castle to protect the castle. In the early 19th century, Marguerite Pelouze, who came from a Scottish industrial middle-class family, spent a huge amount of money to restore the castle to the romantic style of the early French Renaissance out of her love for Chenonceau. Her brother Daniel Wilson assisted her in the restoration plan. In 1887, due to Daniel and his family being involved in a political scandal, Marguerite was forced to sell the farmhouse to the Real Estate Credit Company. Over the next 30 years, Chenonceau changed hands several times until 1913, when it was sold to Chocolat, the chocolate empire. The Menier family of Menier has been around until today. In the 1960s, the heirs of the Menier family sold the chocolate company and devoted themselves to "collecting castles", and the Menier Chocolate Company was incorporated into Nestlé after several acquisitions.

### **Château de Langeais**

The Château de Langeais consists of two parts: the Fulques-Nelles Tower and the Château Louis XI. The Fulques-Nelles Tower is the oldest tower in France, while the Château Louis XI combines two different architectural styles: the side facing the city is in the French feudal architectural style, while the side facing the courtyard shows the influence of Renaissance art. The Château de Langeais, a building that played an important role in French history, shows the daily life of a sought-after nobleman in medieval France. The lifelike wax figures take us back to that moment in history and experience the thrilling events that took place here.

The village near the Château de Langeais is also a historic town in the Loire region of France, which has been developing rapidly since the castle was built. In the town, there are many styles of buildings from the Middle Ages to the early 19th century, and even the houses of ordinary residents have been exquisitely carved.

### **Château d' Angers**

Inside the castle is a beautiful residence. Built mainly of shale and limestone, the castle looks stern and unpretentious, but its interior is a different story. After crossing the suspension bridge and entering the castle, you can see the villa of the Duke of Anjou. The late Gothic architecture and gardens are refreshing. The orchard, vegetable garden, medicinal plant garden and flower beds will make you linger.

During World War II, the castle was severely damaged when a Nazi ammunition storage site exploded inside the castle. Today, the castle is owned by the city of Angers and is converted into a museum, housing the world's largest and oldest collection of medieval tapestries, including the 14th- century "Apocalypse Tapestry" as one of its priceless treasures.

## **Lyon**

Located in the southeast of France, Lyon has a history of more than 2,000 years. It is a famous city in the European Renaissance, a European silk capital for three centuries, an important cultural and artistic center in France and even Europe, and a famous food capital in France. In 1885 , the first film was born in Lyon, and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the author of The Little Prince, also grew up here. This is a place where you can calm down and appreciate the scenery, food, art and humanities. Lyon was listed as a World Heritage City by UNESCO in 1998 .

The Basilica of Notre -Dame de Fourvière is a Catholic minor basilica in Lyon, France. Standing on the top of Fourvière Hill, the Basilica towers over the city, providing a vantage point for overlooking the city and becoming a symbol of the city. The church was built in the 19th century , and its exterior is a fusion of Byzantine and medieval styles. It is decorated with marble, the glass

shines with colorful patterns, and there are exquisite mosaics and murals inside.

Place Bellecour in the center of Lyon was once known as the Royal Square. Unlike other central squares, the ground of Place Bellecour is entirely paved with red clay, which is very similar in color to the red roofs of the buildings in the old city of Lyon. There is a tall equestrian statue of Louis XIV on the square, which is the work of the sculptor Lumon who was born in Lyon.

2000 , the city of Lyon held a series of large-scale celebrations to commemorate the centenary of Saint - Exupéry's birth . The Place Bellecour was also crowded with people watching the launch of the "Little Prince" hot air balloon, witnessing the "Little Prince" flying again. The Lyon Saint - Exupéry Airport in his hometown was named after him. On the 50th anniversary of his death, the French printed his image with the Little Prince on the 50- franc banknote.

Without the glitz and glamour of Paris, Lyon represents a more authentic France. France is famous for its leisurely life, and this feeling is even more obvious when walking in the streets of Old Lyon. The hustle and bustle of Paris, which is unique to international metropolises, is gone, replaced by authentic French style.

Walking through the winding alleys, the bluestone walls on both sides are engraved with ancient Roman characters; looking up, colorful flowers are blooming on the windowsills of each household, and people often lean out of the window, smiling and greeting strangers; or a woman carrying a large basket of baguettes passes by, and the air is filled with the aroma of wheat and cheese...

The old town was a fishing village in ancient times. In the 15th century, it became one of the world's largest silk production bases. In the 17th century, it was the political, economic and cultural center of France. Today, there are still many old buildings from the 15th to 17th centuries here. Many Gothic, Renaissance and classical houses are connected to each other. Because of the red color, Lyon has earned the reputation of "a city with a pink heart".

1895 , the Lumière brothers improved the "peep show" invented by Edison and created a moving camera weighing only 5 kilograms, which combined the functions of filming, washing and projecting. The Lumière brothers in Lyon, France, opened the first page of film history and made film truly the "seventh art", which has always made the French proud. The largest screening room at the Cannes Film Festival is also named after the brothers.

If China is the starting point of the Silk Road, then Lyon, France is the western end of the Silk Road. In 1536 , the first silk weaving workshop was set up in Lyon. King Francis I was very enthusiastic about developing the country's silk weaving industry. The royal family provided various preferential conditions for the development and expansion of this industry, and even relaxed the taxation. By 1544 , the number of silk weavers in Lyon jumped to more than 12,000 , so it became the silk capital of France. In the Lyon Textile Museum, you can see many colorful and different styles of handed down works, especially the decorative tapestries woven for Louis XIV. It is said that it takes silk weavers 20 years to weave each piece.

Lyon is also called the "City of Murals". There are hundreds of murals in Lyon. These murals are made of a wall of a building. The realistic 3D effect and the real scene in front of the mural are mixed together, making it difficult for you to distinguish the real from the fake. A mural on a building called "Lyon People" on the Saône River shows 24 historical figures of Lyon, including the Lumière brothers who invented movies and the "Little Prince" and its author. The bottom layer of the mural is 6 ordinary Lyon citizens of the present time. Everything here is painted, including stairs, people, cars, and shops. This mural with an area of 1,200 square meters is currently the largest urban mural in Europe. It depicts the past people and activities in the Croix-Rousse district. The details are lifelike and completely real. Be sure to look carefully and don't bump into it. These three-dimensional murals have a strong sense of three-dimensionality and are a good place to take pictures.

The Little Prince is a famous short story in children's literature. The protagonist of this book is a little prince from an alien planet. The book uses a pilot as the narrator to tell the various adventures that the little prince experienced during his journey from his

own planet to Earth. Its author, Antoine de Saint- Exupéry , is a pilot. He published several short novels in his lifetime, among which The Little Prince is the most classic one.

Just as Rowling created Harry Potter after seeing a little boy wearing glasses on a train, Saint-Exupéry's inspiration for The Little Prince also came from a train. In 1935, on the train to Moscow, he saw several Polish families crowded together, and one of the little blond boys reminded him: "He is the young Mozart... Even the little prince in mythology can't have the same glory as him." ("A Glimpse of Life: A Train to the Soviet Union") The image of the "Little Prince" came into being.

However, in 1944, the year after The Little Prince was published, Saint-Exupéry disappeared during a mission. Later, two asteroids were named in his honor, B-612 and Saint-Exupéry. For the French people, he is a national hero; for his hometown of Lyon, he is perhaps the most famous citizen.

There is a Rue Antoine de Saint Exupéry in Lyon , and the house where he was born is located on the south side of the eastern section of the street, with the house number being 8. In the middle of the road on the west side of the nearby Place Bellecour , there stands the Statue of Saint- Exupéry , where the little prince he created holds the author's shoulder and gazes down together.

In addition to Lyon, in the Alsace region of France , between Colmar and Mulhouse, there is a small town called Ungersheim . The Little Prince theme park (Parc du Petit Prince) in its southern suburbs recreates the world in the story. You can ride a hot air balloon, watch live performances or play various other projects to experience the scenes in the story of "The Little Prince". There is also a Little Prince-themed store in the park. (Official website: [www.parcdupetitprince.com/en](http://www.parcdupetitprince.com/en))

For people in Lyon, cooking is an art and eating is a kind of enjoyment. The most famous chefs in France, such as Paul Bocuse, known as the "Pope" of cooking, and French chef Le Bec, are all from Lyon. People who like food must not miss this food market Les Halles de Lyon Paul Bocuse , where many famous chefs in Lyon will buy. Similar to many food courts in China, it consists of dozens of stalls. Even if you don't buy anything, just looking around is a feast for the eyes. Although it is called a vegetable market, the environment is really good, and it doesn't feel like a big vegetable market with sewage flowing and heavy traffic.

The Bresse chicken, the king of poultry, maintains its dignified appearance even after death, with its bright red comb, snow-white feathers and steel-blue claws, the same colors as the French flag, demonstrating the pride of being the "national chicken".

Garlic bullfrog: Cuisine du Sud uses two ordinary frying pans to fry 150 kilograms of bullfrog legs every day, defending the reputation of Lyon's classic cuisine.

Brasserie Georges is located near the Perrache train station. It opened in 1836 and is the oldest restaurant in Lyon. In the restaurant, you can not only taste local cuisine, but also many traditional French dishes. Many famous people have been received here, such as Hemingway, the first lady of France, and even former French President Jacques Chirac and other national dignitaries. For the first meal in Lyon, this is the restaurant that you must choose. Many local elderly people will come here in neat clothes just for a meal of their favorite food!

Lyon has one of the most successful teams in Ligue 1, and has won six consecutive championships in its history.

## Southern Alps Attractions

Lake Vence – Auron



Lake Vence is one of the most attractive attractions in Mercantour National Park, located at an altitude of 2,380 meters. Formed by glacial erosion, Lake Vence welcomes more than 800,000 tourists every year. It can be said that Lake Vence made Mercantour National Park. On the way to the lake, visitors can see the larch trees winding through the mountains, and the magnificent waterfalls lead you into the world of the lake! At the rest stop on the mountain, you can also taste one of the most delicious blueberry pies!

#### Mount Mounier - Valberg

At 2,817 meters above sea level, Mount Mounier is the highest calcareous mountain in the Southern Alps. The shallows formed by the accumulation of calcium deposits at the foot of the mountain give people an extraordinary panoramic experience. On a clear day, you can directly see Corsica from here! Mount Mounier is also part of the Mercantour National Park and is connected to the surrounding mountains. Its anticline landforms have been affected by glacial erosion and geological action, and have evolved into what it is today over the course of history!

#### Ley Waterfall - Orcières

The hike to the Rye Falls is a classic starting route, passing through the well-preserved village of Prapic to reach the Rye Falls, famous for its marmots!

It is easy to climb here, suitable for visiting with family. The cute marmots are also one of the highlights that attract tourists, especially children. Overlooking the mountains and rivers from a high place and feeding the marmots is probably one of the most leisurely vacation ways that many people can think of!

Lake Lule - Serre Chevalier To visit Lake Lule, you need to go from Col de Starting from Granon , every path on the journey is unique. It is not until you see Lake Lule that you really know that all the efforts are worth it! Lake Lule and the surrounding area are like an unknown paradise. Because it is located in the middle of the Southern Alps and there are no direct roads around it, it has retained its most primitive appearance for thousands of years.

#### Lake Allos - Val d' Allos

Located in the center of Mercantour National Park, Lake Allos is 2,228 meters above sea level, making it the highest natural lake in Europe. The lake was formed during the Quaternary glacial period, with a depth of 48 meters and an area of 54 hectares. There is a Catholic church on the shore of the lake, where people worship the Virgin Mary, which adds a touch of purity and tranquility to the already beautiful Lake Allos.

#### Darui Gorge - Valberg

Darui Gorge is a must-visit for hiking enthusiasts! The hike here is known as the "highest point tour" because visitors need to reach the highest point of the canyon to overlook the beautiful scenery, with a total of four kilometers and a 150-meter altitude gain! The cliffs of Darui Gorge are brown-red, with mountain springs flowing through them. Even the man-made bridges have been integrated with the surrounding environment, forming a beautiful landscape!

## Bordeaux

Bus Stops	Railway station: in front of Hôtel Campanile Bordeaux Center - Gare Saint Jean 6 Rue Charles Domercq , 33800 Bordeaux, France Centre: Drop off: 2852 Place Gambetta, 33000 Bordeaux, France
-----------	---

	Car/Bus park: Allée de Bristol, 33000 Bordeaux Pay parking: 19 Allée de Chartres, 33000 Bordeaux, France. Entrance from Allée de Bristol There are free toilets on the roadside		
Latitude and longitude		Equivalent to China ...	
Area (square kilometers):	49	Population ('000 ):	246 1.17 million, Greater Bordeaux is the fifth largest urban agglomeration in France.
City status	<p>A port city in southwestern France, it was historically the capital of the old French province of Guyenne.</p> <p>Bordeaux is one of the military, aerospace and aviation research and manufacturing centers in Europe, where many R&amp;D institutions of companies such as EADS and Thales Group are concentrated, as well as aircraft manufacturing plants under aviation giants such as Safran Group, Airbus and Dassault Aerospace. It is also the core of French strategic nuclear bomb research and physical experiments, with many high-end technical institutions such as the Atomic Energy Research Center and Megajoule Laser Program, as well as research institutions in new materials and nanotechnology.</p> <p>The number of university students in Bordeaux exceeds 70,000 . In addition to the two comprehensive universities, there are also the Bordeaux Institute of Political Studies, the School of Communications and Journalism, and the Law School. The French National School of the Magistrates is also in Bordeaux, the cradle of French judges.</p> <p>Bordeaux is rich in tourism resources and is known as the "Sleeping Beauty". It has many museums and historical sites. The number of cultural relics protection units in the city is second only to Paris in France. In 2007 , most of the old city (also known as the "Moon Harbor") was listed as a World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. Since the 18th century, it has been famous for its high-quality wines. Therefore, Bordeaux is also known as the world's wine center, and Bordeaux wine is also known as the "Queen of Wine". Every two years, the Bordeaux Wine Industry Association holds a grand international wine exhibition - Vinexpo .</p> <p>It is a friendly city with Wuhan, China.</p>		
Origin of the name			
Basic historical information	<p>In Roman times, it was named Burdigala . From the 12th to the 15th century, Bordeaux became a British territory when the Duchess of Aquitaine, Eleanor, married Count Henry of the Plantagenet dynasty. Count Henry was born in Le Mans, spoke French, and soon after the marriage became King Henry II. It was not until 1453 , when the French defeated the English, that Bordeaux was incorporated into France.</p> <p>The 18th century was Bordeaux's golden age because of the wine trade with the British Isles, Germany and the West Indies . Many buildings in the city center were built during that period. The old town of Bordeaux has preserved about 5,000 18th- century style buildings, most of which are made of beautiful white stone produced in nearby quarries , known in French as " Pierre Blonde ". Victor Hugo once praised it by saying: "Prenez Versailles et m ê lez -y Anvers, vous plus Antwerp is Bordeaux ( Prenez Versailles et m ê lez -y Anvers, vous plus Antwerp is Bordeaux)". avez Bordeaux. ).” Bordeaux is the first city in France to carry out large-scale urban transformation.</p> <p>The French government evacuated to Bordeaux during the War of 1870 , World War I, and World War II.</p>		

City logo	
Culture, famous people	
Main Specialties	
other	

Marquis de Tourny on **Place Tourny** , one of the designers of Bordeaux's urban transformation in the 18th century.

**Porte Dijeanx** is a French historical monument. It was built between 1748 and 1753 in neoclassical style. Place Gambetta enters the old town through Porte Dijeanx .

- Cours de l'Intendance is full of famous brands, so try to avoid it.

**Palais Rohan** is Bordeaux's town hall and museum of fine arts, located on Place Pey - Berland .

Built in 1784 , it was the Archbishop's Palace in the past. After several reconstructions, it was completely destroyed during World War II and rebuilt after the war.

**The Cathedral of Saint Andrew of Bordeaux** is the cathedral of the Catholic Archdiocese of Bordeaux . It was consecrated by Pope Urban II in 1096. The Porte Royale was built in the early 13th century, and the rest of the building was built in the 14th and 15th centuries. The building is listed as a national monument of France. In 1137 , Eleanor, the daughter of William X, Duke of Aquitaine, married Louis VII in this cathedral at the age of 15 , and he became king a few months later.

Features: Two spires at the cross point on the top. The church entrance is at the north gate, and the Royal Gate is on the north side near the Rohan Palace. The statue on the church square is Jacques Chaban - Delmas ( 1915-2000 ) Prime Minister during President Pompidou's period ( 1969-1972 ) . He served as Mayor of Bordeaux (1947-1995) for nearly 50 years. The statue on the south side of the square is Leo Douyn , one of the most famous historians and archaeologists in France.

**Tour Pey - Berland is located in** Place Pey -Berland next to Bordeaux Cathedral . It is a Gothic building with a 66-meter-high spire . It was built between 1440 and 1500 and was named after the then Archbishop Pey Berland .

### **Rue Sainte-Catherine** Shopping Street

The Grosse **Cloche** is one of the famous monuments in Bordeaux. It is located at the entrance of the Saint-Michel district and was once the bell tower of the former Bordeaux City Hall. After a long history and countless wars, the only buildings that have survived are palaces or churches, which have a lofty status. It is a miracle that the Bordeaux bell tower has been preserved as a "civilian building". The Grosse Cloche includes two 40- meter-high circular towers connected in the middle, decorated with golden lion emblems. In the 12th century, it was originally four circular towers with only one floor. Later, it was changed to its current form from the 15th to the 17th century. The bell is used to ring to warn citizens in the event of a fire. The bell was cast in June 1775 , weighs 7,800 kilograms, and is two meters high and in diameter.

Basilique **Saint** -Michel de Bordeaux is a Gothic church built between the late 14th and 15th centuries. The pulpit depicts the Archangel Michael killing a dragon. It is one of the World Heritage Sites. The carvings in the Chapel of Saint Joseph are particularly exquisite. There is the bell tower of Saint Michel next to it.

The Grand **Theatre** of Bordeaux was designed by architect Victor Lewis ( 1731-1800 ) , who won the Prix de Rome for his design of the building. Lewis's other famous works include the Palais Royal in Paris and the Théâtre Française . The Grand Theatre of Bordeaux opened on April 17 , 1780. The ballet La Fille Mal Gardée premiered there in 1789 .

The Grand Theatre of Bordeaux is regarded as a temple of art and light. Its facade is in neoclassical style, the 12 giant columns of

the porch are Corinthian columns, and the 12 statues on the top are nine muses as well as Juno, Venus and Minerva. The Grand Theatre of Bordeaux is one of the oldest wooden frame opera houses in Europe that has not been burned down or needs to be rebuilt. Today, the theater is home to the Bordeaux National Opera and the Bordeaux National Ballet.

**Porte Cailhau** , also known as the **Arc de Triomphe**, is one of the gates preserved in the ancient city wall of Bordeaux. Built in 1494 , Porte Cailhau is 35 meters high and was originally a defensive gate. In 1883 , Porte Cailhau was listed as a French historical monument.

Pont de **pierre** was designed during the First French Empire and built under the order of Napoleon I between 1819 and 1822. It is 486 meters long and was the first bridge in Bordeaux and the only one across the Garonne River until 1965. It has 17 arches ( the alphanumeric characters of Napoléon Bonaparte 's name).

**The Place de la Bourse and the Place de la Bourse** are squares in the French city of Bordeaux, designed by the architect Ange - Jacques Gabriel and built between 1730 and 1775. The Place de la Bourse was the first section of Bordeaux's medieval city walls to be demolished. In order to make the city more welcoming to travelers from the right bank of the Garonne River, a section of the city wall surrounding Bordeaux was demolished to create the Place Royale. The square opened in 1749 and is a symbol of the city's prosperity. In the center of the square is the Three Graces Fountain.

The Place de la Bourse is a classic example of 18th- century French architecture. To the north is the Palais de la Bourse , now the Chambre de Commerce et de l'Industrie de Bordeaux , and to the south is the Hôtel des Fermes , now the Customs House and the Musée national des Douanes . The latter was designed by Ange - Jacques Gabriel and built between 1735 and 1738 , with statues of Minerva, the guardian of the arts, and Mercury, the promoter of the city's trade. The Musée national des Douanes opened in 1984 and showcases the history of this ancient French customs house. The buildings on the square are decorated with various mascarons : Neptune, fantastical animals, female figures, angels, beasts ... [3] while African women reflect Bordeaux's prosperity in the triangular slave trade.

The Water Mirror Square is the world's largest reflecting pool, covering an area of 3,450 square meters. The Garonne quay in front of Place de la Bourse was built in 2006. Made of granite, the water is 2 cm deep . Every 15 minutes, water is sprayed to form a mist.

The Esplanade des **Quinconces** is the widest city center square in Europe. Built in the 19th century, it was once the site of the Bugle Castle, which was built by Charles VII after the Hundred Years' War and later expanded by Louis XIV. At that time, many trees were planted on the square and arranged in the shape of plum blossoms, which is how the name "Esplanade des Quinconces" came about.

The Girondins Monument in the square was erected to commemorate the execution of 22 Girondins as war criminals in the brutal political struggle during the French Revolution. The reliefs on the monument are vivid and lifelike. The sculpture of "Freedom Breaking Free from Fetters" is built on two fountains: several brown horses with flying manes, upright hind legs and raised hooves, pulling the Triumphal Carriage of the Republic ( near the Grand Theater ) and the Triumphal Carriage of Concorde ( near the park ) on the Mercedes Benz. There are three tragic figures on the ground near the Grand Theater . They do not symbolize the Girondins, but represent sin, ignorance and lies.

A glittering modern building with colors and lines as charming as a decanter, this is the magnificent Bordeaux Wine Museum, **La Cité du Vin** .

Bordeaux currently has 11 museums, 7 of which are managed by the municipal government. The exhibits cover a variety of fields, such as classical art, modern art, decorative painting, as well as museums involving natural history, human history, customs history, urban construction history and archaeology. Visitors can visit and learn more about ( You can visit many museums for

free with the Bordeaux CityPass ).

Bordeaux's museums offer a unique cultural heritage with precious works by world-famous figures such as Rubens , Delacroix , Matisse , Picasso and Goya .

- Specialty meal: L'Entrecôte , steak and fries
- The Cabane of Laurinette Oyster Village, Avenue des Pêcheurs , 33260 La Teste-de-Buch, France , +33 5 56 66 53 72

### Grande Dune du Pilat

Parking Dune Du Pyla Grand Site of La Dune du Pilat , La Teste - de-Buch , 33115 La Teste - de-Buch , France

La Teste - de-Buch in the Arcachon Bay area of France , 60 kilometers from Bordeaux . The area of the dune is about 60 million cubic meters , about 500 meters wide from east to west and 2.7 kilometers long from north to south . It is constantly increasing every year due to the strong winds and air currents. The height is currently 110 meters above sea level. The dune is a famous tourist attraction with more than one million tourists every year.

The dune is considered a prograde dune, meaning a dune that moves parallel to the shoreline. The dune moved inward, slowly pushing the forest back to cover homes, roads and parts of the land.

Arcachon is an elegant town located in the recess of the Argenteau coast. Since the 19th century, it has become a seaside resort for European princes and nobles with its mild climate, miles of white sandy beaches and vast forests.

1852 , the Pereir brothers designed and built the town of Arcachon, and built hotels and villas. They invited Napoleon III, the Queen, painters and other celebrities to come here to achieve the purpose of publicity. Since then, Arcachon has become a place that the upper class flocks to. Today, the town still preserves the unique style of luxurious villas at that time. It is a residential area for the rich and is located in the winter town ( La Ville d'Hiver ) . The summer town ( La Ville d' été ) is a different scene. It is located in the coastal area between the two docks. The permanent population is about 12,000 , but it can surge to about 200,000 during the peak holiday season . The winter and summer towns are the most distinctive parts of this small town named after the four seasons. In addition, Arcachon is the world's largest producer of oyster seedlings, and oysters are the most distinctive delicacy here.

## Bordeaux wine

Before we start to understand the various classifications of Bordeaux, let' s quickly go through the Bordeaux production area map.

The Bordeaux region is divided by three major rivers: the Dordogne from the central highlands and the Garonne from the Pyrenees in the south. The two rivers meet in Bordeaux to form the Gironde and flow into the Atlantic Ocean. Standing on the river facing the sea, we can divide Bordeaux into three areas by the left and right directions : the left bank, the right bank and the two seas: the left bank is the west of the Garonne River and the Gironde, the right bank is the east of the Dordogne River and the Gironde, and the plain area between the two rivers before the confluence is called Entre-deux- Mers .

The famous left bank regions include Medoc , Graves , Sauternes and Barsac . The right bank is represented by St - Emilion and



Pomerol . Except for Pomerol , each of these regions has its own classification system.

### 1855 Médoc Classification

#### The 1855 Classification of Médoc

##### Classification: Médoc

This is the earliest and most famous classification of Bordeaux, which has a profound impact on the wine world and is the classification that wine lovers talk about most. In 1855 , France held the Paris World Expo in the name of celebrating 40 years of peace since the Battle of Waterloo. In order to better promote Bordeaux's high-quality wines to the world, at the request of the ruling Napoleon III, the Bordeaux Wine Brokers Association provided a classification list of famous wineries based on the reputation of each winery at the time and the quality reflected by the historical prices.

Thus, a five -level red wine classification and a three- level sweet white wine classification were developed. All wineries included in the 1855 classification are called "classified wineries", and most of them can be seen on the wine labels as "Grand Cru Classé " or " Grand Cru Classé ". en 1855 ” . Chateau Margaux , ranked at the highest level of the 1855 classification, has “ Premier Grand Cru Classé ” on its label .

It is important to note that, with the exception of the historic Chateau Haut- Brion from the Graves region , all of the classified growths for red wine in the 1855 classification are from the Medoc region of Bordeaux . This is for historical reasons, as Medoc was indeed the most famous wine region in Bordeaux back then.

Now 160 years have passed, and the terroir quality of other Bordeaux regions has also been recognized. Although the 1855 classification is well-known, it does not represent the classification of the entire Bordeaux region, and it has no guiding significance for other regions.

100 years, the names, owners, vineyards and even the quality of wines of this classified growth list set in 1855 have changed a lot. Some wineries have experienced separation and merger, but the classification has basically not been revised accordingly. It was not until 1973 that Baron Philippe de Rothschild, after decades of hard work, finally facilitated the only major revision of the 1855 classification: Chateau Mouton Rothschild was promoted from a second-class winery to a first-class winery, which is now the "Five Great Bordeaux Wineries" - Chateau Lafite Rothschild , Chateau Latour , Chateau Margaux , Chateau Haut- Brion , and Chateau Mouton Rothschild . To date, there are a total of 61 classified growths in the red wine section of the 1855 classification. Among them, there are 5 first-class wineries , 14 second-class wineries , 14 third-class wineries , 10 fourth-class wineries and 18 fifth-class wineries .

Price is a real-time response of the market to the supply and demand of goods, and it can also reflect the overall quality performance of a winery at a certain time. Standing at the top of the 1855 ranking pyramid, the first-class winery has a very valuable brand reputation, and each owner has taken good care of its own quality, so it has been able to maintain its reputation to this day, and its price has indeed always remained the highest among all classified wineries.

However, apart from the first-class wineries, the market prices of other classified wineries have changed significantly. Some second-class wineries are only equivalent to the fifth-class wineries of the past, while the prices of some fourth-class and fifth-class wineries have almost reached the level of second-class and third-class wineries. Wine Master Benjamin Lewin MW gave a list in his famous book *What Price Bordeaux ?*, re-ranking these classified wineries according to the current market prices, and their respective positions are very valuable for reference. Please see:

In general, even if there are some changes in quality, the overall quality of the 1855 classified wineries is still outstanding among the numerous Bordeaux wineries. Therefore, to this day, whether in the consumer market or the investment market, the sacred status of the 1855 classification has almost never been shaken.

### 1855 Sauternes and Barsac Classification

The 1855 Classification of Sauternes & Barsac

Classification: Sauternes and Barsac

1855 , in addition to the Médoc, two other regions, Sauternes and Barsac , were also classified . However, since this classification was for sweet white wines with noble rot, it was not as famous as the 1855 classification for red wines. But in fact, Sauternes and Barsac can be said to be the world's top sweet white wine producing areas with noble rot. The 1855 Sauternes and Barsac classification only has three levels. There are 27 wineries included in the classification based on the division and merger of wineries. Among them, Château d' Yquem (also known as Château d' Yquem ) is the leader, ranking first with " Premieres Cru Sup é rieur " . The other 11 are first-class wineries and 15 are second-class wineries.

Today, the significance of Sauternes and Barsac classifications is still relevant today, and even compared with the 1855 Médoc classification for red wines, the historical fluctuations in market prices are smaller, and the previous classifications can still reflect the current quality. The top Château d'Yquem is always priced high, more than 4-5 times that of other Sauternes classified wineries. In addition, there are four first-class wineries whose prices are often ahead of other classified wineries, namely: Château Climens , Château Rieussec , Château Suduiraut and Château Guiraud . Among them, Château Climens , known as the "King of Barsac", is especially expensive, and its price is usually about 1.5 times that of the other three .

### Graf Regional Classification

The Classification of Graves

Classification object: Graf

The Graves region is in a bad situation. It was actually very famous in the Middle Ages, but in the 19th century when the list of classified wineries in 1855 was released , it suffered from large-scale invasions of mildew, powdery mildew and aphids, and was at a low ebb. Except for Château Haut- Brion , the wines in the Graves region were not included in the legendary 1855 classification system. So the wine producers in Graves have always been dissatisfied. Finally, in 1953 , at the request of the Graves Wine Association, the official management agency of French AOC , INAO, began to draw up a list of wineries that can represent the highest level of Graves wine by comprehensively evaluating wineries, terroir, brewing and aging capabilities. The final version was finalized in 1959 , and 16 wineries were included in the classification, and there has been no review or change since then.

However, the classification of Graves at that time distinguished between red and white wines, and there was only one " Crus Classé " level overall . Some wineries were included in the classification because of their

价格	酒庄	1855列级
第一梯队	Latour	一级
	Margaux	一级
	Mouton Rothschild	二级
	Lafite Rothschild	一级
	Haut Brion	一级
第二梯队	La Mission Haut Brion	
	Léoville Lascases	二级
	Palmer	三级
	Cos d'Estournel	二级
	Pichon Lalande	二级
	Ducru Beaucaillou	二级
	Montrose	二级
	Pichon Baron	二级
	Lynch Bages	五级
	Rausan-Ségla	二级
第三梯队	Léoville-Barton	二级
	Gruaud Larose	二级
	Fort de Latour	
	Léoville-Poyet	二级
	Grand Puy Lacoste	五级
	Pontet-Canet	五级
	Lascombes	二级
	Pavillon Rouge du Margaux	副牌
	Langoa Barton	三级
	Clos du Marquis	副牌
	Brane-Cantenac	二级
	Calon Ségur	三级
	Carruades de Lafite	副牌
	Talbot	四级
	Beychevelle	四级
第四梯队	Haut Marbuzet	
	Saint Pierre	四级
	Lagrange	三级
	Sociando-Mallet	
	Branaire Ducru	四级
	Clerc Milon	五级
	Prieuré Lichine	四级
	Giscours	三级
	Malescot-St-Exupéry	三级
	Kirwan	三级
	Duhart-Milon-Rothschild	四级
	La Lagune	三级
第五梯队	d'Issan	三级
	Tourelles Longueville	副牌
	Rauzan Gassies	二级
	Alter Ego de Palmer	副牌
	Cantenac Brown	三级
	Ferrière	三级
	Haut Bailley	五级
	Dauzac	五级
	Phélan Ségur	
	Durfort Vivens	二级
	Lafon Rochet	四级
	Gloria	
	Pibran	
	Cos Labory	五级
	d'Armailhac	五级
61名以下	Haut-Bages-Libéral	五级
	Marguils de Terme	四级
	Du Tertre	五级
	Siran	
	Labégorce	
	Ormes de Pez	
	Grand Puy Ducasse	五级
	Lynch Moussas	五级
	La Tour-Carnet	四级
	Cantemerle	五级
	Desmirail	三级
	Boyd Cantenac	三级
	Croizet-Bages	五级
	Pédesclaux	五级
	Camensac	五级
	Marquis-d' Alesme-Becker	三级
	Bailley	五级
	Belgrave	五级
	Pouget	四级

white wines, some wineries were selected for their red wines, and several wineries were selected for both red and white wines. But now, we can assume that all wineries selected for the Graves Classé have classified standards and status for red and white wines (except Chateau Haut-Bailly, which only produces red wine). In addition, among the 16 classified wineries listed below, the four marked in yellow are all owned by Haut-Brion through acquisition. Among them, Laville Haut-Brion and La Tour Haut-Brion have been incorporated into the production of Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion under Haut-Brion in recent years, and the names of the wineries no longer exist.

The current Graves classification is actually more like the Pessac-Léognan classification. The legal name of this sub-region was established in 1987. It did not exist when the classification was made in 1959. All the classified Graves wineries "happen" to belong to the Pessac-Léognan sub-region, which is probably related to its closest distance to Bordeaux.

Cru Bourgeois

Cru Bourgeois

Classification: Médoc

"Cru Bourgeois" classification system is actually a classification system for the Medoc region. The 1855 classification has remained almost unchanged for 150 years, and many other wineries that were not selected as the 1855 classification felt unfair. Therefore, in 1932, a new classification of Medoc "Cru Bourgeois" was born, which was a good supplement to recognize other high-quality wineries that were not lucky enough to be selected as the 1855 classification. At that time, most of the more prestigious non-1855 classification wineries joined.

After the historical changes, the title of the Cru Bourgeois we see now was revised and revived in 2010. There is only one level, which is only for wines of a single year rather than wineries. Every year, the Cru Bourgeois Alliance will re-evaluate the quality of the new vintage wines. In the most recent rating in 2016, 278 wineries were selected as Cru Bourgeois for the 2014 vintage. In general, the title of Cru Bourgeois is still reliable and is a place where cost-effective Bordeaux wines are concentrated.

Left Bank

Saint-Emilion classification system

The Classification of Saint-Emilion

Classification: Saint-Emilion

Saint-Emilion, also a region forgotten by the 1855 classification system, first implemented official classification in 1955, a full century later. This rating system divides classified wineries into two levels, one is Premier Grand Cru Classé and the other is Grand Cru Classé.

Compared with other classification systems in Bordeaux, this list is more realistic. In order to encourage and urge wine merchants to maintain excellent winemaking standards, the Saint-Emilion classification system is revised almost every ten years. However, the "First Class A List of Famous Wineries" at the top of the classification pyramid has never changed. There are only two top wineries, Ausone and Cheval Blanc. But the latest classification revision in 2012 added two First Class A wineries: Angélus and Pavie, which also caused some controversy. At present, there are 18 Premier Grand Cru Classés (internally divided into 4 A-class and 14 B-class) and 64 Grand Cru Classés in the Saint-Emilion classification. In general, the Saint-Emilion classification, which is updated every 10 years, is quite reliable.

It should be noted that there are also "Saint-Emilion Grand Cru" wineries in the Saint-Emilion region that are not classified. There are many "Grand Cru" wineries that have nothing to do with "Grand Cru Classé". The words "Grand Cru" rather than "Grand Cru Classé" can have a huge difference in level and price. It is not a grade certification. Basically, the output and alcohol content standards are stricter than Saint-Emilion Village AOP/AOC. Almost most local wineries can apply for it.

Pomerol



## Pomerol

As one of the best and most sought-after wine regions in Bordeaux, Pomerol has never had an official classification system. However, in this small wine region, there are many famous wineries, such as Petrus , Vieux Chateau Certan , Chateau Lafleur , Le Pin, Chateau La Fleur-Petrus , etc. These wineries are comparable to the first and second wineries in Medoc in terms of quality and price, especially Petrus, which can be said to be the real leader among Bordeaux wineries. In fact, for these famous wineries, a classification is naturally not that important. Perhaps for some small wineries that are not well-known, they are more worried about being buried because of no classification.

# Toulouse

Bus Stops			
Latitude and longitude		Equivalent to China ...	
Area (square kilometers):	118	Population ('000):	1,330
City status	<p>Located on the Garonne River in southwestern France, roughly midway between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, it is the capital of Haute-Garonne and Occitania. It is the fourth largest city in France, after Paris (12.1 million), Lyon (2.1 million), and Marseille (1.7 million). It is the junction of the Canal du Midi and the Garonne River.</p> <p>Toulouse in France is known as the City of Roses, La Ville Rose , not because of the abundance of roses, but because the city’ s ancient buildings are all made of bricks. Romantic French poets praised these bricks as “rose in the morning, lavender at noon, and red in the evening.”</p>		
Origin of the name			
Basic historical information	<p>Toulouse was a trading hub during the Iron Age. In the 2nd century BC, it was a Roman military outpost. In the 5th and early 6th centuries AD, Toulouse was the capital of the Visigothic Kingdom. After 778, it became the capital of the County of Toulouse.</p> <p>In the 19th century, Toulouse developed commerce with the construction of railways. The industry was diversified, including the chemical industry and the aircraft and machinery manufacturing industry, making full use of the water power of the Pyrenees and the natural gas of Lac. The aerospace industry has developed amazingly.</p>		
Urban Economy	<p>Toulouse is the base of Europe's aerospace industry. It is the headquarters of Airbus, the Galileo positioning system, and the SPOT satellite. The Toulouse Space Center of the French National Center for Space Studies, the largest space center in Europe, is also located here.</p>		
Culture, famous people	<p>The famous University of Toulouse was founded in 1229 and is one of the oldest universities in Europe. With over 97,000 students, it ranks third with Lille as the third largest university campus in France, after the University of Paris and the University of Lyon.</p> <p>Toulouse has been obsessed with rugby for over 100 years. This veritable culture is embodied by the Stade Toulousain, one of the best rugby teams in the northern hemisphere.</p>		
Main Specialties			
other			

## Toulouse City Hall

Built in the 11th century, this is a typical Toulouse brick structure. The ground in front of the town hall is inlaid with the signs of the zodiac. This is also the city center of Toulouse, the seat of government, and a theater. It is the most convenient place to visit the city. There are many paintings on the top of the gallery, which look magnificent, and the portraits on the window frames on both sides are sculptures of people from all walks of life who have made outstanding contributions to the city.

### **Toulouse Cathedral**

This is the cathedral of the Catholic Archdiocese of Toulouse, with a history of at least 1,200 years, and is a French historical relic. The peculiarity of this church is that it is a mixture of two architectural styles, and the mixture of red brick structure and white as well as the irregular shape can be clearly seen from the front. This church has the oldest stained glass in Toulouse, and the rose window is worth seeing.

A little bit south is the pedestrian street St-Rome .

### **The Jacobin Convent**

This place was originally a monastery. Thomas Aquinas, the most famous theologian and philosopher of the Catholic Church, was buried here. It has now become a museum and is listed as a World Cultural Heritage. Speaking of Thomas Aquinas, this great theologian is quite interesting. Born into an Italian noble family, he suddenly joined the Dominican sect while studying at university. In order to prevent him from becoming a clergyman, his family arrested him and detained him for two years. During this period, they also arranged for prostitutes to seduce Thomas, but he remained unswerving. In the end, his family compromised, and the world gained a saint, a great philosopher and theologian.

The special thing about the church is that the 80×20 meter cathedral inside is supported by the main beam in the middle and the top is a mosaic. In order to support the top of the church, these pillars are radially arranged like coconut trees or palm trees, which is unique among churches all over the world.

### **Basilica Saint - Sernin**

The thousand-year-old medieval Romanesque church is a standard cross in plan. From the outside, you can see multiple circular chapels, like the arched structure of the Roman Colosseum. In addition to the antiquity of the building, each chapel also preserves Catholic relics, so this building is called a temple rather than a church, and is listed as a World Cultural Heritage. It is a must-see church on the Saint- Jacques de Compostelle pilgrimage route.

**Canal du Midi** is the only artificial canal in the world that is listed as a World Cultural Heritage. This canal connects the Mediterranean Sea from Carcassonne and flows into the Garonne River before leading to the Atlantic Ocean. It realizes transportation from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic Ocean within France without passing through other countries, and is of great military and economic significance.

Toulouse's white bean stew, duck confit, and foie gras are all specialties, and the best foie gras comes from southwestern France.

## **Carcassonne**

Parking spot	Bus: Parking Car Porte De Narbonne P1, Chemin de Montlegun , 11000 Carcassonne Free shuttle bus to the entrance of Narbonne, every 10 minutes C ar: Parking Cité - Porte Narbonnaise P0 , 11000 Carcassonne Parking Cité , Chemin de Montlegun , 11000 Carcassonne
--------------	---

Latitude and longitude		Equivalent to China ...	
Area (square kilometers):	65	Population ('000):	47
City status	It is a town in the Aude department of the Languedoc-Roussillon region of France. It is divided into two urban areas, the old and new urban areas, located on the east and west sides of the Aude River respectively.		
Origin of the name			
Basic historical information	<p>Carcassonne's fortifications date back to Roman times. In 1659, the Treaty of the Pyrenees ceded the border province of Roussillon to France, and Carcassonne's strategic importance gradually disappeared, and wool textiles became the main economic activity. The old town was restored by architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc in 1853 and was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1997.</p> <p>Today, the main source of income for Carcassonne is tourism. In addition to the old town, the Midi Canal also attracts many tourists. In addition to tourism, Carcassonne's economic activities also include winemaking, textiles, shoemaking and other industries.</p>		
City logo			
Culture, famous people			
Main Specialties			
other	On March 23, 2018, an armed terrorist carried out terrorist attacks in Carcassonne and Trebes, killing three people and injuring 16, at least two of whom were seriously injured. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks.		

### Carcassonne Castle

It is a medieval castle, known as the largest and best-preserved castle in Europe. The impregnable medieval castle has double walls of inner and outer cities. The inner wall is a Roman rampart and the outer wall is a Gothic wall. There are 26 arrow towers in the inner and outer cities.

The Castle of Carcassonne was created during the Gallo-Roman period. It has a history of 2,500 years, having been visited by the Romans, Visigoths, Saracens and Crusaders. Initially, it was a Gallic settlement. In the 3rd century, the Romans decided to transform it into a fortified city. The castle was taken over by Trencavel in the 11th century, and was extensively expanded. During the Albi Crusade in the early 13th century, the Castle of Carcassonne was an important stronghold for the Cathars to defend against the Crusaders. In 1247, Carcassonne was incorporated into France, becoming a powerful border fortress between France and the Kingdom of Aragon. In 1659, after the Treaty of the Pyrenees, Roussillon became part of France, and the city lost its military significance. The city's fortifications were abandoned and it became one of France's economic centers, focusing on the wool textile industry.

In 1849, the French government decided to demolish the fortifications, but there was strong protest from the masses. Jean-Pierre Cros-Mayrevieille and Prosper Mérimée, a famous archaeologist and historian, led a campaign to protect the castle as a historical monument. In 1853, the government changed its decision and began restoration work. It was listed as a World Heritage Site in 1997.

In the middle of the 19th century, two key figures changed the fate of the ancient castle. They were Prosper Mérimée and Villiers-le-Duc, the core figures of the "Committee of Religious Art and Architecture" of the French Ministry of Culture, which was

established in January 1849. They were like-minded friends who devoted their lives to the protection and restoration of French historical religious buildings and made important contributions to promoting the nationalization of ancient building restoration.

Prosper Mérimée (1803-1870) was a French realist writer, playwright, historian and archaeologist. His most famous masterpiece is *Carmen*. He served as the "National Director of Historic Monuments" and "Member of the Religious Art and Architecture Committee" of the French Ministry of Culture, and made outstanding contributions to the protection and restoration of French historical sites and the excavation, sorting and preservation of French ancient cultural relics. He discovered Carcassonne during his travels and wrote the essay "The South of France": "Ramparts, towers, bastions, battlements, towers, and vineyards, soothing rivers and shady roads. It is so strange and romantic..." As a result, many people learned about Carcassonne and actively promoted the protection and restoration of the castle.

Viollet-le-Duc (1814-1876) was a famous French architect and architectural theorist. In 1839, he and Mérimée became the core figures of the French Historical and Cultural Commission. He was young and promising, and a complete workaholic. From the age of 26, he was responsible for the design, restoration and supervision of many famous French medieval buildings, such as the Cathedral of Sainte-Madeleine in Vézelay, Notre Dame de Paris, the Archbishopric of Saint-Denis, the Cathedral of Amiens and the Castle of Carcassonne. From the age of 40 to 54, he published 10 volumes of "The Complete Book of French Architecture from the 11th to the 16th Century". He devoted great enthusiasm to the restoration of the ancient castle of Carcassonne, drawing every sketch in detail, and accurately calculating and constructing. Starting in 1852, the restoration project was huge and difficult, and lasted for 50 years on and off until it was completed in 1910. Unfortunately, neither Mérimée nor Le Duc saw that day.

The east gate is called Porte Narbonnaise, and it is the only main entrance that can be used by chariots. People usually enter from this gate, then go out from the Aude Gate, down the hill to the New Town church and streets. There is a statue of Madame Carcas next to the entrance of Porte Narbonnaise.

Legend has it that in the 8th century AD, when the Arabs occupied the ancient castle, Charlemagne (the Frankish Kingdom that founded the Carolingian dynasty) sent troops to attack and besiege the castle. The Sathosen king Barak who ruled the castle at that time was unfortunately killed in the battle. So, Mrs. Kalka (Mrs. Barak) led the soldiers and civilians of the city to resist. Charlemagne's army besieged the city for three years, and the castle was almost out of ammunition and food, and fell into a dilemma. So Mrs. Kalka ordered the soldiers to set up a false formation, and set up scarecrows with bows and arrows on each tower of the castle, and constantly patrolled and shot arrows along the city wall. She also asked the soldiers to change the color of their hats frequently to make the enemy mistakenly believe that the castle had many soldiers and people. She also came up with a clever plan: feed the only remaining food in the city to a pig, and then throw the pig from the tower to the ground outside the city, and the pig's intestines burst immediately. The soldiers found that the pig's stomach was full of grain, so they believed that there was enough food in the city to resist, so they decided to withdraw. When the army fled, Madame Carcas led the people to ring the bell and blew the horn of victory. Madame Carcas' wit and bravery helped the people escape the disaster. In order to commemorate her, the castle was named Carcassonne, which means "Carcassonne Bell" in French.

Later, Madame Carcassonne judged the situation and negotiated and signed a peace agreement with Charlemagne. King Charlemagne admired her intelligence and sense of justice and hoped that she would settle down as the owner of the castle. After she converted to Christianity, he betrothed her to a nobleman of a prominent family. From then on, the two of them became the founders of the noble family of Carcassonne, which has always been the ruler of the castle.

The "Porte de l'Aude" is named for its proximity to the Aude River. It is the only place with a natural barrier. Below the castle is a steep hillside, and the River Aude surrounds the hillside, making it difficult for the enemy to attack. This is also the most beautiful place in the castle. Looking up from the hillside, the magnificent and sturdy towers are like giants guarding the castle. But if you want to take pictures of the most magnificent and beautiful side of the castle, you have to walk to the other side of the Aude River, where the entire castle is in sight.

Chateau Comtal is known as a masterpiece of military architecture. Built in the 12th century, it was originally the residence of the

Counts of Trencavel . In 1226 , Carcassonne was converted into a fortress after it became part of the French royal domain. After Saint Louis came to power, he dug a wide moat outside the Chateau Comtal, built a bridge hole, and constructed a semicircular wall, thus strengthening the Chateau Comtal into a well-defended inner castle, making it a veritable "city within a city".

The actual area inside the Earl's Mansion is not large, the courtyard is about 100×50 meters, and the building is not gorgeous. It seems inconsistent with its magnificent appearance. For defense reasons, the buildings in the mansion are very high, and some passages are complex and narrow, with secret doors and secret passages. There is a wooden corridor for defense on the wall, which can observe every corner of the castle. The Earl's Mansion has a complete living area and a small prayer room. There is a museum on the first floor that displays collections such as Roman inscriptions, which can be visited freely.

Viscountess Adelaide, the mother of the last ruler of the Tolancavill family, was a protector and promoter of literature and art. She gathered most of the most famous bards of the time around her, encouraged them to create and sing, and promoted the prosperity and development of Mediterranean culture at that time. The Earl's Castle is the highest, safest and most beautiful place in the city. Imagine that the earl and his wife, sitting in the high building, drinking coffee, reciting poetry, listening to opera, looking out the window: the blue sky, the pink city, the green vineyards, the soothing river, ah ... how romantic and comfortable!

To the south of the ancient city is the Cathedrale St-Nazaire, which combines Romanesque and Gothic styles. The church is in the shape of a Latin cross and is 34 meters tall. The exterior walls of the church are engraved with delicately carved statues. Inside the church are famous wall stones and very beautiful stained glass windows. The "Tree of Jesse" and "Tree of Life" depicted on the windows are among the most beautiful windows in southern France. The altar is surrounded by many exquisitely carved statues, and the old French organ in the nave is listed as a national treasure.

## Avignon

Parking spot	Bus: Porte du Rocher, Rue Ferruce , 84000 Avignon, France Bd du Rhône, 84000 Avignon Car: Parking des Allées de l'Oulle , 84000 Avignon, France Parking Palais des Papes , 4 Rue Molière, 84000 Avignon, France (1.9M)		
Latitude and longitude		Equivalent to China ...	
Area (square kilometers):	64.78	Population ('000 ):	92
City status	Located in the south of France, on the main road connecting the south and north of France. Traveling by land between Italy (Apennine Peninsula) and Spain (Iberian Peninsula) also requires passing through Avignon, so Avignon is also an important town on the east-west transportation line in southern France.		
Origin of the name	Avignon has been a prosperous place since the ancient Roman era. In 1840 , people excavated an ancient coin in Avignon with six letters on it: AOUNIO (Año), which is the predecessor of Avignon. According to experts, this currency was issued by Massaria (ancient Marseille) in 120 BC . In other words, Avignon already existed during the Western Han Dynasty in China. Other historical materials say that the history of Avignon can be traced back to 500 BC , which is equivalent to the Eastern Zhou Dynasty in China. Its original inhabitants were Celtic-Ligurians. At that time, the small town was called Aouenion ( Aouenion or Aouennion ). According to the		

	Celts, Aouenion means the city of wind; according to the Ligurians, Aouenion means the city of river gods. Both statements have their own basis: because Avignon was built on Puy de Puy, it has strong winds; and because it is located on the banks of the Rhone River, it has a river god. Both statements just summarize the natural characteristics of this city.
Basic historical information	In the 14th century, Jeanne, the lady of Provence, sold Avignon to Pope Clement VI for 80,000 florins (ancient Florentine gold coins). The Catholic Church moved here from Rome. From 1309 to 1377 , a total of seven popes lived here . Therefore , Avignon is an out-and-out papal city.
City logo	The city walls of Avignon were built in the 14th century. The total length of the 5,000-meter-long city walls is intact, and the battlements, towers and gates are still intact. The houses in the city are all ancient buildings that are not very tall, and some have fake windows painted on the walls. It turns out that in the past, the taxes in Avignon were calculated based on whether there was a piano in the house and how many windows were opened. In order to pay less taxes, some families built houses with fewer windows and painted fake windows on the outside of the houses after they were built. In 1995 , the historic city of Avignon was listed as a World Heritage Site.
Culture, famous people	There is another interesting thing about Avignon. The famous painter Picasso has a masterpiece, which is considered to be a turning point in his life, a great breakthrough in art history, a symbol of the birth of Cubism and a milestone in the development of modern art. This painting is called "Les Demoiselles d'Avignon". This painting completely negates the traditional painting that regards three-dimensional space as the main purpose since the Renaissance, and categorically abandons the true description of the human body, and assembles the entire human body using various geometric planes.
Main Specialties	
other	

### The split in the Catholic Church

At the beginning of the 14th century, France, England and the Holy Roman Empire were fighting each other, and the power of the church and the king was also rising and falling. King Philip IV of France gradually became stronger and fought against the Roman Catholic Church, and killed Boniface VIII. In 1305, the new Pope Clement V (French) did not dare to go to Rome to take office, so he moved the Roman Catholic Church to Avignon (previously, most popes were under the "protection" of the Holy Roman Empire). It was not until 1377 that the seventh Pope Gregory XI moved the Catholic Church back to Rome. This is known as the Babylonian captivity of the pope.

Gregory XI died in March of the following year , the citizens of Rome decided to keep the Holy See in Rome. Under the threat of mass unrest, the College of Cardinals unanimously elected an Italian as the successor Pope Urban VI in 1378. After he took office, he tried to eliminate the influence of France on the Holy See, which caused dissatisfaction among the French, who made up the majority of the College of Cardinals. Thirteen of the cardinals (mostly French) left Rome and returned to Avignon, claiming that the position of Urban VI, who was elected under duress, was invalid. They elected another cardinal of Geneva as Pope, called Clement VII, and stationed in Avignon. Urban set up another College of Cardinals in Rome. Thus, a great split in the Catholic Church was formed.

The two popes attacked each other, excommunicated each other, and at the same time collected tribute and taxes from Western European countries. Each country supported one of the popes according to its political attitude and relationship with France, Germany and Italy, forming two power groups. At that time, in addition to Germany and Italy, England, which was in a state of war with France for hundreds of years, and Poland, Bohemia, Denmark, Sweden and other countries influenced by Germany also recognized the Pope of Rome. In addition to France and its ally Spain, Scotland, which was at odds with England, and Sicily and Sardinia, which were influenced by France, also recognized the Pope of Avignon. The churches in various places basically acted

according to the attitude of their own monarchs.

1414 , Holy Roman Emperor Sigismund, together with scholars of canon law from the University of Paris and several cardinals, forced Alexander's successor, John XXIII, to convene a council in Constance in southern Germany. John was condemned at the meeting and left his post. At the insistence of Sigismund, the meeting continued. As a result, John and Benedict were deposed, Gregory was forced to retire, and a new pope, Martin V, was elected who was accepted by all parties. Thus, the Great Schism of the Catholic Church, which lasted for 40 years, came to an end. Clement VII, Benedict XIII (1394-1409), and the subsequent Avignon popes were all called antipopes or pseudo-popes by the Roman Curia, and their names could not be found in the Vatican Pope List. Moreover, among the popes of the Vatican for hundreds of years, there were also Clement VII and Benedict XIII.

### **Pont Saint - Bénéze**

Legend has it that more than 800 years ago, a 15- year-old shepherd boy named Benezet was inspired by the gods to build a bridge over the Rhone River. He moved a huge stone that more than a dozen people could not lift to the riverside alone and determined the location for the bridge. Under his leadership, the local people finally built the bridge after 8 years. For a long time, this bridge was the only bridge in the lower reaches of the Rhone River, and pilgrims and business people who traveled between Spain and Italy through it were all delighted. The bridge was originally more than 900 meters long and had 22 arches. It was a masterpiece of European medieval architecture. There is an old song "On the Bridge of Avignon" that sings: "On the Bridge of Avignon, people dance, on the Bridge of Avignon, people dance in circles..." This song made the bridge famous. However, after the bridge was built, it was washed away by floods many times and rebuilt many times. It was not until the 17th century that people decided to give up this effort. Today, the Bridge of Benezet is a broken bridge with only 4 arches left. Standing on the Broken Bridge in the Rhone River and looking around, you can better appreciate the vicissitudes of the ancient city. The Broken Bridge has also become a scenic spot in Avignon.

### **Palais des Papes**

The Palais des Papes was built in 1334 and decorated by Simone Martini and Matteo Giovanniti . In the square below this prominent Gothic building, the Petit Palace and the Roman Cathedral of the Canons of Notre Dame form an exceptional group of monuments that demonstrate the prominent role that Avignon played in Christian Europe in the 14th century.

The Pope's Palace is built on a high rocky mountain in the north of the city. It has a majestic appearance and covers an area of about 15,000 square meters. It is the largest and most important medieval Gothic building in Europe. It has 8 towers and an interior that is like a maze, with large halls and small halls connected and corridors winding. It is connected by the Old Palace and the New Palace, and the two styles are very different. The New Palace is magnificent. The largest hall is the Clement VI Chapel on the second floor, which is 52 meters long, 15 meters wide and 19 meters high, symbolizing the authority of the Pope in Avignon. The Old Palace is simple and unpretentious. The first floor is the Cardinals' Conference Hall and the second floor is the banquet hall. The walls of the attached St. John's Chapel are covered with murals of St. John's life , all of which were painted by famous Italian painters in the 14th century. The Pope's Palace is not only the Pope's palace, but also serves as a military fortress. Avignon was favored by the Pope for its peaceful and tranquil environment. It once became a papal territory. Six papal elections were held in the Avignon Papal Palace in history. During the iron-blooded Napoleon era, the Papal Palace was requisitioned by the French army and became a barracks and prison. Fortunately, it survived several regime changes and wars. In 1906 , the palace was transformed into a national museum. Today, there are more than 20 rooms to visit, including the rooms of the pope in those days, and you can also review major historical events.

### **Cathedrale Notre- Dame desDoms**

Located next to the Papal Palace, the Cathedral of Notre Dame was rebuilt in the middle of the 12th century and is the oldest religious building in Avignon. There are 35 bells in the bell tower of the church, which is said to be the second loudest bell tower in France. Each bell has its own name, and because of the different sizes, the sound is also different.

The former bishop's residence is now called the **Musee du Petit Palais** . It mainly displays altarpieces from the private collections of successive popes. There are 18 exhibition rooms with very clear collection themes. The paintings in the museum all depict

stories from the Bible, and the collection of the Virgin and Child is the most distinctive. The pope invited many Italian painters, and due to the influence of the Italian school and Flemish art, the famous Avignon School of Painting was formed.

**Jardin des Doms** , a rock park just behind the cathedral, is the origin of Avignon's history. Now it is a public park and a popular outdoor leisure place. From it, you can overlook the Papal Palace, the entire old town of Avignon, and the Broken Bridge in the distance.

Les Halles Market in Avignon d'Avignon , 18 Pl. Pie, 84000 Avignon

## Provence - Alpes - Côte d' Azur

It is the name of a region in southeastern France, bordering Italy to the east and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. It consists of the departments of Haute-Provence-Alpes, Haute-Alpes, Alpes-Maritimes, Bouches-du-Rhône, Var and Vaucluse. The French often abbreviate the province as PACA , with a population of about 4.5 million and an area of 31,400 square kilometers. The name Provence comes from the word Provincia , an ancient Roman province.

As early as the Roman Empire, Provence was listed as a province. The original Provence stretched from the Alps in the north to the Pyrenees in the south, including the entire southern region of France. With the decline of ancient Rome, Provence was controlled by other forces - the Franks, Saracens, feudal lords, and was once divided by the French Empire and the Pope. Due to these factors, the scope of Provence has changed a lot in history. During the French Revolution at the end of the 18th century, France was divided into 5 different administrative provinces, and Provence was one of them. In the 1960s , the administrative provinces were reorganized and divided into 22 regions, thus forming the current Provence - Alpes - Côte d'Azur region.

The most refreshing thing about Provence is that its air is always filled with the aroma of lavender, thyme, pine, etc. This unique natural aroma cannot be easily experienced in other places. Among them, lavender is the most blessed and loved. Because the abundant and bright sunshine is most suitable for the growth of lavender, and the local residents love the aroma and therapeutic effects of lavender, in Provence, you can not only see the charming picture of the purple sea of lavender flowers rolling all over the ground, but also often see all kinds of lavender sachets and bags hanging at home, and the shops are also filled with various products made of lavender, such as lavender essential oil, perfume, soap, candles, etc., and lavender herbal tea packaged in bags is sold in pharmacies and markets. People can't help but want to know more about the charming aroma of Provence - lavender.

In Provence, the lavender fields have completely different landscapes throughout the year. In winter, after the harvest, only short and neat dry stems are left, covered with white snow. In spring, green leaves emerge . Gradually, as the summer sun gets hotter, the lavender flowers quickly turn into a charming deep purple. Then the busy harvesting work begins. Timing is very important, so flower farmers must harvest flowers day and night and distill the extract. Until the end of September , all the flower fields have been harvested. The lavender fields can take a breath, absorb the essence of nature, and prepare for the purple flowers to bloom again next summer.

The most famous delicacies in the region include olive paste, garlic mayonnaise, fish soup, foie gras and truffles. Locals chop garlic and anchovies separately, add washed capers, thyme, mint and lemon juice, blend them in a food blender, slowly pour in olive oil and season with pepper. The olive paste is spread on slightly toasted bread to be the most authentic appetizer. The raw material of foie gras is the liver of ducks or geese that have been fed for a certain period of time, and is often mixed with Bordeaux white wine. In terms of the grade of foie gras, the highest grade of foie gras is a whole piece of foie gras. After a specific cooking process, the whole piece of foie gras is cooled and stored in the refrigerator; take it out thirty minutes before eating, cut it into slices about half a centimeter thick, and spread it on the special bread or toast bread that has just been baked for foie gras, which can be paired with sweet Bordeaux or Alsace white wine. Truffle is an exophytic fungus that grows underground, especially at the roots of oak trees. Along with champagne and caviar, truffle is known as one of the three greatest delicacies in the world .



### **lavender fields of Valensole :**

Lavander Field, Champs de Lavande , 04210 Valensole

Lavandes Angelvin , Campagne Neuve , 04210 Valensole , France

Mas Saint- Andrieux , 04210 Valensole , France

### **Stone Town Gordes**

Observation platform : 13 Route de Cavaillon, 84220 Gordes , there is a parking lot for cars 200 meters away. Be careful of people trying to steal your car !

Parking in the village: Parking Place de la Charles de Gaulle, 91 Rte de Murs, 84220 Gordes

Formerly known as the " Hanging Village ", it is located in the southern part of the Vaucluse ridge , 370 meters above sea level , facing the Luberon Mountains . The Stone Town has a permanent population of about 2,000 . Most of the buildings in the town were built in the Middle Ages. The houses in the entire town are made of accumulated granite from the mountains, entrenched together in a trapezoidal shape, and look like a house in the sky from a distance. Its unique architectural style and special geographical location give this Provence town a unique charm. The special geographical location, unique architectural style, and magical charm make it one of the most beautiful towns in France. As a result, it has attracted countless tourists to visit and is known as the "Sky City". Many movie stars and artists have settled here. The villa of former French President Mitterrand, who served for 14 years, is hidden in this pile of inconspicuous houses.

There is a market in the central square of the town three days a week in the morning, selling local specialties such as olive oil, honey, cheese, nougat, etc. The green trees and red flowers with the stone walls are the best decoration of the Stone Town. It is full of literary style, unique and romantic. Wandering in the mountain paths is also a unique flavor.

Le Cercle RépublicainA café with a terrace offering a stunning view

### **Lavender fields at the Abbaye de Senanque Abbey ,**

Built in 1148 , hidden in a quiet valley surrounded by green forests , it is one of the three famous Cistercian monasteries in Provence and the setting of the book " Mountain Life". It is known as one of the "most beautiful valleys in France" and most postcards are shot here.

There are 115 monasteries in France. Monasteries, also known as monasteries, began in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. They were places for devout Christians to cultivate their moral character and train senior church personnel. During the period of ignorance in medieval Europe, monasteries were considered the most learned places. The emergence of European universities later should also be closely related to monasteries, and can even be said to be the predecessor of universities.

### **Roussillon , a red clay city in the Luberon region ,**

On the mountain: Parking des ocres , Avenue de la Burlière , 84220 Roussillon

Bus : Aire de Retournement Bus , 84220 Roussillon

Because the houses here are made of local materials, all the houses are painted red. From a distance, it looks like a red fortress on a red cliff. According to legend, the young and beautiful wife of the lord fell in love with a troubadour poet. The narrow-minded lord killed the poet cruelly in revenge. The wife who loved the poet deeply did not want to live alone after losing her lover, so she jumped off the cliff and died for love. Her blood dyed Roussillon red. Since then, this land has always been deep red. And this romantic red land stained with blood has become the most unique scenery in the Luberon Mountains.

In fact, it is because the soil here is very special and contains a lot of ochre, which creates the unique red color in this area. Roussillon is the region with the largest ochre reserves in France. At the end of the 18th century, Jean-Etienne Astier , a resident of the village, accidentally discovered that the red and yellow soil that is readily available in Roussillon can be processed into a highly saturated pigment. As a result, in this region with the largest ochre reserves in France, this natural pigment began to be mass-produced and became a world-renowned high-quality pigment in one fell swoop, with supply exceeding demand. This

grand occasion lasted for more than a century until it was gradually replaced by industrial pigments in the mid -20th century. Most of the pigments they produced were used to paint the exterior walls of houses in Roussillon villages , so the exterior walls of houses facing the street here would be painted by the owners in the colors they wanted. Van Gogh and Gauguin both particularly preferred the pigments produced in this area, which is one of the reasons why the colors in Van Gogh's works are so strong.

Red is the main color of the Red Earth City, and the local residents dress their houses in various colors, making the town jump in different colors. The flower pots under the windowsills, the flowers on the corners, the green pine trees surrounding the medieval walls, and the fragrant blue and purple lavender swaying freely on the roadside, set against the pure blue sky and white clouds of Provence, are like a dreamlike watercolor painting without any rendering.

There are two viewing platforms in the town of Cité des Hautes-Villes. One is the viewing platform behind the church at the highest point, where you can overlook Vaucluse and Coulon Valley. The magnificent scenery in front of you is called "Colorado of Provence". The other is the viewing platform BELVÉDÈRE - MIRADOR , which is about 300 meters away from Cité des Hautes-Villes, where you can see the whole picture of Cité des Hautes-Villes. It is also a best photo spot.

Ochre Trail : The old quarry trail costs 3 euros, and the long route takes 50 minutes to see the whole view.

Languedoc and Roussillon on the Mediterranean coast in southern France are the world's largest vineyards, producing 40% of the country's wine. The Roussillon region, near the Spanish border , is located at the foot of the Pyrenees, with a higher and more rugged terrain than Languedoc . In addition to being the most important natural sweet wine (VDN) producing region in France, it also produces good dry wines. Roussillon (Cotes du Roussillon) mainly produces red wine, but also white wine and rosé wine . Cotes du Roussillon , a village area in Roussillon in the north Villagesye , also known as the Red Earth City, only produces high-quality red wine. The main characteristics of local red wine are its deep color and strong tannins. In addition to the fruity aroma, it often has a spice flavor. There are not many white wines here , and the most important features are its refreshing acidity and light taste.

The famous AOC wines ( except natural sweet wines ) are: Cotes du Roussillon and Cotes du Roussillon-Villages. Cotes du Roussillon is produced in the southernmost county of the continent. The red wine produced is very dark in color, very strong in flavor, and has a strong fruity aroma. After strict quality inspection, red wines from 28 villages can be marketed under the name of Cotes du Roussillon-Villages . The alcohol content of such wines must reach 12% , instead of only 11.5% like Cotes du Roussillon , and the yield must not exceed 4,500 liters per hectare . Due to the abundant sunshine in the Mediterranean, the grapes in Provence contain more sugar, which is converted into alcohol, making the alcohol content of Provence wine 2 degrees higher than that of northern wine .

**Saint-Rémy-de-Provence** , commonly known as Saint-Rémy, is a tourist and wine city with important cultural buildings. In the Middle Ages, Saint-Rémy belonged to the Abbey of Saint-Rémy in Reims during the Carolingian dynasty. This is also the origin of the name Saint-Rémy.

The town is famous for its hot springs. Saint-Rémy produces red and rosé wines that are protected by a Designation of Origin. The green and black olives produced in Saint-Rémy are also protected by a Designation of Origin. There are two types of green olives and two types of black olives. The Prince of Monaco is also the Lord of Saint-Rémy.

The Van Gogh Route is a route that traces the places where Van Gogh painted, starting from the Musée Estrine in the center of Saint - Remy . – Starting from Présence Van Gogh , we continued to St. Paul's Abbey. Along the way, we can see a total of 21 classic works of Van Gogh, and there are signs introducing the background stories of the paintings. You can quietly appreciate the scenery that Van Gogh saw and feel the source of his inspiration.

Maison de Santé St -Paul de Mausole

of Van Gogh's world-famous paintings were completed here. The sanatorium is surrounded by large tracts of sunflowers, olive trees, cypresses, and lavender , which is beautiful. Now the sanatorium no longer accepts mentally ill patients , but the overall building is still preserved in its original appearance. The admission fee is € 7 per person . The park displays Van Gogh's works during his Saint-Remy period , and there is a bronze statue of Van Gogh .

Van Gogh's room on the second floor was quite simple . When Van Gogh first arrived in Saint-Remy , he was not allowed to leave the room , so he could only paint while looking out the small window at the atrium garden.

**Les Baux -de-Provence** , commonly referred to as Les Baux , is one of the important tourist towns in France and was rated as one of the most beautiful villages by the French Association of the Most Beautiful Villages .

Road side parking D27A, 13520 Les Baux -de-Provence

It is an ancient town built on rocks. Les baux actually means steep cliffs in French. There is a Le Chateau on the top of the mountain . Its history can be traced back to the 10th century. After the weathering of history and some damage caused by regional conflicts at that time, fortunately, the current buildings are still left. Many buildings left over from the early period can be found here, such as Moulin à vent , an old windmill. The catapult used in medieval wars is the largest catapult in Europe. From the castle, you can see the entire green and yellow Provence.

Partly hewn from the rock, the 12th-century Church of Saint-Vincent features magnificent modern stained-glass windows by Max Ingrand , a gift from Prince Rainier III of Monaco.

The 16th- century Auberge de Poset (now home to the Yves Breyer Museum), the 17th- century Chapel of the White Penitents and the charming Chapel of Saint-Blaise. Don't miss the fascinating Santons Museum , which displays 400 iconic Provençal statuettes. The Carrières de Lumières project extraordinary audiovisual performances onto 14 - meter - high walls and over 7,000 square meters. These performances use 100 video projectors and more than 27 speakers to bring immersive artistic enjoyment to audiences of all ages. The paintings of the famous painter Picasso and his life story are projected onto the walls, ceilings and floors , and the background music is also selected to match his paintings and the era in which he lived.

One of the most beautiful towns in Provence is the spa town of Fontaine-de-Vaucluse .

Chemin du Prieuré , 84800 Fontaine-de-Vaucluse

Ménerbes (the main producer of truffles in Provence , it also produces a variety of specialty wines and is also the place where Peter Mayle's " A Good Year " story took place)

**Lavender Museum** , 276 Route de Gordes , 84220 Cabrières-d'Avignon , France

Make an appointment by phone in advance and collect 10 % of your purchase later

## **Sault**

Car park: 95 Rue des Aires, 84390 Sault . There is a toilet next to the car park.

Known as the "Lavender Capital", It is the largest lavender producing area in Europe. It is a small town located at about 400 meters above sea level. Sault has a population of only over 1,000. The whole town is surrounded by a sea of lavender. Unlike the Valensole plain , this is a mountain lavender area with rugged terrain, steep peaks and winding mountains. Although lavender can often be seen on the roadside or in parks in Provence in midsummer , many French people go to Sault more than once every summer to feel the smell of lavender . There are patches of purple alpine lavender , like a purple carpet on the ground. The air is filled with the fragrance of flowers , the blue sky , the green mountains, and the purple of lavender . Along the way , there are only " blue , green , and purple " dotting the earth, which is very dreamy and never boring.

**Pont du Gard** is a water supply system built by the ancient Romans. In order to ensure the supply of drinking water to the residents of Nîmes, the Romans built a canal 50 kilometers north of the city to transport spring water to the destination. The Pont du Gard was a small part of this project. It was also a passage across the Gard River, which could be used by open carriages and pedestrians.

According to archaeological inferences (ancient coins discovered), it was built around 40-60 AD (during the reigns of Claudius and Nero). The aqueduct, or water channel, was invented by General Agrippa, Augustus' son-in-law (who was responsible for the water supply in Rome and the empire, and many buildings in Rome were designed and directed by him, such as the Pantheon). There were many aqueducts in Rome and its empire, but only the one here and the one in Segovia, Spain, are well preserved.

Why build this aqueduct? A few decades before Christ, the Romans occupied Nîmes. As the city of Nîmes continued to develop, the original spring water in the city could no longer meet the Romans' water needs. Therefore, they decided to bring spring water from the water source Fontaine D'Eure near Uzès ( or Uzès), 20 kilometers away, to Nîmes. The total length of the drinking water channel is about 50 kilometers. The height difference from the water source to the end of the Nîmes sluice gate is only 17 meters, while the height difference of the aqueduct is only 2.5 centimeters. Using a mathematical concept, the gradient is  $1/3000$ , which shows the precise calculation ability of the Romans at that time. The canal is roughly V-shaped around the mountain. In order to prevent water evaporation, most of the canal is underground, but when crossing the Gard River, it must rely on elevated water tanks to complete the water transfer, so there is the Gard Aqueduct. It took 15 years to build the aqueduct, and 800-1000 construction workers. The 50-kilometer journey from the water source to the city of Nîmes takes 27 hours. The daily water supply of the canal is about 200,000 cubic meters, which can meet  $3/4$  of Nîmes' water needs.

After the 4th century AD, the Roman Empire began to decline, the population of Nîmes decreased, and the water consumption also decreased greatly. The spring water in the city was sufficient for use. In addition, the aqueduct was not maintained for many years (during the prosperity of the Roman Empire, the canals were regularly cleaned), and the debris and scale inside gradually blocked the waterway. The aqueduct also slowly lost its function. After the 6th century AD, as the aqueduct gradually became deserted, people around began to remove the stones on the bridge for other uses. However, while removing the stones, they found that the first layer of the aqueduct just served as a bridge, which was conducive to traffic on both sides of the river. Therefore, they stopped removing the bridge, allowing this ancient bridge to survive to this day.

The bridge has three floors and is 49 meters high. All the materials are local limestone. The water channel bridge is nearly 50 meters high and more than 200 meters long. In fact, the water conveying part is the water tank on the top floor. The water tank is 1.8 meters deep and 1.2 meters wide. There is a stone cover on the top of the water tank, and there are inspection holes at intervals. In the mid- 18th century, the lower floor was widened to a viaduct, and it was repaired in the 19th century during the reign of Napoleon III. In 1958 , the water level of the once-in-a-millennium flood reached the second floor of the channel bridge, killing 35 people, but the bridge was safe and sound. It is amazing to marvel at the ingenuity of ancient Roman architects.

There are parking lots on both sides of the River Gard. The scenery is better on the south side.

South: Pont du Gard - Parking rive droite, 24 Avenue du Pont du Gard, 30210 Remoulins , France

North: Pont du Gard - parking rive gauche, D981, 30210 Vers -Pont-du-Gard, France

#### **Parc naturel régional de Camargue (PNRC )**

It is a protected area designated in 1970 along the Camargue coastline in France. [ The park protects wetland environments and adjacent marine areas, including a lagoon called the Étang de Vaccarès . The Camargue is also home to a national nature reserve, designated a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO

#### **Flamingo Park:**

Parc Ornithologique du Pont De Gau

RD 570 Lieu dit Pont de Gau , 13460 Les Saintes-Marie de la Mer

## Pink Salt Lake

The petit train of salins d'Aigues Mortes , 30220 Aigues-Mortes

The train ride takes about 1 hour and 15 minutes , and you can walk back

**Saintes- Maries -de-la-Mer** is a commune in the Bouches-du-Rhône department in northern France .

Car :

82 Chemin des Macreuses , 13460 Saintes- Maries -de-la-Mer Free

12-20 Avenue Van Gogh, 13460 Saintes- Maries -de-la- MerTolls

was called "Ra" by the Roman geographer Rufus Festus Avienus in the 4th century AD . In the 6th century AD, the Archbishop of Arles founded a monastery or church in the town called Sainte-Marie, and the village became known as Notre -Dame-de- Ratis , referring to the three Virgin Marys who arrived by boat.

The current church was built between the 9th and 12th centuries as a fortress and sanctuary. It can be seen from 10 km away and contains a freshwater well, which allowed the villagers to hide from foreign invaders. In the 9th century, the town was attacked by Vikings and Saracens. In the 15th century, the relics of Mary of Clopas and Mary Salome were "discovered", who were said to have arrived there by sea with Mary Magdalene. Pope John XXIII celebrated the 500th anniversary of this event in the 20th century. The town gradually became a place of pilgrimage.

Van Gogh painted several seascapes and town paintings here. Hemingway and Picasso visited here. Some movies have also used this place as a filming location. Today, it is mainly used as a tourist resort.

# Arles

Parking spot	Car: Par king, 92 Rue Portagnel , 13200 Arles Bus: VC 13 dite Chemin des Segonnaux , 13200 Arles		
Latitude and longitude		Equivalent to China ...	
Area (square kilometers):	758	Population ('000 ):	52
City status	Located in southeastern France, it belongs to the Bouches-du-Rhône department in the Provence - Alpes - Côte d'Azur region, 72 kilometers northwest of Marseille.		
Origin of the name			
Basic historical information	It was called Arles during the Western Roman Empire. In 103 BC, a canal connected it to the Mediterranean Sea. In 46 AD , Arles became a settlement city for retired soldiers under the rule of Caesar of the ancient Roman Empire. It was known as the "Little Rome of the Gauls". In the fourth century AD, Constantine the Great often lived in Arles. In the early development of Christianity, it became an important religious center. Muslims invaded in 730. In the 10th century, it became the capital of Burgundy . In the 14th century, it was acquired by King Charles VI of France. In 1981 , seven monuments were listed as World Heritage by UNESCO. Today, Arles has become an "ancient city of art and history".		
City logo			
Culture, famous people	Van Gogh lived here from February 1888 to May 1889 .		

Main Specialties	Bullfighting takes place from Easter to September . The Camargue's major horse races usually start in early spring each year, the most famous of which are the "Golden Ribbon" (La Cocarde d'or) held in early July and the "Championship" (La finale du Trophée ) held every two years in October in alternation with Nîmes .
other	

The Arles **Arena** is an ancient Roman amphitheater and the city's main attraction. It is 136 meters long, 109 meters wide and has 120 arches dating back to the 1st century BC. The arena can accommodate more than 20,000 spectators and was used to watch chariot races and bloody bare-handed combats. Today, it attracts large numbers of citizens to watch bullfights . In the summer, there are also plays and concerts.

**Ancient Theatre The Antique** is an ancient Roman building that was built between 40 and 30 BC, during the reign of the Roman Emperor Augustus, shortly after the establishment of the Roman colony. It was completed around 12 BC and is one of the earliest stone theaters built in the Roman world. The theater was part of the Roman road network **decumanus** . The theater has a diameter of 102 meters and the entire building is supported by an external colonnade with 27 arches, which can accommodate 8,000 spectators. It is badly damaged, and the two marble pillars of the stage wall vaguely show the grandeur of the time. The entire theater's stands are a magnificent semicircle, similar to those of the Colosseum, and there are only two broken pillars on the stage. The stage is extremely large, and the background of the stage is a huge stone wall with relief sculptures on it.

**Republic Square . The** obelisk on the square was built during the reign of Constantine II (around the 4th century) and was originally located in the Cirque Romain in the southwest of Rome . After the theater was abandoned in the 6th century, the obelisk went through a process of destruction, dispersion, recovery, and reconstruction. After the 19th century, a bronze tower was added to the top of the obelisk, and fountains and pools were added below to surround it. Opposite the tower is the town hall. The building on the left is now a museum, and on the right is the Church of San Trophime.

Saint - Trophime **Church** Arles is a Romanesque church. Its west facade with ancient Roman style is one of the representative works of Provence Romanesque architecture. According to archaeological data, the church foundation was once a bathhouse and a large building with many columns in the Roman era. The cloister on the south side of the church and it witnessed the process of Arles, an ancient city once immersed in ancient Roman civilization, integrating into the medieval culture of Western Europe. In 1981, it was listed in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List along with the ancient Roman relics such as the arena and the ancient theater in the city. As it is located on the famous Camino de Santiago, it has always been a famous pilgrim's worship center and is one of the most representative Romanesque churches in France.

Due to the deep influence of ancient Roman civilization in history, the Romanesque architecture in Provence in the 12th century was deeply imprinted with the imprint of classical art. The triangular lintel of the west facade of the Saint-Trophique Church is one of the best representatives of this heritage. The double slope of the triangular lintel echoes the slope of the side corridor and the nave, which strengthens the horizontal direction of the entire west facade. Here, the function of the lintel as an architectural element has been weakened, and it is treated more as a decorative element.

The spatial treatment inside the church can be seen from the west facade, such as the distribution of the nave and the side aisles and the width ratio of the two. The side aisles of St. Trophime Church are extremely narrow, with semi-cylindrical arches as the vaults, while the nave is a tall, slightly pointed arch. The pillars and piers of the nave are all attached with flat pilasters, not semi-circular columns like most Romanesque buildings. Only the columns at the height of the high windows that support the outer vaults of the double-layer skeleton are small columns, decorated with spiral patterns or simple vertical patterns like classical columns, and the capitals are also like Corinthian columns, which shows the degree to which classical architectural elements were used as reference inspiration at that time.

**Cryptoporticus:**

Dating back to the first century BC, it was the foundation for a market place above ground, which is now replaced by the town hall and a Catholic college. Traces left by masons in the stonework suggest that it was built by the Greeks, and that the underground passage was used to store goods or food that was too damp; perhaps it was used as a barracks for slaves, which was quite common at the time.

### **Baths of Constantine**

Arles was also the favorite city of Constantine I, who built a bathhouse here. His son Constantine II was born here. Constantine III also made Arles his capital in 408 when he proclaimed himself the Western Roman Emperor. This bathhouse was built in the fourth century and was originally part of the palace of Constantine I. It was also the largest bathhouse in Provence at the time. What can be seen now is only a small part of the original bathhouse. At first, people took a bath and exercised here, and later it became a social place, where people talked with acquaintances or new acquaintances in the garden, or read poetry or literary works in the recreation room.

Bathers first change in the dressing room, do some warm-up exercises, and then enter a series of bathing rooms: warm room, hot room, steam room, cold room, and swimming pool, etc. After massage, bathers can comfortably stroll into the garden to chat or sit quietly, or go to the entertainment room to read.

It is truly astonishing that this complex bathhouse, which could accommodate 2,000 bathers, appeared 1,600 years ago.

**Alyscamps is a large Roman cemetery located outside the old city walls of Arles . It is one of the most famous cemeteries in the ancient world.** The name is Provençal, derived from the Latin Elisii. Campi (Champs-Élysées in French). They were famous in the Middle Ages, appearing in Ariosto's "Roland the Frenzy" and Dante's "Inferno".

Roman tradition prohibited burials within the city walls. Therefore, it was common to see tombs and mausoleums lined up along the roads outside the city. Alyscamps was the main cemetery in Arles for nearly 1,500 years. Alyscamps continued to be used even after the city was Christianized in the 4th century. The area was an ideal place for burials, and as early as the 4th century there were thousands of tombs, so many that the sarcophagi had to be stacked three layers deep. St. Genesius, a Roman clerk who was beheaded in 303 for resisting orders to persecute Christians, became the patron saint of Arles and was buried there. Arles soon became the focus of a cult of Christian worship. St. Trophime, possibly the first bishop of Arles, was later buried there. It is claimed that Jesus himself attended St. Trophime's funeral and left the impression of his knees on the sarcophagus lid.

Van Gogh once used this place as a place for his sketching, and he painted here frequently. Today, the scenery here is almost exactly the same as it was back then.

### **Van Gogh Trail:**

Van Gogh lived in Arles for 15 months and created hundreds of works here, including "Café Terrace at Night", "Starry Night over the Rhone", "Room in Arles", "Langlois Bridge at Arles" and other masterpieces.

What is even more remarkable is that Arles also witnessed the "love-hate" friendship between Van Gogh and Gauguin. Van Gogh invited Gauguin to live in Arles, and the two spent a wonderful time together, but eventually parted ways due to differences in artistic concepts and personalities, and left behind the story of the "Self-Portrait with Cut Ears". The residents of Arles once wrote a joint letter to the mayor, asking for Van Gogh to be confined and prohibited from going out.

The visitor center in Arles offers a detailed map of Van Gogh-themed walking routes.

"Nighttime Café Terrace" on the Forum Square: Le Café Van Gogh, 11 Place du Forum, 13200 Arles

Van Gogh Hospital, recreated based on his paintings: L'espace Van Gogh, Place Félix Rey, 13200 Arles

The Van Gogh Cultural Center (L'espace Van Gogh) in the west of the city is the hospital where Van Gogh once lived. After Van Gogh cut off his earlobe, he was sent here for treatment and was later trapped here due to mental illness. In April 1889, Van Gogh created "The Garden of Arles Hospital" based on the courtyard here. Today, this place has become the Van Gogh Cultural

Center. The original hospital has long been moved away, and only the mottled shadows of the trees are still swaying, welcoming groups of tourists who come here to visit.

Pont Van Gogh on the canal about 3 kilometers from the town: Langlois Bridge , 13200 Arles

The Arles Arena is the most conspicuous building in the town. Van Gogh also once depicted the grand scene of the Arles Arena gathering here.

City Park: Jardin d'été , Boulevard des Lices , 13200 Arles

In addition to the attractions in Arles, another important Van Gogh spot is Saint-Rémy - de-Provence. This small town is about 30 kilometers northeast of Arles. After Van Gogh became mentally ill, he was sent to the mental hospital here, where he created the famous "Starry Night" and a series of wheat field works.

La Gueule du Loup , a French restaurant

## Verdun Canyon

Charter office : Base de l'Etoile , 04360 Moustiers -Sainte-Marie

Bridge : Pont du Galetas - Gorges du Verdon

The Verdun Gorge is located in Provence - Alpes - Cote d'Azur. The Verdun Gorge is the second largest canyon in the world, with a total length of 25 kilometers and a depth of more than 700 meters. It is famous in Europe for its magnificent scenery and receives millions of tourists every year. The most attractive area of the Verdun Gorge is the section between Castellane and Moustiers-Sainte-Marie. The canyon is formed by the Verdon River and is named for its startling turquoise green, which is one of the characteristics of the area.

During the Triassic period, the French Provence region subsided and was covered by the sea, leaving behind thick deposits of various limestones. Millions of years later, with the advent of the Jurassic period, the region was covered by a warm, shallow sea, which allowed various corals to grow. The Cretaceous period saw the rise of what is now Basse-de-Provence and the sea to reach the present location of the Alps, which themselves were built during the Tertiary period. Due to large-scale geological activity, many of the Jurassic limestone deposits were broken up, creating reliefs of valleys and other similar features. The origins of the Verdon Gorge can be traced back to this era. Massive glaciation occurred at the dawn of the Quaternary period, turning pockets of water and lakes into unstoppable glacial rivers, reshaping the topography, scouring and winding the landscape. At the end of this activity, erosion by the river continued, creating today's canyons.

## Marseille

Parking spot	Bus: Old Dock: 999 Quai du Port, 13002 Marseille, France Church of Our Lady: Montée de l'Oratoire , 13006 Marseille, France		
Latitude and longitude		Equivalent to China ...	
Area (square kilometers):	240.62	Population ('000 ):	1,600
City status	It is the second largest city and the third largest metropolitan area in France, and the capital of Provence. It has a unique geographical location, surrounded by limestone hills on three sides. It borders the Mediterranean Sea in the southeast, with deep waters and wide harbors, so large ships can pass through unimpeded.		



Origin of the name	
Basic historical information	<p>Marseille is the oldest city in France. It was founded by the Greek Phocians in 600 BC as a trading port. The exact circumstances and date of its establishment are still unclear, but there is a legend. Protis , who was looking for a new trading port for Phocians, discovered the Lacydon Cave in the Mediterranean Sea , which had a freshwater spring and was protected by two rocky promontories. Protis was found on the ground by the chief of the local Ligurian tribe and married his daughter Gyptis . After the banquet, Gyptis presented Protis with a glass of wine, clearly expressing her wishes. After their marriage, they moved to the mountains north of Lacydon; this settlement developed into Marseille.</p> <p>Marseilles was an important port in France during the Middle Ages. However, it was one of the first cities to be hit by the Black Death. The plague lasted from 1348 to 1361 , killing about 15,000 people out of a population of 25,000 . After the Black Death, Marseilles' population recovered quickly. It became a naval base, and trade soon flourished again. In the mid -18th century, Marseilles became France's most important port in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>During the French Revolution, Marseille actively supported the revolution and sent 500 volunteers to Paris in 1792 to defend the revolutionary government; they sang their march all the way from Marseille to Paris. This song later became the French national anthem and was called "La Marseillaise".</p>
City logo	
Culture, famous people	
Main Specialties	
other	<p>Marseille has always had a mixed population, with residents from the Mediterranean and Europe as well as from Africa. Nearly 25% of the population of Marseille is of North African descent, mostly Algerians and Tunisians. According to demographers, Marseille will become the first city in Europe with a Muslim majority in the near future. Its Jewish community is the third largest in Europe.</p>

### Bouillabaisse

As one of the three major fish soups in the world, bouillabaisse not only has a place in the international food world, but is also a "hot commodity" in the world literary world. Thackeray once praised the pleasure of enjoying bouillabaisse in Paris in his poems; as a die-hard fan of "Harry Potter", Nono also found traces of bouillabaisse in the novel, which is used by Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry to entertain French guests.

The history of Marseille fish soup has exceeded 2,500 years. The key point of Marseille fish soup is the various wonderful fish species. The traditional Marseille fish soup does not have shellfish, especially mussels. However, crabs and lobsters are not prohibited. Use the best olive oil to sauté onions, tomatoes, garlic, and fennel, add thyme, Italian parsley and bay leaves, and season with dried orange peel. Finally, add saffron to increase the color, and then add the fish. Cook it over high heat within 15 minutes. When eating, the soup and fish are served separately. Put a piece of bread in the bowl and ladle the soup directly into it. Marseille fish soup originated from a dish that poor people used to support their families. Marseille fishermen boiled sea water and cleaned their fishing nets at night. At the same time, they boiled the fish that had not been sold or were incomplete. Once the fish was ready, they sat together to eat the fish. The fish were added with fennel and some other seasonings and boiled in sea water. There were many rich people living in villas along the coast of Marseille. The wives of fishermen would boil fish soup on the boat and sell it to them. A dish for the poor eventually became a delicacy for the rich. Later, as Marseille became a busy seaport, saffron threads were brought to Marseille by sea, and saffron threads were added to fish soup from then on. Now, guests from Paris often fly in specifically to eat Marseille fish soup.

Fish soup of Marseille is also called fish soup of Provence. Like us Chinese, the French also have the habit of "living off the land and living off the water". Marseille, which has rich seafood resources in the Mediterranean, naturally has seafood in its diet. When was fish soup of Marseille invented? There are many different opinions. Greece is the cradle of European cultural civilization. The origin of fish soup of Marseille is also related to the story in Greek mythology. According to legend, in order to have a tryst with the god of war Ares, the goddess of love Aphrodite deliberately added hypnotic drugs to the fish soup she prepared for her husband, the god of fire Hephaestus. After Hephaestus drank the fish soup, he fell asleep. Aphrodite and Ares fell in love under the moonlight.

There is also a legend that the Maasai people themselves created the Marseille fish soup: Maasai fishermen would select the day's "trophies" after returning from fishing every day. The fish with plump meat and delicious taste would be sold first in the aquatic market, while the remaining fish with poor appearance and some small fish and shrimps would be taken home and cooked into steaming fish soup. Over time, it evolved into the delicacy of Marseille fish soup. Nono believes the latter legend, because the working people unconsciously created food culture in the process of creating history.

So the question is, what kind of fish soup can be called "Marseille fish soup"? Which fish should or should not be put into the fish soup? This is a question that everyone has their own opinions on, and you will never get a consistent answer. What is relatively certain is that the real Marseille fish soup must use at least 6 kinds of Mediterranean fish, including the basic haddock, conger eel, herring and other fish species, and also contains a variety of other fish.

As for the cooking method, you can tell from the name. The French name of Marseille fish soup is bouillabaisse. The first half of the word means to boil, and the second half means to reduce, which means to boil it over high heat first and then simmer it over low heat. The purpose of boiling over high heat is to emulsify the fish fat and gelatin to obtain a fish soup with a rich taste.

Fish soup is the essence of a variety of seafood, with a strong sea flavor. Of course, under normal circumstances, our slow tongues cannot distinguish the specific varieties. According to Nono, drinking fish soup is different from the general Western food experience. We know that Western food is divided into appetizers and main dishes, and when ordering fish soup, it is divided into two parts: fish soup and fish ingredients, which serve as appetizers and main dishes respectively. At this point, some people may have questions. Is it greasy to eat only fish soup at a normal banquet? You don't have to worry about this at all. The biggest advantage of French cuisine is reflected in the differences and complementarity of dishes. The "step-by-step" fish soup will never make you feel monotonous and boring. When served, a sauce called Rouille, toasted or fried bread cubes or broken bread, and the fish meat separated after cooking will be served separately with the soup of the fish soup as a side dish or ingredient to add flavor and color.

Over time, the French, who have always been particular about food, have even formulated the "Marseille Fish Soup Charter" (La Charte de la Bouillabaisse Marseillaise) in order to preserve the essence of this classic delicacy, which is very cute.

Eating bouillabaisse is a must-do item when traveling to Marseille. Many restaurants of all sizes in Marseille offer this dish, but to eat authentic bouillabaisse, you have to go to the Vieux Port. Every morning in the Vieux Port area, you can see stalls selling fresh seafood of the day. There are many restaurants near the Vieux Port where you can enjoy bouillabaisse while basking in the Mediterranean sun.

As an important port city connecting various Western countries, you can see Catholicism and Islam here. There are several churches of different styles in the city. The fusion of cultures is the characteristic of Marseille, and it is also a treasure land for experiencing exotic customs.

### **Basilica Notre Dame de La Garde**

Since its completion in 1864, the Basilica Notre Dame de La Garde has been the symbol of Marseille. It is built on a 150-

meter-high hill, from which you can overlook the entire city of Marseille and the Mediterranean Sea, which is very spectacular. In the past, people here almost made a living by going out fishing, and their families often came here to pray for their children to return home safely. The exterior of the church is in Roman Byzantine style, and the interior is decorated with murals, tiles, model ships and other thank-you offerings.

Above the main building of the cathedral stands a 9.7- meter-high golden statue of the Virgin Mary. It is said that you can see this glittering statue of the Virgin Mary from almost any angle in Marseille. No matter which street you are on, as long as you are in the right direction, you can see the statue on top of the cathedral, and the cathedral has thus become a symbol of Marseille.

Entering from the main gate of the church, the first thing you see is the monks' dormitory, which houses about 30 monks. These monks spend their entire lives practicing here, starting their first prayer at 2 a.m. every day, and returning to the dormitory for evening prayers in the afternoon. Going down the stairs on the east side, you will enter the church, where you will see many model ships praying for safe sailing, and traces of bullets from the exchange of fire between the German army and the Allied forces during World War II still remain on the walls.

### **Vieux Port and city tour**

2,600 years ago, Greek sailors discovered a seaport on the coast of today's France - the Lachidon Seaport, the Old Port of Marseille, and this is the earliest origin of Marseille, the second largest city in France and the largest seaport city. The Old Port area is the focus and essence of the entire Marseille, and it is the soul of this city that was born and prospered by the sea. If you want to know Marseille more realistically, the Old Port is the best choice for tourists from afar. Because only here can you feel the purest Marseille style. The current Old Port no longer bears the function of transporting goods. As a pier for leisure and sightseeing, it is almost all docked with leisure and sightseeing cruise ships. There are also large and small cafes and restaurants near the Old Port. The French like to drink coffee and chat with friends on the street, which is also confirmed here. There is a large Ferris wheel in the Old Port where you can sit and overlook the scenery of the Old Port.

At the easternmost end of the old port, there is a fish market every morning, just like the morning market in our country, where you can buy the freshest seafood. The crowds are bustling, it is so lively, and it also adds to the strong sea flavor of the harbor. There are also seagulls here, which will circle over the fish market from time to time. If you are not careful, the fish of the stall owner may end up in the stomach of the seagull. Some people like to see the fishing port in the early morning, and some people like to see it after dusk. Each has its own scenery, and we are not qualified to judge. But tourists at dusk will definitely not see the lively fish market scene.

Do you remember the protagonist in Alexandre Dumas's "The Count of Monte Cristo"? The Chateau d'If, located near the Old Port of Marseille, is a prison. The most famous prisoner here is Edmond Dantès in "The Count of Monte Cristo". Although the novel is fictional, it is indeed a place where political prisoners are imprisoned. A passage was deliberately dug here according to the description of the novel. Friends who have read the book can come here to find the footprints of the Count of Monte Cristo. Tip: There is a boat from the Old Port to the Chateau d'If every hour, and each boat takes 20 minutes. The price is 5.5 euros for adults, 4 euros for students, and free for those under 18 years old. It is closed on January 1 and December 25 every year.

**The Longchamp Palace** in Marseille is the palace of Napoleon III. It is not big, but small and exquisite. The most important function of the palace is a water tower. The overall architectural style integrates Baroque, Roman and Oriental architecture. The sculpture in the middle is the river god. The maids on the left and right hold grapes and wheat ears respectively, indicating that the winemaking and agriculture here are booming. The bull sculpture below the river god sculpture highlights the prosperity of the local bullfighting culture and animal husbandry. Does this prove the old saying that art comes from life? There is a museum on each side of the corridor, namely the History Museum of Marseille and the Fine Arts Museum. Interested friends can go and have a look.

# Cannes

Parking spot	Bus: Prom. de la Pantiero , 06400 Cannes near Gare Maritime ( near the snack bar ) Car: Parking Laubeuf (Cannes): Quai Laubeuf , 06400 Cannes (2.1M) Parking Pantiero , Prom. de la Pantiero , 06400 Cannes		
Latitude and longitude		Equivalent to China ...	
Area (square kilometers):	19.64	Population ('000 ):	70
City status	It is a town in southern France, located in the Cote d'Azur region of the Alpes-Maritimes department, close to the Mediterranean Sea, and is the capital of the Alpes-Maritimes department. With blue water, mild climate and bright sunshine, it is known as one of the three major tourist centers in southern Europe, along with Nice and Monte Carlo.		
Origin of the name			
Basic historical information	In the 5th century AD, Cannes was controlled by the Monastery of the Island of Reims, and it was not until 1530 that it was freed from the control of the monks. In 1834 , British Lord Henry Peter Brougham passed through the French Riviera in the south to Italy for vacation. Unfortunately, due to the cholera epidemic, the border was blocked and he had to stay in Cannes, which was just a fishing village at the time. During his stay, he was pleasantly surprised to find that the scenery here was rich and beautiful, so he decided to build his own villa. His decision aroused widespread curiosity among the European upper class. Hugo, Picasso, and even Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom came here. Since then, Cannes has gradually become the first choice for winter vacations in Europe because of its pleasant climate. The upper class from Europe and all over the world competed with each other in Cannes, and gradually promoted the development of Cannes.		
City logo	Cannes holds the Acacia Festival in February every year (Note: an economic flower that is abundant in the local area, representing trust), the International Film Festival in May , and the International Regatta Festival, the International Music Record Festival, the Mimosa Festival, etc. There are always large-scale events in Cannes all year round. Among them, Cannes is world-famous for its two-week International Film Festival in May every year. In addition, Cannes also holds celebrations such as the International Games Festival and the Cannes Shopping Festival .		
Culture, famous people			
Main Specialties			
other			

**The Cannes International Film Festival** is one of the world's largest and most important film festivals, and one of the world's four major film festivals. It was founded in 1939 by France to counter the Venice International Film Festival, which was then controlled by the Italian fascist regime. It is held once a year for about two weeks. It is held in May every year . The highest award of the Cannes International Film Festival is the "Golden Palm Award", which is equivalent to the "Best Picture" in the Oscars. The trophy is a golden palm branch - derived from the palm trees that can be seen everywhere on the local beaches in Cannes.

**The world's four major film festivals:**

The four most important film awards in the international film industry are: France's Cannes International Film Festival, Germany's Berlin International Film Festival, Italy's Venice International Film Festival and the United States' Academy Awards.

The Cannes International Film Festival was founded in 1939. It is called the 3S Film Festival because of its location, which has three major features: sea, beauty and sunshine (Sea , Sex , Sun) . Currently, the Cannes Film Festival is scheduled to be held in mid-May every year for about 12 days, usually opening on Wednesdays and closing on Sundays of the following weeks. In addition to the film competition, the market exhibition is also held at the same time. The film festival is divided into six units: "Official Competition", "Directors' Fortnight", "Un Certain Regard", "Critics' Week", "New Look of French Cinema" and "Out-of-Conference Market Exhibition".

The Berlin International Film Festival was founded in 1951. The main awards are the " Golden Bear " and the " Silver Bear " . The " Golden Bear " is awarded to the best feature film, documentary, science and education film, and art film; the " Silver Bear " is awarded to the best director, actor and actress, screenwriter, music, photography, art, youth work or feature film with special achievements. In addition, there are international critics awards, special jury awards, etc. In the 1980s , 30 to 40 countries and regions participated each year, and 200 to 300 films were screened . The film festival is held once a year.

Venice International Film Festival , founded in 1932 , is the world's first international film festival, so it is called the "Father of International Film Festivals". It was founded on August 6, 1932 in Venice, a famous city in Italy. After the second session was held in 1934 , it was held every year from the end of August to the beginning of September for two weeks. It was suspended for a time from 1943 to 1945 due to the Second World War. It was resumed in 1946 after the end of the war . From 1932 to 1942 , the awards were divided into best feature film, documentary, short film, Italian film, foreign film, as well as best director, screenwriter, actor and actress, photography, music and other awards. In addition, there are special awards, comprehensive awards, "Mussolini Cup", "Biennale Cup" and so on. From 1946 to 1948 , the "Mussolini Cup" was cancelled. In 1949 , the "St. Mark Gold Lion Award", "St. Mark Silver Lion Award" and "St. Mark Bronze Lion Award" were added. The Venice Film Festival has gradually formed its own unique tradition: it focuses on film experimenters from various countries and encourages them to shoot films with novel forms and unique techniques. Even if there are some flaws, as long as they are innovative, they can be accepted by the film festival. The purpose of the film festival is "Film serves serious art". Different slogans are put forward every year, and the judging criteria are very pure: artistry.

The Academy Award, also known as the Academy Award, is awarded by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences , which was founded by Louis B. Mayer , the founder of MGM , known as the "King of Hollywood" . It was established in 1928 and is held annually in Hollywood, Los Angeles, USA, to encourage the creation and development of excellent films. It has enjoyed a high reputation for more than half a century. It is not only the most important annual event in the American film industry, but also attracts worldwide attention. The main body of the Oscar trophy is a 13.5 -inch high, 3.9 -kilogram gold-plated male statue designed by American sculptor George Stanley. According to the Oscar selection rules: the winner of an award can only receive one gold statue trophy. If two people win an award, each person should be awarded a gold statue trophy. The appearance of the Oscar is a naked man with his hands crossed in front of his chest, holding a long sword, standing on a five-ring disc. Each ring represents an important work department of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: producer, director, screenwriter, actor, technician, etc.

### **Palais des Festivals**

The Palais des Festival is located by the port. It was built in 1982 and is an important meeting place for the Cannes Film Festival. The most anticipated Palme d'Or is awarded here. The Palais des Festival can accommodate 30,000 people. The main hall of the palace has 2,300 seats and excellent sound. There is also a large theater with 1,000 seats and 14 halls with 35 to 300 seats. The palace can also be used for various national conferences, with first-class sound. In addition to being the official venue of the film festival, there are also casinos, nightclubs and many conference halls. The largest tourist service center in Cannes is on the first floor of the Palais des Festivals. The Palais des Festivals has a rich program and is filled with a joyful atmosphere all year round. The program includes concerts, dramas, exhibitions, dance performances and various sports activities.

### **Boulevard ed la Croisette in Cannes**

The Avenue of Stars is one of the must-see attractions in Cannes. It is located next to the Palais des Festivals. You can see the handprints of many stars on the sidewalk here, and now there are more than 300. Many movie lovers and tourists come here to

see the handprints, which can be found in the Pompidou Square and the garden outside the Film Palace.

The handprints are mainly distributed: from the red carpet steps of the Film Palace to the sidewalk of the casino, and in the garden.

First, climb to the commanding heights of the old town of Cannes to overlook the entire port . The port is one of the most lively places in Cannes . The wolffish and firefish sold in the restaurants here are the freshest. Old-fashioned schooners and modern yachts are often moored side by side in the port. The Pierre Wharf was built in 1838 and is the oldest part of the Old Port. Every September, the sailboats of the Royal Regatta will set off from this port.

### **The Castres Museum**

The Castres Museum is located on the top of the hill in the old town of Cannes. It was originally a monastery. The tower of this medieval monastery is the highest point of Cannes' buildings. The Castres Museum houses many rare treasures, including donations from the famous 19th-century traveler Baron Leclama. The exhibits are all-encompassing. At the entrance is the musical instrument showroom, which has musical instruments from all over the world, most of which are indigenous drums, pianos, flutes, etc. There is also a collection of long Tibetan trumpet-shaped instruments. Pressing the button next to the instrument will play the tone of the instrument, which is very magical.

### **Palais Bulles**

Théoule -sur-Mer, southwest of Cannes , on a steep hill beside the bay. It was built between 1975 and 1989 and designed by Hungarian architect Antti Lovag (b.1920). It is the private villa of fashion designer Pierre Cardin . It adopts an irregular bubble shape, and the surrounding terrain and buildings were fully considered in the design, which has a strong visual impact.

### **Sainte -Marguerite Island**

Sainte-Marguerite Island is located in the Mediterranean Sea not far from Cannes in the south. It was once a place for exiling prostitutes in the Middle Ages. The famous French writer Alexandre Dumas wrote in "La Dame aux Camélias": "Unfortunately, father, the Sainte-Marguerite Island where prostitutes were exiled no longer exists, and even if it still exists, if you can send her there, I will go with Miss Gautier..."

The whole island of Sainte-Marguerite is planted with pine trees, and the crisscrossing tree-lined avenues closely connect the island. These straight roads and the towering pine trees on both sides form a special landscape. In late spring and early summer, jasmine and gardenia exude a faint fragrance, and the sound of birds can be heard at any time in the pine bushes beside the road. This small island is a weekend resort in Cannes. You can take a ferry at any time to get away from the hustle and bustle and come here to steal half a day of leisure.

### **Fort Royal - Marine Museum**

The Royal Fort is located on the north shore of Île Sainte-Marguerite, southeast of Cannes. This fortress built on a steep hill was built in the 17th century, and now part of it has become the Mediterranean Oceanographic Museum. From the left gate, you can reach the National Prison built by Louis XIV. The exhibits in the museum and the shipwrecks on the shore have gone through vicissitudes of life, telling people their history.

There is a mysterious legend about this fortress, that is, the Sun King Louis XIV once imprisoned his twin brother here for 11 years, and later moved the prison to Paris. The prison cell at that time is still preserved in the fortress on the island, and the introduction staff also vividly explained the living conditions of the famous Iron Mask (Masque de Fer) at that time. The Iron Mask has become an immortal image in Alexandre Dumas' novel "Le Vicomte de Bragelonne " and the 1998 movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio , but his (her) identity remains a mystery.

### **Villa Rothschild**

Located in the villa area west of Cannes, the Rothschild Villa is the property of a wealthy baroness. It was occupied by the

German army during World War II and a library was built there after the war. The villa is surrounded by palm trees and exudes a strong subtropical atmosphere.

1 Av. Ephrussi de Rothschild, 06230 Saint-Jean-Cap- Ferrat

## Antibes

Bus Stops	Car: Parking Q-Park Antibes Pré -des- Pêcheurs - Port Vauban, 20 Avenue de Verdun, 06600 Antibes(1.9M) Parking Port Vauban, Avenue de Verdun, 06600 Antibes		
Latitude and longitude		Equivalent to China ...	
Area (square kilometers):	26.48	Population ('000 ):	75
City status			
Origin of the name			
Basic historical information			
City logo			
Culture, famous people			
Main Specialties			
other			

This well-preserved town is surrounded by city walls, with many shops and restaurants on both sides of the cobblestone road. The Provence Market in the city is a famous fresh food market. There are free public toilets opposite the market.

### Picasso Museum in Antibes

The Grimaldi family lived in the castle until the early 17th century. In 1925 , the city of Antibes bought the castle and converted it into a history and archaeology museum. It was not until 1966 that it was renamed the Picasso Museum, becoming the first museum to be built for an artist during his lifetime.

During his stay in Antibes, Picasso completed many works (paintings, drawings, tapestries, ceramics): this series, donated by Picasso to the city of Antibes, forms part of the museum's collection. It was subsequently supplemented by numerous donations and purchases by the city of Antibes.

### Nomade Sculpture

Spanish contemporary artist Jaume Plensa , whose sculpture of the same name is also displayed elsewhere, expresses the theme of "water and sustainable development". There is a beach near the city wall.

### Famous seafood restaurant Restaurant Chez Mô (Albert 1er) et Poissonnerie

46 Bd Albert 1er, 06600 Antibes

### Antibes seaside walk

Parking: Par king Chem. de la Garoupe , 06160 Antibes

Go along the coast for about 7 km and walk back to SPAR supermarket 1212 Bd de la Garoupe , 06600 Antibes

# Nice

Bus Stops	Bus : Avenue de Verdun, 06000 Nice, France (near Promenade des Anglais) Car: Interparking , 103 Quai des Etats -Unis, 06300 Nice (2.10M)		
Latitude and longitude		Equivalent to China ...	
Area (square kilometers):	71.92	Population ('000):	344
City status	<p>A city on the Mediterranean coast in southern France, it is the fifth largest city in France. It is the capital of the Alpes Maritime ( Province 06 ) in the Région Provence Alpes Côte d' Azur region . It is the second largest tourist city in France after Paris and the most attractive seaside resort in Europe.</p> <p>Nice is warm all year round, with its sacred ancient Roman culture and history and exotic Mediterranean cuisine. It is a holiday paradise in the eyes of the French. The number of tourists coming to Nice every year is 150 times more than the local resident population, and many people choose to come to Nice to spend their old age. After more than 100 years of French rule, French culture such as French language and French cuisine has also been integrated into the city of Nice, creating a unique landscape.</p>		
Origin of the name			
Basic historical information	<p>Nice has a long history, with human activity dating back about 400,000 years. The city of Nice was built around 350 BC and soon became one of the busiest trading posts on the Ligurian coast. In the Middle Ages, Nice, like most Italian cities, suffered from the ravages of war. As an ally of Pisa, it was an enemy of Genoa, and both France and the Roman Empire wanted to conquer it. In the 13th and 14th centuries, Nice became the territory of the Duke of Provence several times. In 1388 , it became the territory of the Duke of Savoy. In 1543 , France acquired ownership of Nice. In 1600 , Nice fell into the hands of the Duke of Guise . Then in 1696 , Nice was once again occupied by the Duke of Savoy. It was recaptured by France in 1705. In the next two hundred years, Nice kept changing owners. Until 1860 , Nice was still the western border of the Kingdom of Sardinia. In 1861 , in order to win the support of French Emperor Napoleon III in the war against the Austrian Empire, the Prime Minister of Sardinia, Count Cavour, ceded the two territories of Savoy and Nice to France. Nice became a French territory until today.</p>		
City logo			
Culture, famous people			
Main Specialties			
other			

Nice is the second largest city on the Mediterranean coast of France and the capital of the Alpes-Maritimes department under the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region of France. It is located at the beginning of the western end of the Alps, so this coastal area already presents a geographical landscape surrounded by mountains. Nice is only about 13 kilometers away from the Principality of Monaco and about 30 kilometers away from the border between France and Italy.

According to the 2021 census, the city's population is 348,085, making Nice the fifth largest city in France after Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Toulouse. If the scope is expanded to the Nice metropolitan area, the total population is as high as 955,154, which is



the seventh largest urban cluster in France.

was founded by Greek colonists around 350 BC and named Nikea ( Νίκ αα ) , which symbolizes Nike , the goddess of victory in ancient Greek mythology . In the classical period and the early Middle Ages, Nice was constantly ruled by different small countries, and from 1388 to 1792 it was within the territory of the Duchy of Savoy . Nice was incorporated into the First French Republic shortly after the French Revolution. The Duchy of Savoy is located in what is now southeastern France, northwest Italy and Switzerland, and has existed for hundreds of years in history. It was not until 1847 in modern times that it withdrew from the stage of history.

Nice's natural environment and mild Mediterranean climate have attracted many celebrities and nobles throughout history. For example, British nobles have chosen Nice to escape the cold winter in the UK since the late 18th century. The city's seaside promenade was also named the Promenade des Anglais in 1931 to commemorate the British who have vacationed here for more than 200 years, including Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom, her son Edward VII, and Henry Cavendish, a British scientist who discovered the element hydrogen. In addition to the British, the Russians, who also suffer from the severe winter, also regard Nice as their treasured place for wintering. Many Russian nobles also regard Nice as their important second home and spend a long time here. Prince Nicholas Alexandrovich , Tsesarevich of Russia , died in Nice in 1865; Princess Catherine Dolgorukova, mistress and second wife of Tsar Alexander II of Russia, died in Nice in February 1922 and was buried here forever.

Thanks to Nice's mild climate and its beautiful scenery that combines the Mediterranean and the Alps, it is a very important holiday resort for the aristocracy in European history. It is also for this reason that UNESCO listed the entire city of Nice on the World Cultural Heritage List in 2021. It has the second largest number of hotels in France and is the second most visited city in France after overseas territories. Up to 4 million tourists come here for vacation every year. Nice has the busiest airport in France except for the two airports in Paris.

#### Promenade des Anglais

In 1820, in the early 19th century, British nobles went south from England to Nice, where the climate was relatively warm, to spend the winter, just like they had done decades earlier. But that winter was unusually cold, which attracted some beggars from northern France to Nice. The British nobles on vacation suddenly thought that instead of letting them beg on the street, they could give them a job, which was to let the beggars who came to Nice that winter build a seaside promenade along the bay near the city of Nice. Later, this seaside promenade funded by the Church of England was called the English Way ( Camin deis The bay surrounded by this pedestrian street is named Baie des Anges .

Below this seaside pedestrian street is one of the most crowded places in Nice. The public pebble beach, which stretches for more than 7 kilometers, is a must-visit place for all tourists and local residents who come to Nice. The warm current brought by the Mediterranean gently hits the coast, and the moist sea breeze makes tourists feel very comfortable.

This aristocratic resort for hundreds of years was once shocked by a terrorist attack . nationale On Bastille Day, known in English-speaking countries as Bastille Day, an Islamic extremist from Tunisia drove a truck deliberately into a crowd of revelers on the Corniche, killing 86 people and injuring 434, one of the worst terrorist attacks in French history.

#### Tour Bellanda

The Belanda Tower is located on the hill east of the Corniche. It was originally a medieval defense tower, but it was destroyed during the reign of Louis XIV and converted into a belvedere in 1825. Louis-Hector Berlioz, a famous French composer in the 19th century, wrote the prelude to King Lear in this small tower.

There are a lot of British tourists on this platform, and in fact there are a lot of British tourists in Nice. From the 18th century to the 21st century, the British have been the largest group of tourists in Nice for nearly 300 years. They love Nice so much. Here we can see that the first batch of older houses are actually some distance away from the sea. This is because the British nobles who

came here in the 18th century had no interest in the sea, but just liked the winter temperature here.

The Belanda Tower is one of the best viewing spots in Nice, and there is a free elevator directly below the Promenade des Anglais. I found the elevator only after I walked up the stairs. The elevator entrance is easy to miss because it is hidden inside the cave. But it is easy to identify because during the peak tourist season, the queue for the elevator usually stretches from inside the cave to outside.

### **Colline du Château**

The Castle of Nice (French: Château de Nice) existed from the 11th to the 18th century. In 1705, the Castle of Nice was occupied by the French army. In 1706, the Castle of Nice was demolished by order of Louis XIV. Now the Castle of Nice is a park that attracts many tourists. The Castle of Nice is also one of the famous places to overlook the Bay of Nice. Starting from the Place Garibaldi, you can take the elevator or reach it through the Lesage Steps (l'escalier Lesage, located at the end of the American Riverside Avenue Quai des Etats-Unis). Continue to walk up the stairs to the highest point, which is the Castle Hill Park. In other words, the Bella Da Tower is just a midpoint from the seaside promenade below to the top of the Castle Hill. From the top of the mountain, you can clearly see the Nice Airport built on reclaimed land at the other end of the seaside promenade.

On the other side of the Castle Hill is the Nice Marina (Port de Nice Lympia), which is filled with private yachts of the rich.

Standing on the top of Castle Hill, you can have a panoramic view of the topography of the Nice coast. The starting point of the western end of the Alps begins to appear as steep peaks here, with residential houses scattered among them.

### **Nice Old Town Vieille Ville**

Located at the foot of the Castle Hill, the Old Town of Nice consists of historic apartments along narrow streets. Below the apartment buildings are a variety of business shops, such as restaurants, local artists' studios, handicraft shops, Provencal spice shops and jewelry shops.

The architecture of the old city is extremely Mediterranean, completely different from traditional French architecture, and most of the buildings are decorated with bright desert yellow exterior walls. The layout of the entire city has not changed much since 1700, and it has not been bombed by large-scale wars, maintaining a strong Mediterranean cultural style.

In summer, many squares are filled with stalls selling seafood, vegetables and fruits, and local agricultural product markets are scattered across the open spaces.

Although the streets are intricately divided by dense buildings, a large number of tourists still fill the streets and alleys effortlessly. Each road has a different angle of view, commercial activities are quite frequent, and the entire old city has been full of vitality and vigor for hundreds of years.

### **Statue of the Goddess of Armenia and Carlo Alberto, Monument du Centenaire**

the 19th century to commemorate the annexation of Nice to France.

### **Palace of the Dukes of Savoy**

It is a historic building in Nice, now the Palais de la Préfecture des Alpes-Maritimes. Located in the old town of Nice, on Place Pierre Gautier, it was built in 1550 and completed in the 20th century. The Duke of Savoy lived here from 1610 to 1860. Vittorio Amadeus II ascended the throne as King of Sardinia here. It was listed as a French historical monument in 1996.

### **Cathedral of Sainte - Reparata in Nice**

It is the cathedral of Nice, dedicated to Saint Reparata, the patron saint of Nice, and has the Bosso organ. Both the exterior and interior of the building are Baroque.

### **Place Masséna**

Place Massena was originally two squares: Place Carlo Alberto, a semicircular, neoclassical square built between 1820 and 1830 , along the edge of Old Nice; and Place Massena itself, on the other side of the Palonge River, built between 1840 and 1852 in 18th century style .

Because of its strategic location and excellent natural docks, Nice has been a stronghold with strong maritime power since the Middle Ages. In the 18th century, the British aristocracy's preference for small things made it a resort suitable for all seasons, and the label of Mediterranean style continues to this day. However, Nice's climate and beautiful scenery are no longer a privilege enjoyed by the aristocracy, but have become one of the favorite party venues for young people in Europe.

Marseille and Nice are the two largest cities on the southern coast of France. Tourism accounts for a very large proportion of their economies. Their unique cultural styles are very different from other parts of France.

Nice has many grand festivals every year, such as the Flower Festival, Hat Festival, May Festival, etc., and the Nice Carnaval Carnival is the most attractive one. The Carnival in Nice is more lively than the summer seaside. In February and March every year, there are nearly three weeks of carnival activities, including float parades, fireworks, masquerade and other series of activities. At that time, the whole city is full of flying flowers and falling petals, which is very lively. On weekdays, Nice is also a world of flowers. The balconies of buildings are decorated with all kinds of beautiful flowers. Many houses in the streets and alleys seem to be drowned in flowers, like a fairy tale world.

### **Eze**

Car: 6 Place du Général de Gaulle, 06360 Èze or free parking at Florence

Bus: Fragonard Riviéra , 7 Avenue du Jardin Exotique , 06360 Èze

The houses in the village are built on steep cliffs, which is very similar to the way eagles build their nests, so it is also called the Eagle's Nest Village. The village on the top of the high hill is surrounded by a wall to prevent foreign invasion. This is a unique form of fortress village in the area, and it is still well preserved. Although the village is small, the roads are as complicated as a maze. The stone slabs are winding and really like a maze. From here you can overlook the beautiful scenery of the Mediterranean. It is said that Nietzsche got the inspiration to write "Thus Spoke Zarathustra" here.

### **Fragnond**

Make an appointment in advance. Get a sticker at the entrance, and the tour guide will have gifts and drinks

There is also the world's first perfume factory here, and big brands such as Chanel have commissioned perfume production here. There are many small shops selling handmade soaps, essential oils and perfumes in and around the town, and you can buy some as souvenirs to take home and give to others.

### **Menton**

Car: Parking Old Town – Sablettes , Pl. Fontana, 06500 Menton 2 M entrance is inside the roundabout and easy to miss

The old town of Menton was built by medieval pirates and was a territory of the Kingdom of Genoa. From 1346 to 1848 , Menton was controlled by the Grimaldi family (who later became the rulers of Monaco). During this period, Napoleon assigned Menton to France, and later it was transferred to other kingdoms several times, and finally returned to France in 1860. Now Menton is a popular resort town in the Cote d'Azur region, and the old town buildings are full of Italian style.

This small town with a population of less than 30,000 is the largest producer of lemons in Europe. Menton has an average of 355 days of sunshine throughout the year. The unique climate conditions make it a rich place for lemons and citrus fruits, and flowers and plants along the Mediterranean coast can be seen everywhere. There is also the "Menton Lemon Festival" in February every year. There are several large-scale art installations decorated with hundreds of tons of lemons on the streets, attracting more

than 500,000 people to come and make pilgrimages.

The Basilique Saint -Michel Archange de Menton is made of 250,000 pebbles and has a Baroque interior.

Yellow steps Escaliers, Rpe Saint-Michel, 06500 Menton Descending from St. Michel Cathedral

Point de vue du Port , 12 Bd de Garavan , 06500 Menton

The most famous local lemon jam shop is Maison Herbin , 2 Rue du Vieux Collège , 06500 Menton

## Monaco

Parking:	Car & Bus: Parking du Chemin des Pêcheurs , 4 Av. Saint-Martin, 98000 Monaco Car: Parking Place d'Armes , 9 rue, 7 Rue Terrazzani , 98000 Monaco. You have to queue if you go late. Parking Quai Antoine 1er is too narrow and easy to bump into, try to avoid Montecarlo Check Point : 95 Boulevard du Jardin Exotique , 98000 Monaco, (EUR160) Then ask for a map to the parking lot at the payment counter.		
Full Name:	Principality of Monaco	capital:	Monaco
Area (square kilometers):	2.02	Population ( ' 000 ):	37
Location	It is a city-state in Europe and the second smallest country in the world (after Vatican City). Monaco is located in the south of France. Except for the southern coastline along the Mediterranean Sea, the entire territory is surrounded by France on the north, west and east. It is mainly composed of the old city of Monaco and the surrounding areas that were built later.		
National flag, national anthem, national flower			
history	The name of Monaco comes from Monoikos , a Greek colony established by the Phocians from the Phocaea region of Greece in the 6th century BC . According to Greek mythology, Hercules once passed through here, so the Phocians built a temple here to worship Hercules, called " Monoikos ". "(Greek: Μονοϊκό, meaning a single house or temple), and gradually turned into the place name of this place.  Monaco has a long history. In ancient times, Ligurians, Phoenicians and Carthaginians lived here successively. Later, the Phoenicians built a castle here. In the Middle Ages, it became a town under the protection of the Republic of Genoa. In 1297 , the Grimaldi family seized the Monaco Castle, and began the family's intermittent rule over Monaco for 700 years. The prototype of the principality was formed in the 14th century, and it became an independent principality in 1338. In 1525 , it was protected by Spain. On September 14 , 1641 , Monaco signed a treaty with France to drive out the Spaniards . In 1793 , Monaco was incorporated into France and allied with France. In 1860 , it was again under the protection of France. In 1861 , it signed an agreement with France, and France recognized the		

	independence of Monaco. In 1911 , Monaco promulgated a constitution to become a constitutional monarchy. France was responsible for guaranteeing Monaco's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity; the Prince of Monaco promised to exercise sovereignty on the premise of fully respecting France's political, economic, maritime and military interests.
Political system	
economy	Monaco has a developed economy, mainly based on gambling, tourism and banking. The system of not paying income tax has attracted a large number of wealthy tax-avoiding immigrants from other European countries.
Nationality, language, religion	
Culture, famous people	
Main Specialties	

### **The Prince's Palace of Monaco**

Known as the guardian of Monaco's centuries-old tradition, the Royal Palace is located in a unique location. It was once a military fortress built by the Genoese in 1215. The Royal Palace of Monaco consists of two parts, one half is the private residence and office of the royal family, and the other half is a museum. It is open to tourists from June to October every year . Visiting the Royal Palace is like taking a tour across several centuries from the medieval pope period to the Napoleonic Wars.

The Royal Palace Square is surrounded by artillery batteries built during the Louis XIV era. From the square (northeast side), you can see the Monte Carlo Harbor and Cape Botticella in Italy. From the southwest side, you can see the scenery of the Fonville District and Cape Garlic. Every day at 11:55, the guard changing ceremony is held at the Royal Palace Square.

The statue on the right side of the palace gate is François Grimaldi, the first leader of the independence movement in Monaco's history. He was a Guelph and Ghibelline of the Republic of Genoa. On the night of January 8 , 1297 , he disguised himself as a Franciscan priest, hid a sword in his robe, sneaked into the Monaco Castle, and began his family 's 700 -year intermittent rule over Monaco. The prototype of the principality was formed in the 14th century, and it became an independent principality in 1338. His family, the Grimaldi family, is still the ruler of Monaco today.

### **Monaco Cathedral**

Monaco Cathedral was built in 1875 in the Roman - Byzantine style that was popular at the time . Its value is particularly reflected in its striking set of works by Nice artists before the Renaissance. Renaissance foliage and downspout elbow outlets are luxuriously decorated with Louis Br  a's St-Nicolas decorative screen behind the altar . The church is also the cemetery of the Grimaldi family of Monaco.

### **Grace Garden Roseraie Princesse Grace**

Princess Grace Rose Garden is located in Fontvieille, southwest of Monaco . Surrounded by high-rise buildings and villas, it is named in memory of Oscar-winning actress Princess Grace. There are thousands of roses planted in the garden, which bloom in season. Visitors may think of the princess's love story while enjoying the fragrance of the flowers.

### **Monte-Carlo**

It is a district of Monaco, which is larger than the capital Monaco-Ville. The name commemorates the Prince of Monaco who

opened a casino here in 1856 in order to save the economy of Monaco.

### Monte Carlo Casino

The Monte Carlo Casino was completed in 1863 and was designed by GANIER , the same designer of the Paris Opera . The interior ceiling and walls are classical and magnificent, like a luxurious palace. The origin of the Monte Carlo Casino was that in 1856 , Prince Charles III of Monaco opened the first casino in the north of the city to solve the financial crisis. In order to commemorate this extremely bad and well-received prince, later generations named the area Monte Carlo. The word Monte-Carlo comes from Italian. Since 1970 , the construction of residential houses has increased year by year to solve the problem of the small land area in Monte Carlo. To a certain extent, the project has destroyed the scenery of Monte Carlo.

1967 , the casino was taken over by the government. By the end of the last century, the annual revenue exceeded 40 million French francs. The casino is clearly divided into different areas. The slot machines are located in the Salle Blanche and the roulette wheel is located in the Salle Europe . Although you can buy a ticket to visit the area with the strictest gambling restrictions, only the rich can place bets. The casino is surrounded by gardens, and you can enjoy the beautiful scenery of Monaco from any corner of the garden.

In the square outside the casino, there is the Paris Hotel on the left, the Paris Café on the right, and in front is an expensive brand-name clothing store. In fact, shopping in Monte Carlo is several times more expensive than other places, but perhaps because lucky gamblers are likely to spend a lot of money here, there are still many consumers coming to shop.

Slot machine porch, open daily from 2pm. No tickets required : Must be 18 years old or older

Whitehall opens at 2pm every day. In the game room: appropriate dress code is required; no entry for those wearing shorts or slippers

### Monte Carlo Circuit:

Whether it is the World Rally or the Formula One Championship, the Monte Carlo Circuit in Monaco is an important stop. This track has hardly changed in the past half century, and drivers have both love and hate for it. The Monaco Grand Prix, with a single lap length of only 3.367 kilometers and a total of 78 laps, is characterized by a narrow track, many bends, and difficulty in overtaking, which places higher demands on the driver's skills. A small mistake may cause the driver to hit the guardrail and finish early, so only the top drivers can win here, and drivers also regard winning the Monaco Champions Cup as a lifelong wish. When Schumacher won the championship here in 1999 , his average speed was only 147.354 kilometers per hour. In 1997 , he was the first to cross the finish line in a downpour. The average speed was only 106.937 kilometers per hour. The slower speed means more gear changes, and the driver has to change gears more than 3,000 times on average in this race . This race is also a huge test for the braking system and the driver's control of the car. Driving a powerful F1 car through narrow streets 78 times to complete this race is indeed an exciting challenge for the driver. No wonder some people call the Monaco Grand Prix the "crown jewel" of F1 , and the drivers who win the championship here will inadvertently be "higher" by the fans.

## Strasbourg

Pick-up and drop-off points:

Bus Stops	Notre-Dame Cathedral: 9 Quai Saint-Nicolas, 67000 Strasbourg, France or 17 Pl. Henri Dunant, 67000 Strasbourg, France  The above parking spaces must be applied for by fax or email three days in advance at the Centre Administrative Ville de Strasbourg
-----------	--

	<p>Service Réglementation de la circulation, 1 Parc de l'Etoile , 67076 STRASBOURG CEDEX</p> <p>Tel: + 33 (0)3 68 98 56 75</p> <p>Fax: + 33 (0)3 68 98 56 75</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:reglementationdelacirculation@strasbourg.eu">reglementationdelacirculation@strasbourg.eu</a></p> <p>Otherwise you can only stop at Gare Routière Eurolines Isilines Flixbus Megabus</p> <p>Parc de l'Étoile , 67100 Strasbourg, France</p> <p>Car: Parking Indigo, 24-26 Rue du Fossé -des- Tanneurs , 67000 Strasbourg, France ( 2M )</p>		
Latitude and longitude		Equivalent to China ...	
Area (square kilometers):	224	Population ('000 ):	276
City status	<p>It is the capital of the Grand Est region and the Bas-Rhin department of France, located at the eastern end of France, across the Rhine River from the German state of Baden - Württemberg. It is the ninth most populous city in France.</p> <p>Historically, the sovereignty of this place has been alternately held by Germany and France for many times, so it has both French and German characteristics in terms of language and culture, and is the intersection of these two different cultures. German and French cultural celebrities such as Gutenberg, Calvin, Goethe, Mozart, and Pasteur have all lived in Strasbourg. As a World Heritage project, the city's numerous medieval buildings in the Grand Island area of the old city, the riverside scenery and unique wooden structures of Petite France, and the famous Christmas market have attracted many tourists from all over Europe to visit.</p> <p>Strasbourg is also the headquarters of many international organizations and is home to many important EU institutions, including the European Commission, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Anti-Corruption Agency, the European Legion, the European Audiovisual Observatory, and the European Parliament. It is therefore known as the "second capital" of the EU. Strasbourg is the seat of the European Parliament, although it only meets four days a month in Strasbourg, while other major affairs are handled in Brussels. The Parliament Building was built in 1998 and is the largest parliamentary building in the world.</p> <p>Strasbourg is an important center for road, rail and inland waterway transportation in France and even in Western Europe. The Port of Strasbourg is the second largest port along the Rhine River, second only to Duisburg in Germany. The city is also the seat of the Central Committee of Rhine Shipping.</p>		
Origin of the name	<p>, Strasbourg was called Argentorate , which means "city by the river". The Romans continued to use this name after they occupied the area. At the end of the 5th century, the Germans rebuilt the city and named it Strateburgum , which means "city on the road". Strasbourg in German is written as Straßburg , while " Straße " means street and " Burg " means castle. In the Germanic period, Strasbourg was located on the main traffic route across the Rhine River from east to west. The current name of Strasbourg is the Frenchization of the Germanic language.</p>		
Basic historical information	<p>Because it is located on the left bank of the Rhine, a military base was established here during the Roman period. In the 12th century, Strasbourg became one of the largest cities in the Holy Roman Empire. In 1262, Strasbourg obtained the status of a free city of the empire. In 1440, Johannes Gutenberg from Mainz invented the printing press in Strasbourg. In 1520, the</p>		

	<p>Reformation spread to Strasbourg. In 1538, John Calvin, who was expelled from Geneva, came to Strasbourg and spent the three most peaceful and beautiful years of his life.</p> <p>In 1681, Strasbourg, which remained neutral during the Thirty Years' War, was annexed by King Louis XIV of France. In 1870, France was defeated and surrendered in the Franco-Prussian War provoked by Napoleon III. France ceded the Alsace -Lorraine region to the German Empire, including Strasbourg, the capital of Alsace. After the end of World War I, Strasbourg returned to France. In 1940 during World War II, Alsace-Lorraine was annexed by Germany. In November 1944, the Allied forces liberated Strasbourg and it returned to France (the third time in history).</p> <p>In 1949, the European Council's headquarters was established in Strasbourg, and in 1965, the European Parliament was established in Strasbourg.</p>
City logo	
Culture, famous people	
Main Specialties	
other	<p>In middle school, there was a text called "The Last Lesson", written by French novelist Daudet. The last lesson was about the Franco-Prussian War, when France was defeated and ceded the Alsace-Lorraine region to Prussia and Germany. Schools were no longer allowed to teach French and could only teach German. French and German are both spoken in Strasbourg now. It is said that in history, many families had the flags of two countries, and whoever came would hang the flag of whichever country.</p>

### Grande île

The historic center of Strasbourg. Located on a large island surrounded by two tributaries of the River Ill, this area has a large number of exquisite buildings since the Middle Ages, including the Strasbourg Cathedral and the Petite France. It was listed as a World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 1988, which was the first time that the entire downtown area of a city was awarded this honor. The winding streets, beautiful squares and magnificent churches in the old town are a paradise for those who wander aimlessly.

**The covered bridges** are an extension of the Petite France district. Although their foundations are gone, their name has been preserved. The covered bridges are mainly composed of four 14th- century castles and the remains of the defensive walls that tightly guarded the independence of the Republic of Strasbourg. In 1681 , soon after Strasbourg joined France, Vauban built a new link to strengthen the relationship.

**The Vauban Dam** was built between 1686 and 1690. It was named after its designer, French Marshal and military engineer Sebastian Vauban. Inside the dam is a passage bridge connecting the two banks of the Ill River, and there is a viewing platform on the top. The dam has 13 arches and is equipped with sluice gates that can be raised and lowered to regulate the amount of water. During the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, the sluice gates were closed to allow flooding upstream to block the attack of the Prussian army. Of course, France was defeated in the end, the German Empire was established, and the Alsace-Lorraine region where Strasbourg is located was ceded to Prussia.

### Petite France

The place name is related to syphilis. In the Middle Ages, this area was mainly dominated by leather processing factories and mills, and the residents were mostly poor people such as leather workers, executioners, prostitutes and fishermen, so most of the houses were simple wooden buildings. In 1495, the French army brought back a new virus "syphilis" from Naples, which was said to have been brought back to Europe from South America not long ago by Columbus. The King of France left the soldiers with syphilis in a place called Finkwiller in Strasbourg , not far to the south of the Big Island. The locals called it "the evil French",



also known as "Little France". In fact, it was a derogatory name, because syphilis was called "French disease" in Europe at that time. In 1687, the syphilis shelter was moved from Finkwiller to the current Little France area, and the name was brought here.

Petite France is also known as "Little Venice". The Ill River branches into many canals there, and the small area it passes through is full of medieval wooden truss houses and Baroque-style sandstone buildings. When you come to Petite France, you will find alleys, canals and sluices crisscrossing here. The fairy-tale-like wooden houses retain the characteristics of the Alsace region. You can also go to the platform on the Barrage Vauban dam to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Ill River.

**Église Saint-Thomas is the main** Protestant church in Strasbourg . After the city was annexed to France in 1681 , the Cathedral of Strasbourg returned to the Catholic Church. Its nickname is "Protestant Cathedral" or "Old Lady". It is the only hall-style church in Alsace. The building is located on the "Route Roman de Alsace". In 1862 , it was listed as a national historic monument by the French Ministry of Culture. Most of the building was destroyed by the Allied bombing in 1944. The first pastor was Martin Bucer ( also known as Martin Bucer, 1491-1551). During the three years of Calvin's exile in Strasbourg, he studied with Martin Bucer, so Martin Bucer had a profound influence on Calvinism and even Anglicanism.

**The Old Saint-Peter Church ( Église Saint-Pierre-le-Vieux )** is a group of ecclesiastical buildings in Strasbourg, France, including a Catholic church and a Protestant church. The Protestant church was declared a French historical monument on December 18 , 1981. Many historians believe that this church was the first cathedral of Strasbourg. However, the church was first mentioned in records in 1130. It was built on an important Roman road. The current Gothic building was built in 1382 and became a Protestant church in 1529 , one of the seven Lutheran parishes in Strasbourg . But Louis XIV turned it back to Catholicism. The rapid increase in the number of believers made the religious authorities consider building a second church. The architect Conrath was in charge of this construction ( 1867 ). The new Catholic church is perpendicular to the original church.

**Gutenberg Square** is named after Gutenberg, who lived in Strasbourg before moving to Mainz to invent movable type.

#### **Johannes Gutenberg Printing by Gutenberg ( 1400-1468)**

Gutenberg was the first European to invent movable type. Born in Mainz, he was the son of an urban noble and merchant family, but later moved to Strasbourg for political reasons. In 1450 he returned to Mainz to open a movable type printing house, where he invented the movable type printing press. He created a process for mass production of metal movable type, using a wooden printing press similar to an agricultural screw press. Gutenberg's method of making type molds involved the use of alloys and hand molds of the typeface. He used an alloy of zinc, lead, and antimony, which had a low melting point and could produce durable molds more quickly and economically. He also invented a type of ink containing ink. He combined these elements in his printing press into a very practical system that could print books in large quantities and at a very economical price.

1455 , Gutenberg printed the Gutenberg Bible. This version of the Bible consists of two volumes, 1,282 pages, and 42 lines on each page, so it is called the 42- line Bible. Gutenberg completed the printing with the help of about 20 assistants, using more than 290 different type molds. The Bible is beautifully printed, and its aesthetics can rival that of handwritten books that take a lot of time and effort, and the price is much cheaper than handwritten Bibles. In 1462 , Gutenberg was exiled, and the workers of his printing house also drifted around, which led to the widespread spread of movable type printing in Western Europe.

Gutenberg's printing press made printing very cheap, and the speed of printing was greatly increased, and the printing volume increased. In 50 years, 30,000 printed materials, totaling more than 12 million copies, were printed using this new method. It greatly reduced illiteracy in Europe. Printing spread rapidly in Europe and was seen as playing an important role in the subsequent European Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment and Scientific Revolution, laying the material foundation for the modern knowledge economy and knowledge dissemination. The Gutenberg Bible enjoys a reputation for high aesthetic and technical value. Gutenberg's invention triggered a media revolution and is widely regarded as one of the most important events in modern history. Victor Hugo called printing the greatest invention in the world.

There is another saying in Europe that movable type printing was invented by Lawrence Jansson Coster from Haarlem (Netherlands) at the same time as Gutenberg, but it is much less well-known than Gutenberg. In addition, some scholars claim that movable type printing in the West originated from China, but their views are not recognized by the international academic community. The international academic community generally believes that although it is slightly later than China, movable type printing in the West is an independent invention, and the direct source of movable type printing used in later generations is Gutenberg's movable type printing. At present, there is no cultural evidence to prove that China's movable type printing has been introduced to Europe. Arab countries, which are a must-go for Sino-Western exchanges, have not found any cultural relics of Chinese movable type printing in the West. People believe that although movable type printing has appeared in China hundreds of years ago, it has not become popular, so modern movable type printing mainly comes from Gutenberg's invention. Gutenberg was four hundred years later than Bi Sheng, but Gutenberg's printing was more practical and efficient. He studied the material formula of lead type himself, which could make the font smaller. He also studied the formula of ink and used the principle of wine press on the printing press.

But one thing cannot be denied, that is, Gutenberg's printing technology is more mature in technology, and the printing speed is much faster. With continuous improvement, it has gradually developed into a modern printing press. The German printing press has become the world's recognized best printing press. Gutenberg's printing press first printed the Bible, which also provided convenient conditions for the German Reformation. If there was no printing press, the Reformation might have a different ending.

#### **Notre Dame Cathedral in Strasbourg** Notre -Dame de Strasbourg

The Cathedral of Notre Dame de Strasbourg is a Gothic church, one of the most magnificent buildings in Europe. The Cathedral of Notre Dame de Strasbourg was built in 1176 and was basically completed in 1439. The main tower is 142 meters high. It was the tallest building in the world during the 227 years from 1647 to 1874. It is now the sixth tallest church in the world. Due to funding issues, only one of the two symmetrical towers was built, and only a platform remained on the other side, which has now become its unique feature. The stone of the church is pink sandstone from the Vosges Mountains more than 20 kilometers away. Due to years of erosion, many of them have turned black. French writer Hugo once described the Cathedral of Strasbourg as "a combination of hugeness and slenderness, which is amazing." The Gothic style is fully interpreted in the momentum of the church tower and the mysterious atmosphere of the wall relief. Its religious significance and artistic value have long transcended national boundaries and become a holy place for tourists from all over the world to worship and admire. The annual number of more than 8 million tourists in France is second only to Notre Dame de Paris.

The west door of the church is the most gorgeous and should not be missed. The stained glass and organ in the church are also very distinctive. The stained glass of the Virgin Mary in the middle was donated by the European Parliament in 1956 and is commonly known as the "Our Lady of Strasbourg". The large rose window was designed by the main designer of the church, Owen (also known as Owen's Rose), and has a history of 700 years. It is said that in 1539, the first recorded Christmas tree appeared in the cathedral.

11- meter-high astronomical clock in the church . Every 15 minutes, robots in the form of children, young people, middle-aged people and old people appear. But every hour, a doll of the god of death comes out to tell the time, symbolizing the cycle of life. When the clock rings at 12:30 noon , many characters will take turns to appear, bringing a lively, funny and humorous scene. The astronomical clock can also calculate leap years, solar and lunar eclipses, and various Christian festivals.

The "Angel Pillar" from 1230 is probably the oldest artifact in the church. It dates back to the period when the church was changing from Romanesque to Gothic. The figures below the pillar are the four evangelists, and above it are Jesus and several angels.

In 1792, during the French Revolution, more than 200 statues were destroyed, more than a dozen stained glass windows were smashed, and the church bells were melted down to make weapons. The cathedral was also converted into a temple of the

Supreme Worship (a revolutionary religion created by Robespierre). After removing many of the statues on the facade of the church, the radical Jacobin revolutionaries also wanted to remove the north tower, which was the tallest in the world at the time, on the grounds that it represented inequality. A witty Strasbourger suggested covering the spire with a huge red Jacobin hat to represent the revolution, and the spire was preserved. A large-scale restoration work began in 1813. Many of the sculptures seen today were remade in the 19th century.

### Palais Rohan

The Rohan Palace is a Baroque-style building named after its builder, Armand Gaston Maximilien de Rohan (1674-1749), Archbishop of Strasbourg. He was not only a cardinal, but also a fief bishop, which means that he was the highest secular leader in his diocese. His family, the Rohan family, is also an ancient noble family from Brittany. It has many branches in Europe and has close ties with the French and British royal families. The Rohan Palace was built between 1731 and 1742. Louis XV and Napoleon once lived here. From 1872 to 1898, the palace became the main building of the University of Strasbourg, and the rear palace became the site of the Strasbourg Royal Museum. It was destroyed by British and American bombs in 1944. Reconstruction was completed in the 1990s. There are now three important museums: the Archaeological Museum, the Art Decoration Museum, and the Fine Arts Museum.

**Place Kléber is named after** Jean-Baptiste Kléber ( 1753-1800 ), a general during the French Revolution . Jean -Baptiste Kléber was a capable general under Napoleon during the French Revolution and had accompanied Napoleon in the Egyptian expedition. When Napoleon left Egypt and returned to Paris, he appointed Kléber as the commander of the French army. In 1800, Kléber was assassinated by a student in Cairo. After his death, his body was transported back to France and buried in Place Kléber in Strasbourg in 1838, while his heart remained in the Invalides in Paris.

**L' Opéranational du Rhin , an opera company in eastern France that includes the Strasbourg Opera**, the Mulhouse Ballet and the Paris Opera National Ballet. Built in **1997** The "National Opera" statue reflects its importance.

If you go there in winter, the Christmas market here is quite famous and worth a visit. But be aware that as a tourist city for the French, prices are high and the public security is worse than on the other side of the river.

Tips: In ancient Europe, especially in Germany, land tax was levied based on the land area rather than the usable area, so many old houses in Germany have larger areas as they rise higher, so that a wide road looks very narrow when viewed from the sky. The old town of Strasbourg retains this style. (If you are interested, you can take a closer look)

- There is a public toilet next to Petite France at Rue Sainte-Marguerite, 67000 Strasbourg
- There are McDonald's, supermarkets, etc. near Kleber Square

## Colmar

Bus Stops	6-12 Boulevard Saint-Pierre, 68000 Colmar, France (x2) Parking bus, Reprise Bus Marché De Noel, 68000 Colmar, France		
Latitude and longitude		Equivalent to China ...	
Area (square kilometers):	66.57	Population ('000 ):	65
City status	Located in the eastern part of the Alsace region of France, it is the capital of the Haut-Rhin department ( one of the two departments in the Alsace region ) . It is a town in Alsace in eastern France that combines French and German styles. It is one of the most romantic regions and is named for its canals and flower boats. Its location and extremely suitable climate		

	conditions for grape cultivation have earned it the reputation of the Alsace Wine Capital. It is also known for the world-famous "Isenheim Altarpiece". The Tych River, a tributary of the Ill River, wades through the city.
Origin of the name	
Basic historical information	Alsace has changed hands several times between France and Germany in the past thousand years. The history of Alsace is a bloody history of the contradiction between Germany and France, and it is a microcosm of the integration of European historical social development. The ancestors of Alsace should be said to be Germanic. Before the 17th century, the Alsace region was under the rule of the Holy Roman Empire, where German was the main language. At that time, the territory of the Holy Roman Empire included the entire territory of today's Germany and some surrounding countries and regions. After the famous Thirty Years' War in Europe, Alsace actually belonged to the rule of France until the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, when France was defeated and Alsace belonged to the winning party Prussia again. After World War I, Germany was defeated and Alsace officially belonged to France. At the beginning of World War II, Nazi Germany occupied here again. With the defeat of Germany in World War II, Alsace returned to the embrace of France again, and formed the territory of the two countries with the Rhine River as the boundary today.
City logo	
Culture, famous people	Bartholdi, the author of the world-famous Statue of Liberty, was born in Colmar. There is a replica of the Statue of Liberty in the middle of the roundabout at 45 Route de Strasbourg, 68000 Colmar, France, north of the city.  let Jean Rapp (1771-1821) was a famous general during the French Revolution and under Napoleon. He was born in Colmar. The Rapp Square and its statue in Colmar commemorate this general.
Main Specialties	Alsatian cuisine: foie gras, bœckeofe ( a dish of three cured meats and potatoes cooked in white wine), the must-try choucroute , matelote du Rhin , coq au riesling , pain d' épices and Kougelhophf , as well as Munster cheese .
other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The lights are turned on at nightfall every Friday and Saturday throughout the year. The Christmas market in November and December is very famous.</li> <li>– The Chinese variety show "Chinese Restaurant" was filmed here. The restaurant is located at Place des Six- Montagnes - Noires and the house is called La Roesselmann .</li> <li>– Many scenes in Hayao Miyazaki's animated film "Howl's Moving Castle" are from Colmar.</li> </ul>

Knowing the history of Alsace, it is not difficult to understand why the architectural style here is full of strong German style, whether it is the typical timber-framed houses with central and southern German characteristics, or those Gothic churches with gorgeous spires, they are all marked with strong German labels. Many place names here have German suffixes, whether it is -heim or -burg , it is not difficult to understand the local dialect that combines the characteristics of both German and French languages, and the fluent German spoken by many locals.

The Tyrrhenian River, a tributary of the Ill River, slowly wades through the city. The spirituality of Colmar comes from the canal in the city, which meanders like a gentle ribbon wrapped around a beautiful girl. The small bridges on both ends of the canal are decorated with flowers. If you freeze the shutter at any position on the canal, it will be an incomparable fresh picture. The most essential part is "Little Venice" ( la petite venise ). The two-story wooden houses in light yellow, light blue, grass green and bright red are like a palette next to the clear river. Some people enjoy the sunshine and food in the riverside restaurant, while others take a boat to the center of the river. It is said that Little Venice is a relic of the life of fishermen and boatmen in the old days.

After the fishermen caught fish in the lake outside Colmar, they transported them back to the city for sale. The reason why Little Venice is so beautiful is that many gardeners and florists also use this river to transport flowers. Since you live here, you can't help but plant flowers and plants on the terrace.

Venice is really a deified term. Any place with water will be related to Venice. Bamberg has "Little Venice", Amsterdam is "Venice of the North", Hamburg is "Venice of North Germany", Annecy is "Venice of the Alps". However, this "Little Venice" of Colmar is really quite interesting. A popular tourist route in the town is the canal line. Take a walk along the canal and experience the fairy side of the town.

in Colmar, built in the 17th and 18th centuries, are the essence of the city. The crooked houses, the criss-crossing wooden supports, and the cute slanted spires, all these German architectural features make you feel like you are in a familiar town in Germany.

### **Collégiale St - Martin**

Gothic church built in the 13th and 14th centuries. The cloister here is simple and elegant, and the copper spire was built in 1572 .

### **Dominican Church    Eglise des Dominicains**

The Dominican Church is an exquisite Gothic building with stained glass dating back to the 14th and 15th centuries. On the front of the church is the Madonna of the Roses (La Vierge au Buisson de Roses) created by local painter Schongauer in 1473 , which was stolen a year and a half ago.

Opening hours: Late March to December 10:00-13:00 & 15:00-18: 00

### **Maison Pfister**

The Pfister House is located next to Rue des Marchands and was built in 1537. The exterior decoration of this building is very gorgeous. It is hard to imagine how the skilled craftsmen at that time carved the exquisite bas-relief paintings, ingeniously designed bay windows and wooden balconies. There is a statue of a merchant on the building next to it, Rue des Marchands 9. The Pfister House is a symbol of Colmar and one of the most beautiful houses preserved to this day.

### **Maison des Têtes**

Tate House was built in 1609 and used to be the residence of local leaders. Inside the building there is a beautifully decorated arcade with 106 stone carved faces of various shapes and animal heads on both sides.

### **Petite Venise**

Little Venice is a special area of Colmar with its beautiful river views. This area is sometimes called Quartier de la Krutenau . The best viewing point is the Pont rue de Turenne .

### **Bartholdi Museum**

Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi (1834-1904) is a local sculptor from Colmar with international reputation. The Statue of Liberty in New York is his most famous work. The Bartholdi Museum is located in the house where he was born. It exhibits some sculptures, models, the luxurious apartment where the artist lived, and Jewish religious ritual props.

### **Old Customs House    Ancienne Douane**

The Old Customs House is located at the southeast end of Marchand Street. It was built in 1480. The roof is covered with colorful tiles, which is quite characteristic of folk architecture in the late Middle Ages. It was originally a government building. At that time, Colmar was an imperial free city and had the right to issue currency. The first floor of the building was mainly used for storage and customs tax collection offices, and the second floor was a meeting room. At that time, there was a "Ten Cities Alliance" composed of ten imperial free cities in the surrounding area of Alsace. Colmar was one of them, but Strasbourg was not

included. The Ten Cities Alliance often held meetings on the second floor (the building on the left). The alliance was approved by Emperor Charles IV (the one who lived in Prague) in 1354. After the Thirty Years' War, France annexed Alsace and the alliance became a mere formality. The Treaty of Nijmegen in 1679 completely dissolved the alliance. Historically, the building has also served as the city's town hall. Until 1840, there was a slaughterhouse under the gate. Now, concerts of temporary exhibitions are often held here.

The square on the east side of the Old Customs House is called the Place de l'Ancienne - Douane, and the fountain in the center of the square is called the Fontaine Schwendi . The fountain was built in 1898, but it was destroyed during World War II and rebuilt later, but the statue on the fountain is still original. The designer of the statue is Bartholdi, the designer of the Statue of Liberty. The owner of the statue is Lazare de Schwendi ( 1522-1583), a general and diplomat of Emperor Charles V and Maximilian II. Schwendi is the illegitimate son of a nobleman in Swabia, Germany. He fought for Charles V and participated in many battles, and performed very bravely. Between 1564 and 1568, Schwendi was assigned by Emperor Maximilian II (nephew of Charles V and son of Ferdinand I) to fight against the Ottomans in Hungary. The plant in his hand is the grapevine he brought back from Hungary. Alsace is also a famous wine producing area in France. There is a saying that it originated from the grape seedlings brought back by Schwendi. So he is very famous in Alsace.

### **Rue des Clefs**

Rue des Keys is a medieval street in the old town of Colmar, lined with many restored wooden houses and interesting shops.

### **Rue des Tanneurs**

Tannery Street is located in the old city, with many tall houses on both sides, many of which have roof balconies for drying animal skins.

### **Matthew Church**    Eglise Saint Matthieu / Temple St-Matthieu

The Protestants in the Matthew Church strictly abide by the abstinence law that represents the essence of Protestantism. This ancient building has witnessed a period of church division. The ancient organ can still accompany concerts today.

### **Synagogue**

The synagogue was built in 1843. Considering that Jews have no tradition of ringing bells, the existence of a bell tower on this church is very interesting.

On one side of the Chapel of St. John under the Linden Tree is **the Unter den Linden Museum** . The sculpture in front of the museum is the work of Bartholdi .

## **Eguisheim**

Wintzenheim canton of the Colmar district . It is a famous vineyard area in the Alsace region and is known as the "Cradle of Alsace Wine". Built in the Middle Ages, the town's buildings still retain a strong medieval style. Colorful houses line the narrow streets and alleys, and every household has flowers and plants on its windowsills. When you walk on the street, you feel like you are in a wonderful dream.

Eguisheim is very close to another equally beautiful city, Colmar, only about six kilometers away, but unlike the hustle and bustle of Colmar and modernization, Eguisheim retains its dreamy medieval style. This is a colorful town on the Alsace White Wine Route. The first thing that attracts attention is its concentric circle radiating street layout, which makes it much easier to visit. In addition to the many wine cellars and white wine bars that have always attracted wine connoisseurs, another feature of

Eguisheim is its pleasant fairy tale atmosphere.

The town is built in a unique style. Looking at the satellite map, you can see that it is constructed in concentric circles, with the castle and chapel in the center of the town as the center, and spreading out in circles. Naturally, the best route to visit is to start from the outermost circle of alleys called Rue du Rampart, and slowly visit layer by layer until you reach the center. Once you enter the town, you will find that the houses here still retain a strong medieval color. The most famous one is the pigeon house, which is a typical representative of the colorful houses with Alsatian wood-reinforced structures. This is also the narrow house located between two paths that you usually see on postcards.

Although the town of Eguisheim is small in size, it has a long history. Archaeologists have discovered traces of human activities in the Stone Age. The climate and soil here are excellent. Since the 4th century AD, the Romans have set up camp in Eguisheim and cultivated vineyards to make wine. Eguisheim is located in the center of the Alsace wine-producing region and is considered the birthplace of Alsace wine. Eguisheim has flourished thanks to the wine trade.

Since the 4th century, Eguisheim has been considered the cradle of Alsace winemaking. The winemaking industry began to expand when the Bishop of Strasbourg and certain monasteries increased their investment in vineyards here. The reputation of the wines in this area quickly spread and was served on the tables of the Dutch and British royal families. Due to the exquisite grape cultivation techniques handed down here, as well as the fertile soil and microclimate that are particularly suitable for grape growth, the Eichberg and Pfersigberg areas of Eguisheim were listed as Grand Cru vineyards in Alsace.

Eguisheim also had some famous people. In 1002, a boy named Bruno (Bruno von Eguisheim-Dagsbur ) was born into a local noble family. Because this boy later became Pope Leo IX, the town was recorded in history. His statue also stands in the fountain on the small square in the center of the town. His birthplace is the Castle of St. Leo IX in the octagonal wall next to the square, and the Chapel of St. Leo IX next to it is also built to commemorate him.

The town of Eguisheim we see today was built in the Middle Ages, and the architecture in the town still retains a strong medieval flavor. The colorful houses are neatly arranged on both sides of the narrow stone-paved streets. Not only do every household carefully maintain the front and back of the house, but also various flowers and plants are placed on the windowsills in all seasons. When tourists stroll along the streets, it is like being in a wonderful dream. Every house is telling its own story silently. Interested tourists can slowly appreciate and experience the details of the house, such as structure, color, door frame, etc. After being away from the hustle and bustle of the city, their mood will gradually become calmer.

The significance of visiting such a small town is naturally not only to show off the postcard-like scenery on social networking sites and leave traces of the visit, but perhaps we should think more about the relationship between humans and the living environment. Modern cities are all the same, and it is worth thinking about what impact living in buildings with tall concrete and glass walls as the main structure will have on the mind and body.

The French value the humanistic spirit and are well aware of the impact of buildings and cities on people. Therefore, they also rate cities according to the quality of the environment. The highest level is four flowers, which means a particularly beautiful flower town. As early as 1989, Eguisheim was rated as a French 4-star flower town. In 2003 and 2013, it was selected as the "most beautiful village in France" and "the most popular town among the French" respectively.

#### ▲ The logo of Flower Town

A town with a small red flower logo means that there is a high quality of life here. Flowers are the brightest and most authentic label.

Each town needs to fill out a data form to participate in the selection, and the selection criteria are very strict:

1. 50%: The town's natural scenery and local protected plant species;
2. 30%: The efforts made by the town government to improve the living environment of residents and protect environmental

sanitation;

3. 20%: Tourist value-added, educational development, citizen participation and sensitivity, etc.

## Annecy

Bus Stops	Bus & car: Park Autocars, 10 Quai de la Tournette, 74000 Annecy, France		
Latitude and longitude		Equivalent to China ...	
Area (square kilometers):	67	Population ('000):	124
City status	It is located in the northwest foothills of the Alps, on the northern shore of Lake Annecy, between Chambery and Geneva, Switzerland.		
Origin of the name			
Basic historical information	The Romans founded the city of Butao in the middle of the first century BC. The Count of Geneva moved his family to Annecy in the early 13th century, and then his family established the Principality of Savoie in 1514 AD and integrated Annecy with the Geneva region. After the rise of Calvinism in Geneva, it became a stronghold of the Counter-Reformation. During the French Revolution, Annecy was annexed by France, and returned to the Kingdom of Sardinia after the restoration of the Bourbon dynasty. In 1860, Savoy was ceded to France, and Annecy became the capital of Haute-Savoie.		
City logo			
Culture, famous people	French Enlightenment thinker Rousseau once spent the "best 12 years" of his life in Annecy. From 1765 to 1770, the thinker Rousseau's "Confessions" was published. In his immortal work, he repeatedly revisited the beautiful memories of rural life spent in this charming town in 1728.		
Main Specialties			
other	In 1959, Marcel Fournier of the Fournier family in Annecy and brothers Denis Defforey of the French Defforey family jointly founded a supermarket in Annecy. The characteristic of the supermarket is that there is a parking lot next to it. Because it is located at a crossroads, the supermarket is named Carrefour (meaning crossroads) in French. Later, this supermarket opened more and more branches and its scale became larger and larger. It is the future French Carrefour Group.		

Annecy is a beautiful town in the foothills of the Alps in southern France. It is ancient yet elegant. It is surrounded by mountains and rivers, with the Alps in the north and Lake Annecy in the south. The lake formed by the melting snow of the Alps, the canal running through the city, the indigo-colored mountains in the distance, the rows of houses with strong colors, and the green trees and flowers all over the ground constitute a beautiful scenery like a paradise.

Annecy is surrounded by mountains and rivers, like a lady from a noble family, and it is a natural beauty. Incredibly, in the old town to the west, there is a beautiful water lane, which is the Thiou River connecting Lake Annecy . Swans in the river swim gracefully without being disturbed, and stone bridges on the river are scattered. The river water slowly flows through the dam and then pours into the river to form a small waterfall, like a harp flowing out the music of love under the sliding of the artist's fingers. For this reason, Annecy is called the "Venice of Savoy", but if you think about it, Venice is attacked by sea breeze and sea water every day, and it may be more vicissitudes and more charming; while the beauty of Annecy is bright, peaceful, and



undisturbed, which makes people feel closer.

The 27 square kilometers of Lake Annecy is clear and located at the foot of the Alps. The water of Lake Annecy comes from the ice and snow of the Alps and is known as the purest lake in Europe. Like a mirror inlaid in the green mountains, when the sky is clear, the green mountains are like dark blue, the lake is like a mirror, swans play in the water, and white sails dot the water. Even in bad weather, it can show people another kind of seductive figure. Even in winter, the mountains of Annecy are green and the water is green. In such a beautiful place, there is only one thing you can do, which is to appreciate the scenery with your eyes and feel the beauty with your heart.

The water of Lake Annecy flows into the city through the Hue River. The river is very narrow and is divided by a small island in the city. The triangular ancient castle Palais de l'Ile on the island, named "Isle Palace", was built in 1132. Looking from the town hall to the old town, the palace is like a cruiser sailing on the waves to Lake Annecy. The Island Palace was the residence of the Lord of Annecy in the 12th century, and later became the administrative headquarters of the Count of Geneva. Since the Count of Geneva was stationed here, it has performed the duties of the "city government". There was no bridge on the Hue River at that time, and ships had to stop here to pay taxes. The castle was once converted into a court and a mint. In the Middle Ages, it became a prison in the city and lasted until the 18th century. After 1952, the "Isle Palace" became a museum recording the history of Annecy. The most wonderful thing about the castle is that it has a wide platform with a wide view. From the dense red roofs of the old city to the lake and distant mountains, the whole city of Annecy can be seen at a glance.

The neoclassical church of Notre Dame de Liesse was built between 1846 and 1851 on the foundation of a 13th-century Marist temple. The bell tower dates back to the 16th century. The square where the church is located is very beautiful. There is an 18th-century town hall on the square. Looking at this simple building and the simple railing decoration, you can feel the traces left by the years.

The Castle of Annecy is located on a high slope at the end of the main street of the old town, Rue Saint-Clair. The castle has been inhabited by the Count family of Geneva since 1219. It was used as a military camp in the late 17th century and is now the site of the castle museum and alpine lake observation. The Queen's Tower (Tour de la Reine) is the oldest part of the castle, dating back to the 12th century.

**PONT DES AMOURS** The Love Bridge is a bridge in Annecy, connecting Le Pâquier and the Garden of Europe. There is a romantic legend about this bridge, which says that it is the place where you will find your love, and if a couple kisses in the middle of the bridge, they will live together forever.

The **SAINTE-CLAIRE GATE** is one of the main entrances to the old town, and next to it is the **GALO HOUSE**. The mansion in Pâquier is the residence of the Royal House of Savoy. The Royal House of Savoy ruled southern France and Italy for nearly two centuries, and was the ruler of the Kingdom of Italy until the establishment of the Italian Republic in 1946.

## Chamonix -Mont- Blanc

The town of Chamonix is world-famous for being located at the foot of Mont Blanc, the highest peak in the Alps, the roof of Europe. Chamonix is one of the highest towns in France. Mont Blanc ( 4,810 meters above sea level), the highest peak in Europe, is located in its territory. Therefore, it is a well-known ski resort in Europe and the starting point for general tourists and sports mountaineering to climb Mont Blanc. Therefore, it is a town with a thriving tourism industry. In 1924 , the first Winter Olympic Games was held in this city.

### 1. Mont Blanc

Mont Blanc is located to the south of Chamonix and Aiguille du Midi, on the border of France and Italy. At 4,810 meters above sea level, it is the highest mountain in western Europe and the Alps. Its name means "white mountain" and is sometimes called "La Dame blanche" .

**The** Mont Blanc Tunnel is one of the cross-border tunnels between France and Italy. It is located near Mont Blanc in the Alps, connecting Chamonix in France and Courmayeur in Italy . The total length is 11.6 kilometers. The project started in 1957 and was completed in 1965 .

March 24, 1999 , a Belgian truck carrying margarine and flour caught fire in the tunnel, killing 39 people. Afterwards , the burned tunnel was rebuilt and the safety equipment was strengthened. A heat sensor was installed at the entrance of the tunnel to detect whether the vehicle was overheating, and the evacuation signs were enlarged and the escape routes were indicated in French, Italian and English. It was reopened to traffic in 2002 , three years after the incident .

### 2. Lac Blanc

Lac Blanc, literally translated as "White Lake", is located in the mountains north of Chamonix, at the foot of Mont Blanc. The surface of Lac Blanc is 2,352 meters above sea level. It is surrounded by mountains and presents a turquoise color.

### 3. Aiguille du Midi

Aiguille du Midi is located on the south side of the town, 3,842 meters above sea level, and is one of the most famous attractions in Chamonix. Its shape is very unique, consisting of jagged hills, snowfields and rocky cliffs . From the top of the mountain, you can see Mont Blanc, the highest peak in Europe, and overlook the valley and town.

### 4. Aiguille du Midi Cableway

The cableway to the top of Aiguille du Midi was built in 1955 and was the highest cableway in the world at that time. It is currently the cableway with the longest vertical distance in the world (from 1,035 meters to 3,842 meters).

### 5. Plan de l' Aiguille

The Aiguille du Midi platform is located on the mountainside of Aiguille du Midi, at an altitude of about 2,317 meters. There are bars and several hotels here, and the cable car from Chamonix to Aiguille du Midi passes by here. There is a hiking route Grand Balcon Nord on its northeast side , and if you have enough time, you can walk to the Sea of Ice. Hiking and paragliding enthusiasts are very fond of this place.

### 6. Mer de Glace

second largest glacier in the Alps , 14 km long, 1,800 m wide at its widest point and 400 m thick. In summer, cable cars can be taken to the glacier and caves, the latter of which are re-dug every spring.

### 7. Artificial Glacial Cave ( Grotte de la Mer de Glace )

The glacier caves were dug deep into the Monteverde Glacier. Since the glacier flows 45 meters every year, it takes three months to re-dig every spring .

### 8. Le Brevent

Brevent Peak is located in the northwest of Chamonix, with an altitude of 2,525 meters. Its mountain is mainly rocky, and there is a small lake near the top, named Brevent Lake (Lac du Br é vent) . From here you can enjoy the magnificent panoramic view of the Aiguille du Midi, Mont Blanc and other mountains opposite.

### 9. Musée Alpin

The Alpine Museum, housed in the grand Chamonix Palace, tells the story of climbs to the surrounding peaks - it is said that the first two people to climb Mont Blanc in 1786 were a crystal gatherer and a doctor.

#### 10. Crystal Museum

The Chamonix Crystal Museum exhibits rocks, minerals and geological specimens produced in the Alps, including many natural crystals.

#### 11. Parc de Merlet

Located in the wooded meadows southwest of Chamonix, Parc Merlay is a fascinating natural zoo where you can observe marmots, chamois and other Alpine animals up close.

## Andorra

**Andorra:** An inland principality in southwestern Europe, located in the southeastern Pyrenees Mountains, bordering France and Spain. Its capital is Andorra la Vella. The official language is Catalan, and the common languages are Spanish and French. Most of the residents in the country are Catholics. Andorra is dotted with mountains and valleys, and the average altitude is over 1,100 meters, making it the highest country in Europe.

Because of its meritorious service in resisting the invasion of Muslims, the country was granted "independence" status by Charlemagne, which was a vassal state. For various reasons, sovereignty belonged to the Bishop of the Urgos Diocese. Until now, the Urgos Bishop is also a head of state in Andorra. Later, this bishop found a nobleman from Catalonia, Spain, as his protector. In the end, this protector had various marriages and the position was inherited by the Count of Foix of France. It became: a Catalan bishop got a piece of land and found a Catalan nobleman to help protect it. As a result, this Catalan nobleman became a Frenchman. The Urgos Bishop from Catalonia was not happy, and they started arguing.

The solution was that the Kingdom of Aragon mediated a treaty between the two parties, in which both parties shared sovereignty, and Andorra paid tribute to both parties. Later, Andorra was actually annexed by Aragon twice. But later, for various reasons, it was spit out again. In the end, the title of Grand Duke of Andorra of the Count of Foix was passed to the King of Navarre, and then to the King of France. King Henry IV of France once again clearly stipulated (Edict) that he and the bishop were the Grand Dukes of Andorra. The reason why he couldn't take Andorra was because of the provisions in the inheritance law. I don't remember what they were. Anyway, he originally wanted to pass the throne to his sister who could integrate his land in France, Navarre and Andorra at the same time. As a result, the sister died before him. In order to ensure that he could maximize the areas he could control, he recognized that Andorra was jointly managed by both parties. Anyway, the bishop was just a fence-sitter, and he was actually the biggest in France.

Later, during the Great Revolution, the French revolutionaries refused to pay tribute, which was equivalent to handing Andorra over to the Ugric bishop. At this time, Andorra lost the protection of France and was next to the huge Spain, so the Ugric bishop refused to cooperate with Spain everywhere. Then when Napoleon came to power, he begged Napoleon to be the Grand Duke, and Napoleon agreed. After invading Spain, Napoleon specifically tried to incorporate Andorra into French Catalonia, but the local officials actually forgot to enter this land in their own books, and then Andorra took this opportunity to pay tribute to Napoleon. [It was equivalent to asking Napoleon to admit that he was a protectorate rather than an annexed territory.] Napoleon had a lot of big things to do and was worried about being embarrassed, so he agreed again, and Andorra escaped again.

In the 19th century, the two sides supporting French influence and Spanish influence fought a civil war, one person died, and finally signed the Treaty of Escalés. The Treaty of Escalés did not change anything. There was a lot of turmoil before World War II. First, the young people in Andorra started a riot and established a republic. As a result, dozens of French police came to quell the riot, but they left after they settled the situation. A Russian explorer came and said he was Grand Duke Boris I, and declared war on the poor bishop, and was then arrested by the Spanish police. In short, it was not easy for France to annex Andorra, and it was not easy for Spain to annex Andorra, so they just became a buffer state. Nazi Germany also instigated the Spanish dictator Franco to annex, but Franco felt that it was embarrassing and did not fight.

In summary, Andorra's security depends on two factors:

1. Andorra is sandwiched between Spain and France, and neither side wants to offend the other by annexing it.
2. When one side really does not want to control or defeat the other side and is able to annex it, because Andorra is too small, annexing it would seem like complete bullying, and Andorra has no value to be annexed, so for the sake of international image, it is let go.

Andorra officially became independent in 1993 and has become the only country in the world that speaks Catalan. It is also one of the countries with the longest life expectancy in the world. The average life expectancy here is 83 years old, and the per capita GDP can reach 53,000 US dollars. It is really long-lived and wealthy. Andorra is a non-EU country, but it belongs to the Schengen Agreement. You must hold a multiple-entry Schengen visa or an EU residence permit to enter.

Andorra's "magic" doesn't end there. This country has "three nothings", but it also has "three treasures", which are amazing. First, there is no army, only about 100 police officers to maintain daily law and order; second, there is no taxation, it is the only country in the world without a tax agency; third, there is no airport or railway, so the only way to enter and exit the country is by road. Most tourists choose to take a bus from Barcelona or Toulouse.

Although transportation is a little inconvenient, Andorra has three treasures, which makes tourism a pillar industry of the country. The first treasure is shopping. Since there is no tax, there are nearly 1,000 duty-free shops in the country, which will definitely make you buy as much as you want. On both sides of the commercial street in Andorra City, there are large markets and shopping centers everywhere, with clothing, tobacco, alcohol, bags, perfumes, watches and various cosmetics. The prices are generally 10% to 30% lower than other European countries. In the discount season in July and December, the discount is even greater, which is really much more worthwhile than the Double Eleven.

The second treasure is skiing. The natural terrain on the southern slope of the Pyrenees makes Andorra have many high-quality ski resorts. The peak ski season is from December to May every year, attracting countless ice and snow enthusiasts to try their hand. Among them, Grandvalira and Vallnord are the two most popular ski resorts. The former is more difficult and has reached the Olympic competition conditions.

Caldea Baths in Andorra la Vella is known as one of the best spas in the world. Its towering Gothic glass spires are very eye-catching and can be called a landmark. The internal facilities are also quite luxurious, with water beds, saunas, ice houses, artificial waves, Turkish baths, as well as bars, restaurants, massage rooms, and beauty salons. There are also light shows and music performances at night, making it an ideal place for relaxation.

Andorra la Vella

Of course, in addition to shopping, skiing, and hot springs, Andorra's natural and cultural landscapes are also unique, most of which are concentrated around the capital, Andorra la Vella. The streets here still retain their medieval appearance, with churches standing in rows, mottled city walls, cobblestone alleys that are quiet and deep, rows of houses that are staggered and lined up, and many museums that tell the vicissitudes of time. The main attractions include:

Casa de la Vall

Plaça del Poble , Andorra

## Plaça de la Rotonda

The Plaça de la Rotonda , located on the banks of the Gran Valira River , is the most lively place in the city. There are many artistic souvenir shops around it that are worth visiting. The bright lights at night are even more gorgeous. The Casa de la Vall is the most sacred place in the city. It was built in 1580. The upper floor is the parliament and the lower floor is the court. There is a small cabinet for storing important documents, which requires 7 keys to open.

The Church of Sant Esteve is the most important church in Andorra, located next to the People's Square ( Plaça del Poble ) . It was built in the 11th century, and its semicircular apse retains the ancient Romanesque style. Inside the church, there is a row of elegant and exquisite, sparkling stained glass windows that are very unique and intoxicating like a kaleidoscope.

Església de Santa Coloma) , located not far southwest of Andorra City, is also worth a visit. It is the oldest church in Andorra, with a history of more than a thousand years. The cylindrical bell tower is four stories high and houses a classic 12th-century mural "Agnus Dei".

## Valira del Nord River

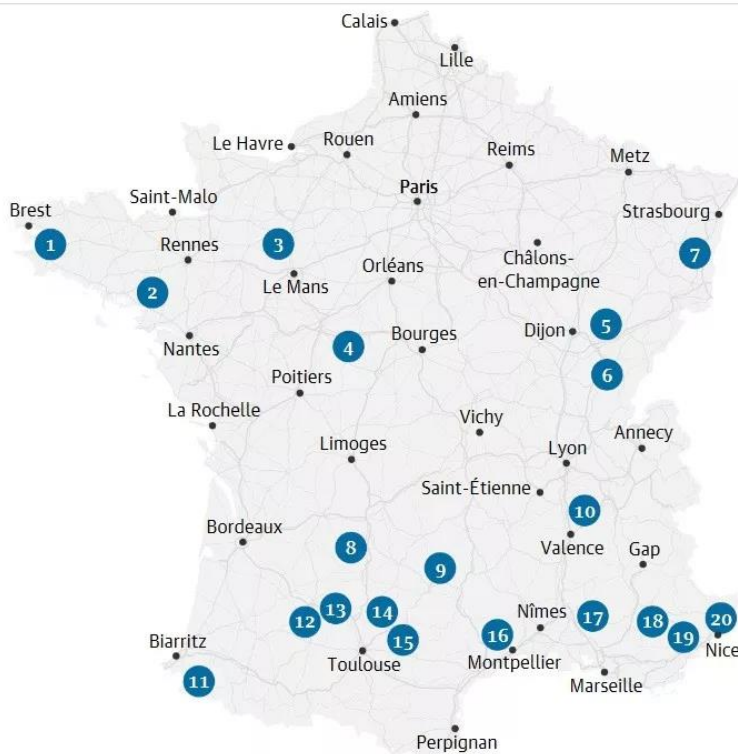
From Andorra City, along the Valira River to the north, there is a Y-shaped canyon. Between the mountains, there are many idyllic towns that look like fairyland. The environment is fresh and the air is refreshing. It is far away from the noisy and crowded city. It is the best choice for hiking. To the northeast, you can reach the towns of Encamp and Canillo . The former is home to the Automobile Museum ( Museum Nacional de l'Automòbil ) with more than 80 vintage cars and motorcycles and the historic Church of Sant Romà. The latter is home to the Church of Sant Joan de Caselles with exquisite altar decorations .

To the northwest is the famous Ordino Valley . In the town of La Massana you can visit the popular Postal Museum . d'Areny i In the town of Pal you can also visit the quiet and solemn Church of Sant Climent .

Going further north, at the end of the valley, there are two very beautiful and leisurely villages, La Cortinada and Llorts , which are quaint and peaceful, with birds singing and flowers blooming, and lush forests and green grass outside the village. They are usually used as the starting point for hiking to the surrounding Estanys de l' Angonella or Coma Pedrosa.

As the great French novelist Alphonse Daudet said, “If you haven’ t been to Andorra, you are not really a traveler.” This pocket-sized country exudes a unique charm, whether it is the alpine lakes, jungle canyons, classical architecture, idyllic towns, shopping malls, or ski tracks.

# The most beautiful villages in France



## Locronan in Brittany

I learned about this town by chance. In a biography about the British East India Company (yes, the company that sold opium), it was mentioned that the sails used by the East India Company during its existence were made in the town of Locronan. In fact, if you look through many documents from the 15th century onwards, you will find fragments of this town in historical books. In the Middle Ages, this was indeed an important weaving center in Europe.

The town is located in the northwest of France. The amazing Gothic church Chapelle du Pé nity was built in the 15th century. If you are familiar with movies, you will find many movie scenes here - such as "A Very Long Engagement" starring famous actresses Audrey Tautou and Jodie Foster, and "Tess" by famous director Polanski were all filmed here. To this day, the office of the East India Company is still preserved here.

## -en -Terre in Brittany

Still in Brittany, walk south along the coastline, and you will see this town that was once an impregnable castle. As the name of the town suggests, it was once a fortress. Roche Fort means fortress in French. The seafood here is also top-notch.

The town is so ancient that it seems to have just come out of the Middle Ages. It was once an important commercial distribution center in northwestern France. In recent years, the town has become more and more popular because of the continuous arrival of artists.

## Céneri -le-Gérei in Normandy

When I first saw this village, I always felt that it looked like the Spanish village in Resident Evil 4. The history of the town is not short, and it can be traced back to the 7th century. Except that there are really few people and it looks a bit like a ghost town, there are no major disadvantages.

#### **4. Montrésor in the Loire Valley**

Among the many castles in the Loire Valley, the castle of Montresor may not be the most beautiful one. But the town is fairy-tale-like enough, whether it is the fortress or the castle, they all seem to come out of a fairy-tale world. Riding a bicycle on such a cobblestone road is the most carefree thing.

#### **Pesmes , Burgundy**

Pesmes was occupied by the Franks, Germans, and Spaniards in history. It was not until the reign of Louis XIV that it became a French territory. The main road in and out of the town is this bridge, which also makes the town very photogenic. Although the town is small, it is very decent everywhere.

#### **6. Château-Chalon in the Jura**

If you are a wine connoisseur, you may know a rare high-quality grape variety - Savagnin . This is one of the main production areas of Savagnin, which means that there is good wine to drink here. At the foot of the mountain here is the grape plantation of Seille Valley. In addition to good wine, this village also has good cheese. If you have time, you can visit the old cheese factory here, which has traditional craftsmanship and meticulousness.

There is only one restaurant in the town, called Auberge du Roc, so you don't have to be picky, the food is quite good.

#### **Riquewihr in Alsace**

The wine and narrow alleys here are well-known. Only 65 kilometers away from Strasbourg, you can feel that the history here is at least 300 years old. Everything here is like a story from Grimm's fairy tale - wooden houses, narrow streets. And this village shrouded in clouds

#### **Domme , Dordogne**

This is a small town on a cliff. It would be cruel if you climbed so high and didn't show some scenery. This town is called "the most beautiful town in southwest France" and has a beautiful view overlooking all living things.

#### **9. Estaing in Languedoc**

If you are familiar with French politics, you will immediately recognize that this town has a special name! Yes, this is the base of the Giscard d'Estaing family, who once served as the President of France. The Giscard d'Estaing family has been a prominent family here since the 11th century.

Does the bridge leading to the town look familiar? This is a World Heritage Site, and the streets here have hardly changed since the Middle Ages. If you are familiar with the history of film, you will know that the Lumière brothers, who invented film, came from this town - so there is a Lumière Night celebration every year.

#### **10. Saint-Antoine-l'Abbaye in the Rhone Valley**

As the name suggests, this is a town that was developed from a monastery. If you see such a majestic facade, would you think of "The Da Vinci Code"? The well-preserved medieval church is also magnificent inside.

#### **11. Saint-Jean- Pied -de-Port of Pyrenees**

At the foot of the Pyrenees, on both sides of the Nive River, a small town based on trade and military fortress gradually formed in the 12th century. There are not many tourists in this small town, so you really have to cherish it. The architectural style of the town is mostly Gothic, and the buildings from the 14th to 17th centuries constitute the main line of the town's landscape. When the spring comes, you can imagine the lively scene of this town in the past.

#### **Romieu in Gers**

Romieu comes from the Middle French Roumiou , which means "pilgrimage road". The Saint Pierre Church here is a world cultural heritage, and the interior and inner courtyard of the building are very impressive. It is not easy to preserve the complex style of carved beams and painted buildings from the 14th century to the present day.

Interestingly, this is actually a great place to pet cats. There is a famous cat named Angeline who can be found almost everywhere.

#### **Auvillar in Tarn-et-Garonne**

This town is not too far from the 11th town. You can find that the architecture of this town is very distinctive, and this style is unique in the whole southern France. This roofed building is the local trading market, where there are rich agricultural products traded every Sunday, which is very lively.

#### **Bruniquel of Tarn-et-Garonne**

The brilliant sunflower fields in front of this town are enough to make you breathe deeply. There are two old fortresses in the town, as well as scattered houses . Back then, this was a fortress of the Duke of Toulouse. Basically, when you walk around the town, you can still hear the medieval bells.

#### **15. Lautrec in Tarn**

Suddenly, you will feel like you are in the Dutch windmill village. This mill, built in the 17th century, is the most prominent symbol of this town. The food here is also very unique. There is a dish called "pink garlic soup" that is worth a try. The city center of the town has a strong sense of history. Remember to use filters when taking photos.

#### **-Guilhem -le-Désert in Languedoc**

Located about 35 kilometers northwest of Montpellier, the town has a long history. The existing 11th-century monastery is also a world cultural heritage. The rhythm of the town is lazy - every afternoon, sit in this square, drink a cup of coffee, chat, and it will be dark.

#### **Gordes in Provence**

This is the famous "Stone City" in Provence. It takes only one hour to drive from Avignon. The small town built on the mountain is well-proportioned. The view from the top is worth taking a few more photos.

#### **18. Moustiers -Sainte-Marie in the Provençal Alps**

A mountain town where craftsmen have gathered since the Middle Ages, with stone houses and stone bridges everywhere. The main buildings of the town are divided into two sides, connected by a stone bridge. If you want to experience the life of medieval craftsmen, this is the best choice.

#### **Seillans in Provence**

Only an hour's drive from Nice, Seillans offers a typical Provençal lifestyle: olive oil, wine, ham, gourmet food + slow life. The history of the town began in the 11th century, and artists have come here in various eras, leaving various traces.

#### **-Agnès on the Cote d' Azur**

This town is closer to Nice, only half an hour's drive away, and 800 meters above sea level. In Roman times, this was a Roman military camp. Later, it became a fortress of the Duke of Savoie . Since ancient times, it has been a battleground for military strategists. Interestingly, this is also the southernmost end of the famous "Maginot Line" - archaeological excavations can prove it. Walking on such a street, it is probably difficult not to sigh at the vicissitudes of life.



# Appendix - Stories of Historical Figures

## Clovis I

At the end of the 4th century, under pressure from the Huns from the east, the Germanic tribes were successively caught up in the great migration of European nations, and continuously entered the territory of the Roman Empire from the Danube River area in the north, thus accelerating the demise of the Western Roman Empire.

On the ruins of the Western Roman Empire, the Germanic people established a series of kingdoms, including: in 419, the Visigoths established the Visigothic Kingdom in Spain (which was destroyed by the Arabs in 714); in 439, the Vandals established the Vandal Kingdom in North Africa (which was destroyed by the Byzantine Empire in 534); in 568, the Lombards established the Lombard Kingdom in northern Italy (which was destroyed by the Frankish Kingdom in 774); the Angles and Saxons entered Britain and established the Kingdom of England. The Frankish Kingdom lasted the longest and had the greatest influence.

The Franks were a powerful Germanic tribe that migrated southward into northeastern Gaul (now southern France) in the 3rd century and settled in the lower reaches of the Rhine. In 481, Clovis succeeded the tribal chieftain and began to expand with all his might, eliminating other Frankish forces. In 486, the Franks, led by Clovis I, defeated Sigisbert, the last ruler of the Roman Empire in northern Gaul (the ruler of the Kingdom of Soissons in Picardy today), established the Frankish Kingdom, and named the kingdom the Merovingian Dynasty after their grandfather.

Let me add here that according to some legends and the novel "The Da Vinci Code", after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, his wife Mary Magdalene fled with their only bloodline - their daughter Sarah, landed in southern France, and married people from the Frankish tribe. Therefore, the Merovingian dynasty is actually the direct descendant of Jesus.

At first, Clovis was just one of many small Frankish kings, under Roman rule, and then he continued to grow stronger. In 491, he conquered Thuringia, in 496 he conquered the Alamanni, in 500, Clovis conquered Dijon, and in 507 he defeated the Visigothic Kingdom of Toulouse, drove it south of the Pyrenees (today's Spain), and took the opportunity to occupy most of present-day Aquitaine.

Finally, Clovis began to target the last Frankish regime in Gaul, the River Franks. By instigating Clodrick, the son of the River Frank leader, to kill his father and usurp the throne, he then assassinated Clodrick, annexed the River Franks, and fully unified the entire Gaul. He established the Frankish Kingdom with its capital Paris as its center, including present-day Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the eastern part of the Elbe River in Germany, and became the most powerful country in Western Europe.

In 493, Clovis I married the Burgundian princess Clotilda. Under her persuasion, he converted to Catholicism in 496 and thus won the support of the Roman Catholic Church. After becoming a Catholic, one must abide by the rules of the church. During a battle, Clovis's men looted a church and stole a vase called the "Holy Grail". The bishop of the church begged Clovis to return the vase, and Clovis agreed. However, according to the custom of the Franks, the spoils of war were not distributed according to status. All soldiers, including the king himself, had to draw lots to decide who would own the spoils. Before the drawing of lots, Clovis spoke to the soldiers, hoping that the person who got the vase would return it to the church, but one of the soldiers opposed it, believing that Clovis had no right to take the vase, and in anger he chopped up the "Holy Grail".

Clovis could not get angry right away, but later he threw the soldier's axe to the ground, saying that the soldier had not cleaned it properly. When the soldier leaned over to pick up the axe, Clovis drew out his own axe and chopped it hard at the soldier, saying, "I will treat you the same way you treated the vase before!" Clovis's cold and bloody methods frightened all the soldiers present, and the king's authority was established with the axe and blood. This story was widely circulated, and the meaning it conveyed was that Clovis was no longer the leader of a tribe, but a king with the power of life and death.

In appreciation of Clovis' victory over pagans and other barbarians, the Eastern Roman Emperor Anastasius I granted him the title of consul. Gaining recognition from the Eastern Roman Empire was an unexpected and great honor for the Frankish Kingdom, which was originally a barbarian. In 508, Clovis organized a grand promotion ceremony to celebrate. At this ceremony, Clovis openly put on a purple robe and a crown, marking the establishment of the Frankish Empire.

**Pepin the Short**, the father of Charlemagne, deposed the Merovingian dynasty in 751 and established the Carolingian dynasty. In 754, the Lombards invaded Rome, and Pope Stephen III asked Pepin for help. Pepin led his army twice in 754 and 756, defeated the Lombards, and took back the city of Rome and the Governorate of Ravenna from them, and generously donated these lands to the Pope. This is the "Donation of Pepin" praised by the Christian world for more than a thousand years. The rule of the Papal States also began from then on, which is the predecessor of today's Vatican City State.

After Pepin's donation, the Pope of Rome was both the leader of the Catholic Church and the hereditary monarch of the Papal States, laying a solid foundation for the expansion of the Pope's power. After that, the Pope's power continued to develop, especially in the 11th century when the Pope strongly encouraged the Crusades. In the 13th century, it was at its peak. The secular powers of various kingdoms were in awe of the Pope. Rome participated in the political and religious affairs of various Western European countries through various means and reasons. The Vatican became the most important center of political life and religious activities in Western Europe. However, the "Donation of Pepin" caused strong dissatisfaction in the Eastern Roman Empire. The rulers of the Byzantine Empire always considered themselves the natural successors of the ancient Roman Empire. They also cited the Roman Law, pointing out that Pepin and the Pope could not privately grant and receive the central Italian land that originally belonged to the Eastern Roman Empire, so Pepin's donation was illegal.

The Pope of Rome was also well aware of the hidden dangers of his own explanation. In order to ensure the legitimacy of the territory he obtained, he did not hesitate to forge a letter of donation from the so-called Roman Emperor Constantine the Great. The combination of Pippin's donation of land and the pseudo-Constantine's letter later became the most powerful legal basis for the existence of the Papal States for a long time.

### **Norman Conquest** Norman conquest

In the exhibition hall of a town called Bayeux near the English Channel in northwestern France, there is a huge, colorful and 900-year-old handicraft - the Bayeux Tapestry. The pattern on it shows the heroic scene of three warriors raising their weapons and charging the Anglo-Saxon front in the Battle of Hastings. This is the famous "Norman Conquest" in British history, which has left a deep historical memory for Britain.

1013, the Danes invaded England again, and the Dane Canute established a great empire here that included Denmark, Norway, Sweden and England. In 1042, the Danish Empire collapsed and England regained its independence. After the death of the Danish king, Edward, the son of the previous king Ethelred II and exiled to Normandy since childhood, was elected as the King of England by the Council of Wise. In 1066, Edward died of illness without an heir, and the Council of Wise nominated Harold, Earl of Wessex of the Godwin family as the king. However, it was strongly opposed by William, the Duke of Normandy in France, who had close ties with the English royal family. William was the illegitimate son of Duke Robert and the peasant girl Aliette. Because his father died young, William, who was 7 years old, ascended the throne as the Duke. William had political ambitions and generously demanded to inherit the throne of England.

William's most important reason was that as Edward's close relative, he had a legal basis for inheriting the throne. It was also said that when Edward invited William to visit England in 1051, he had promised him in person that he would be the heir to the throne of England. Secondly, William also said that the now inaugurated King Harold of England had also vowed to support William in inheriting the English throne. The story was this: in 1064, Harold was blown across the English Channel by a strong wind while on a boat tour and was detained by Earl Pontini, who coveted the ransom for the hostages. William mediated in time and forced Pontini to give up the ransom. William treated Harold warmly, and Harold, grateful, vowed to support William in

inheriting the English throne. In 1066 , Harold broke his promise and became a "perjurer", which gave William a moral reason to seize the English crown. Although the above accusations were unfounded, they still won the support of Pope Alexander II and Roman Emperor Henry IV, so that his conquest had religious legitimacy.

What William could not tolerate was that the Council of Wise rejected his request on the grounds that he was an illegitimate child. This was a heavy blow to William, who had long coveted the British throne, and it further aroused his desire to seize the throne and conquer England by force. With the blessing of the Pope and marching under the Pope's holy flag, William's conquest took on a flavor of holy war. In June 1066 , William led his fleet of 12,000 people to set sail from Normandy and headed straight for England. A fierce battle was about to begin.

#### Battle of Hastings

Just as Harold was racking his brains over how to fight William, King Hardrada of Norway had landed in the northwest of England, 350 kilometers away from London, with a large fleet, and was advancing towards the important city of York. Harold was caught in the dilemma of being attacked from both sides and fighting on two fronts.

Harold responded quickly to the crisis and formulated a strategy of defeating each enemy one by one. He immediately led his army to march north to fight the Norwegian army first. In the Battle of Stamford Bridge, the Norwegian King Hardrada was killed, and Harold won the final victory of the war. He then rushed back to London day and night to fight William, who was determined to obtain the British throne. At this time, William and his army were at Pevensey, waiting patiently for Harold for a long time.

It is said that the invader was so excited when he arrived in England that he fell heavily to the ground as soon as he got off the boat. The soldiers were shocked and thought it was a bad omen, so they sighed. William was quick-witted and jumped up quickly, shouting to his men: "Look, my Lord, by the glory of God, I have grasped England with my own hands. England is mine. Everything that is mine is also yours." William calmly responded to the situation and cleverly concealed his embarrassment, showing extraordinary political skills.

On October 14 , 1066 , the battle between the two sides officially began on the Hastings Fields near the Strait of Dover in southeast England. When the battle was at a stalemate, a rumor spread throughout William's left wing army that the Duke had died in the battle. Some of William's left wing troops believed it, lost their fighting spirit, and began to retreat down the mountain. The situation took a sharp turn for the worse. Seeing that the situation was not good, William was quick-witted. He rushed into the most intense part of the battle with all his might, took off his helmet and shouted, "Look, I, William, am here!" When the soldiers saw that William was still alive, their morale immediately stabilized. The battle continued.

At dusk, William had his army pretend to retreat, luring the enemy out of their solid defenses and dispersing to pursue them. The British army, unaware of the ruse, shouted and chased down the mountain. William then commanded the superior cavalry to disperse and annihilate the British army. At this time, the defeated British army could not resist the rain of arrows and the impact of the cavalry. When night fell, suddenly an arrow came from nowhere and hit Harold in the right eye, and he fell under the flag. The English soldiers were leaderless and the British army collapsed. William the Conqueror won the Battle of Hastings.

The main force of the British army was almost completely destroyed in the Battle of Hastings. As they approached London, many Norman officials in the royal family opened the city and surrendered. On Christmas Day in 1066 , William finally got his wish and was crowned king in Westminster Abbey in London, known as "William I" and "William the Conqueror". The Anglo-Saxon era in British history ended, and Britain began the Normandy dynasty.

After William came to England, he brought the relatively developed feudal system and relatively powerful monarchy system of continental Europe, especially France, to England. From then on, Britain and continental Europe were closely linked. This not only accelerated the development of the British feudal system, but also provided conditions for Britain to catch up with the developed feudal countries in Western Europe at a faster pace and gradually become an important power in Western Europe.

In addition, the Norman conquerors also had an important influence on the British language. The Norman conquerors used

French, and traditional English became the language of the lower classes of society. In the subsequent historical process, English and French gradually blended, laying the foundation for modern English.

### **Philip II ( 1165-1223 )**

Philip II was the son of King Louis VII of France. Louis VII was weak and sickly, and he held a coronation ceremony for Philip when he was just 14 years old, preparing to pass the throne to him after his death. Soon after his father's death, Philip II inherited his father's throne according to royal regulations. Since he was too young to bear the burden of governing the entire country, the regent assisted him in handling state affairs. At that time, the King of France could not convey his orders to other parts of the Kingdom of France except for controlling some areas around Paris. Even on the small island of France, the king had to face challenges and contempt for the royal power from local marquises.

Philip II first formed an alliance with Henry II, King of England, to contain the Count of Champagne. He led his army to defeat the Count of Flanders, thus realizing his dream of expanding territory in the northeast. Then he cleverly took advantage of the contradictions between Henry II, King of the Plantagenet Dynasty, and his sons Richard the Lionheart and John the Landless, father and son, and brothers, attacking one faction and winning over the other, dividing and weakening the power of Britain. At that time, from the comparison of the power between France and Britain, France was obviously at a disadvantage, and Philip II had to adopt some dishonorable but extremely effective means of struggle.

Philip II took advantage of the fact that Richard the Lionheart had been away fighting for many years and there was no one to govern the country, and tricked Richard's younger brother John the Landless to overthrow his brother's rule. John's father had granted his territories in France to his brothers, so he had no more territories to grant, so he was called the Landless King. John was eager to get a piece of territory of his own, so he rebelled under the instigation of Philip II, but failed due to the opposition of his mother and ministers. 1199 The Lionheart King has passed away. John the Landless King ascended the throne of England. Philip II instigated John's nephew Arthur to fight against him, and then took the opportunity to expand his own territory and interests. Later, Philip II used the excuse that John "abducted" someone else's fiancée, declared John a rebel, deprived him of his territory on the French mainland, and sent troops to capture Anjou, Brittany, Normandy and other territories. Under the continuous attacks of Philip II, the "Landless King" hung up the white flag and was forced to sign an armistice treaty with very harsh content.

1214 , after a long period of preparation, the anti-French alliance organized by John The French army led by Philip II met in Bouvines in northern France, and the French won a great victory. Philip II was therefore called "Augustus". From then on, the French monarchy gradually became stronger, and Philip II was hailed as the greatest king of medieval France.

### **Hundred Years' War (The War between Britain and France)**

1328 , King Charles IV of France died without an heir, and the throne was vacant. At that time, there were two main contenders for the throne, one was Philip IV's nephew Philip de Valois, and the other was Philip IV's grandson King Edward III of England. Edward III claimed that he was the direct descendant of Philip IV, so he was more qualified to inherit the throne. But the French nobles did not want to see an Englishman become their king, so they brought out the Salic Law, and rejected the King of England's claim to inherit the throne on the pretext that women could not inherit the family property, and elected Philip de Valois as king (Philip VI), thus starting the rule of the Valois dynasty. After Philip VI came to power, he tried to take back Britain's territory in southwestern France. Edward III resisted stubbornly and claimed that he was the legitimate heir to the throne. The dispute over the right to inherit the French throne led to the "Hundred Years' War" between England and France.

### **The underlying causes of war**

In fact, the dispute over the throne was only a fuse for the war. There were deeper reasons behind the scenes. First of all, it was a territorial dispute. The Normandy Dynasty and the Angevin Dynasty of Britain were both established by French nobles, and therefore had large territories in France. Starting from Philip II, the King of France gradually recovered most of the King of England's territories in France. However, the King of England still occupied a lot of land in southwestern France, and successive

French kings were resentful of this and never gave up their efforts to expel the King of England. Another direct reason was the issue of Flanders (now part of northern France, Belgium and southern Netherlands). Flanders was a vassal of France, with a very developed wool industry and was one of the richest cities in Western Europe. Because most of the main raw material of its wool industry came from Britain, it was closely related to Britain economically. In 1328, King Philip VI of France established direct rule in Flanders. King Edward III of England then ordered a ban on wool exports. In order to ensure the supply of raw materials, Flanders turned to support Britain's anti-French policy and recognized Edward III as the legitimate ruler of Flanders. Philip VI was very annoyed by this. This series of contradictions intertwined together and finally triggered a protracted war between Britain and France.

In November 1337, Edward III issued a declaration of war to Philip VI and launched a massive invasion of France, thus starting the Hundred Years' War between England and France. In 1340, the Battle of Sluis broke out between the two countries. In this fierce naval battle, the British army defeated the larger French army with fewer troops, sinking more than half of the French ships, thus severely damaging the French army and gaining control of the sea. In 1346, King Edward III of England personally led a large army to land in France. He defeated the French army in the decisive battle of Crecy in northeastern France, and captured the port fortress of Calais the following year.

1355, England went to war again and captured Keith and Gascony in southwestern France. The following year, in the Battle of Poitiers, the English army led by Edward III's eldest son, the "Black Prince", fought bravely and defeated the French army, and also captured King John II of France and his youngest son Philip. In 1360, Charles, the Prince of France, signed the Treaty of Bretagne with England, ceding all the territory from the south of the Loire River to the Pyrenees to England, and redeemed John II with a huge sum of money. At the same time, France recognized that the King of England occupied a large area of French territory as a king rather than a vassal of the French king, and the King of England gave up his claim to the throne of France. When "good man" John II returned to his country, his youngest son Philip was held hostage. John could not bear to see his youngest son suffer this hardship, so he voluntarily exchanged Philip. In 1364, John II died of illness, and Prince Charles succeeded to the throne, namely Charles V. In 1369, Charles V went to war with England. He appointed the talented de Gesclin as commander, and the English army was gradually driven out of France. By 1380, the French army had recovered most of the ceded territory. In 1396, the two sides signed the Twenty Years Truce.

1413, the ambitious Henry V became King of England. The young and vigorous king reignited the war against France. He made a claim to the throne of France and declared that he was the legitimate heir to the throne. In 1415, the British army landed in Normandy and defeated the French army in Agincourt. The Duke of Burgundy formed an alliance with the British and helped the British army occupy the entire northern France and the capital Paris. In 1420, the defeat in the war forced France and Britain to sign the extremely harsh Treaty of Troyes. The treaty stipulated that France became part of the United Kingdom of Britain and France. King Henry V of England declared himself the regent of France and had the right to inherit the throne of France after the death of King Charles VI of France. The British army occupied northern France, burning, killing and looting everywhere. The local French people rose up in anger and resisted. The Hundred Years' War has since turned into a war of national liberation. In 1437, the French army recovered the capital Paris. On October 19, 1453, France recovered all its territory except Calais, and the Hundred Years' War was declared over.

#### **Joan of Arc (Joan of Arc)**

1412. This simple and pious farm girl was illiterate, but she did housework well.

From the age of 13, Joan of Arc received many "revelations from God". These manifestations of God told her that her mission was to lead France to drive out the British and crown the Crown Prince Charles. From fear to calm acceptance, Joan of Arc gradually understood the meaning of her life.

At that time, the crown prince Charles retreated to the south of France. The Reims Cathedral, where the kings were crowned, fell into the hands of the British. Charles could not be crowned king legitimately. In addition, the British were aggressive and strong, so Charles basically had no hope of regaining his territory. In 1428, the British army besieged Orleans. This city is a fortress

leading to the south of France. Once it is lost, the remaining southern region will be lost, and the fate of the whole of France hangs on a thread. After hearing about the battle of Orleans, Joan of Arc could no longer hold back. She immediately went to the city of Vaucouleurs near her hometown to meet with the defending general Robert de Bodricourt, and sincerely explained the task entrusted to her by God. Bodricourt naturally laughed off the nonsense of the peasant girl. However, after Joan of Arc successfully predicted the outcome of a battle, he began to realize that maybe this young peasant girl was really the savior of France. So Bodricourt sent soldiers to escort Joan of Arc to meet the crown prince Charles. The crown prince Charles and the nobles were equally skeptical of Joan of Arc. Therefore, when the audience came, Charles stood in the guards and arranged for a noble to pretend to be him and sit on a high seat. After Joan of Arc entered the hall, she did not kneel down to the fake crown prince, but walked straight to Charles in the guards, bowed deeply, and said, "May God bless you, Your Highness the Crown Prince." Then, Joan of Arc told a secret that only Charles knew. This made Charles firmly believe that Joan of Arc was the messenger sent by God to save France, and thus ignited his confidence in victory.

In April 1429, Joan of Arc led thousands of French troops assigned to her by Charles and was ordered to lift the siege of Orleans. She held a sword in one hand and a flag in the other, leading the troops and fighting bravely. Wherever Joan of Arc's flag went, victory was coming. Under her command, on May 8, the French army defeated the besieged British army, broke out of the siege, and won a major victory. The Battle of Orleans was a turning point for France to turn defeat into victory. This battle greatly inspired the self-confidence of the French and reversed the situation of the entire war. At Joan of Arc's suggestion, the French army marched north to recapture Reims. In July of the same year, Charles was crowned in Reims Cathedral and was called Charles VII. At the coronation ceremony, Joan of Arc stood beside Charles holding a flag.

Joan of Arc's rising reputation aroused the jealousy of the nobles, who secretly wanted to harm her. In May 1430, the city of Compiègne was in danger, and Joan of Arc was ordered to rescue it. After a failed raid, Joan of Arc retreated back to the city, but was turned away by the French army defending Compiègne. As a result, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundian faction and then sold to the British at a high price by the Duke of Burgundy. The Inquisition organized by the British authorities sentenced Joan of Arc to "heretic" and "witch". In May 1431, Joan of Arc, who was less than 20 years old, was burned alive in Rouen Square, and her ashes were thrown into the Seine. What is chilling is that during Joan of Arc's one-year imprisonment, Charles VII had no intention of rescuing her.

The death of Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orleans, aroused the indignation of the French people, who sang solemn war songs and attacked the British army. In 1437, the French army recovered the capital Paris, in 1441, Champagne, in 1450, Maine and Normandy, and then recaptured Guyenne in 1453. On October 19, 1453, the British army in Bordeaux announced its surrender. Except for Calais, France recovered all its territory, and the Hundred Years' War was declared over.

After the war, Joan of Arc's mother begged the Pope to review Joan of Arc's case, and the Pope found Joan of Arc not guilty. On May 16, 1920, Joan of Arc was canonized by the Church and was known as "Saint Joan of Arc".

### **Knight King ( 1515-1547 )**

1515, Louis XII died without a male heir, and the throne was inherited by Francis, a collateral descendant of the House of Valois, who was called Francis I. He was tall, handsome, and noble; he was romantic and passionate, and liked to chase women; he was particular about refinement and luxury, and was keen on hunting and touring. This romantic, passionate, and adventurous nature made him a recognized "knight king".

Throughout his life, Francis I was at war with the Spanish King Charles V. In 1525, Francis I suffered a crushing defeat in the Battle of Pavia and was captured by Charles V. He was forced to sign the Treaty of Madrid to give up the Duchy of Burgundy and the royal territory in Italy.

Francis I was not a great military strategist, nor did he do much in politics and economics, but he was recognized as the first Renaissance monarch in France. He was born in a collateral family, and no one thought he would become king at the time. Because he was not raised as a prince, he had the opportunity to accept free thoughts. Francis developed an interest in literature

and art since he was a child. As a king, he longed to occupy Italy; as a lover of literature and art, he had an inexplicable love for Italy. After conquering Milan, Francois visited this art capital with great interest. He was amazed by the magnificent architecture and exquisite paintings. After returning home, Francois was obsessed with it, so he sent people to Italy to buy famous paintings by Leonardo da Vinci, Rosso, Titian, and Raphael, and shipped some sculptures by Michelangelo back to France. Francis I also invited many artists to France, and Leonardo da Vinci was the most famous one among them. After Leonardo da Vinci arrived in France, Francois treated him with great courtesy, placed him in the castle, and listened to the teachings of this wise old man from time to time. However, the elderly Leonardo da Vinci passed away soon after.

François had a strong interest in architecture, and the architectural design of the Palace of Fontainebleau opened up an art school. Around 1530, Francis I decided to expand the park in the suburbs of Paris into a magnificent palace, the Palace of Fontainebleau. Two Italian master painters, Rosso and Primaticcio, accepted the decoration work inside the palace, and French painters Gouchon, Caron and sculptor Goujon also participated in the design. They tried their best to use the Palace of Fontainebleau as a platform to create a paradise in the history of art. Because of its unique style, it is regarded as an art school, namely the Fontainebleau School.

### **Christine and Monaditch of Sweden**

Salle des Fastes in the Royal Suite of the Palace of Fontainebleau hang several paintings that record important events in the history of the Palace. One of the paintings is titled "Christine and Monaditch of Sweden". In the painting, a man and a woman, the woman is standing and the man is kneeling, talking. It looks insignificant, but behind it is a horrifying murder that took place in the palace in the 17th century. This murder is considered to be the bloodiest since King Henry III of the Valois Dynasty murdered the two brothers of the Duke of Guise at the Palace of Blois on the Loire. Although it has nothing to do with politics and the victim is a foreign minor figure, it caused a long discussion in France and even Europe at the time, and also left an indelible episode in the history of the Palace of Fontainebleau.

At the request of the abdicated Swedish Queen Christine, who was staying at the Palace of Fontainebleau, Father Le Belle, the abbot of the Holy Trinity Monastery, followed her servants through the ancient medieval main tower gate and into the Deer Gallery. Just as he entered, he heard a loud noise behind him, and the door had closed.

In the afternoon, in the long corridor, Father Lebel saw Queen Christine standing in the middle, holding a round-headed cane, talking in a low voice with a man. There were three other men around the two of them, two of whom were a little further away, and one was close to Christine. When Christine saw the priest had arrived, her attitude changed immediately. She raised her voice, asked the priest to come closer, and asked him to show a bundle of documents she had entrusted to her a few days ago. Then she opened the lacquer seal in front of the man and showed him a stack of letters. She asked someone to read the contents aloud and asked the man if the letters were written by her. The man's name was Monadichi, and he was Christine's horse steward and was said to have been her favorite lover. When Monadichi saw the letter in the queen's handwriting, he denied it at first, but Christine pulled out the original written by Monadichi from under the letter. Monadichi realized that the evidence was irrefutable and it was useless to argue. His face turned pale and he began to beg for mercy. The two walked from left to right and then from right to left in the corridor, one begging and the other listening without saying anything, and this went on for an hour. Suddenly, Christine walked towards the priest and said simply: "Please take good care of it, prepare him for death, and be responsible for the peace of his soul after death." After she finished speaking, she walked out of the corridor, and the other three drew their swords and pointed them at Monadichi.

Monadichi was so frightened that his legs went limp, and he immediately knelt down to beg for mercy. He cried pitifully, and Santinelli, the leader of the three men who were responsible for executing him, could not bear it, so he promised to help him plead with the queen. Not long after, he returned dejected, and said helplessly with tears in his eyes: "Marquis, just think about God and your soul after death, and prepare to die!" It turned out that Christine was not only merciless, but also impatient with the delay of things. She told Santinelli to stab Monadichi with a sword first to make him confess quickly ( it is a big deal for Catholics to return to the underworld with their sins! ) Hearing this, Monadichi was terrified and fell in front of the priest,

begging him to persuade the queen to change her mind.

When the priest came to Christine, he saw the queen alone in the room, looking calm and as if nothing had happened. He knelt down and begged her to forgive the prisoner, and even brought up Jesus Christ, but Christine remained unmoved. She said that she had trusted Monadic without any doubt, not only entrusted all kinds of confidential matters to him, but also loved him like a brother. That guy actually betrayed her and failed to live up to her kindness, and being torn into pieces by five horses was not enough punishment. Religious arguments could not change the queen's mind, so the priest had to bring up King Louis XIV of France, advising Christine that it was not appropriate for a guest to commit a crime in the host's house, and at the same time advised her not to hurt the good impression of the French people on her because of this incident. Christine replied that she was only responsible to God, and she was not a prisoner of Louis XIV, so she had the final say on where to deal with the servants and how to deal with them.

Father Le Belle returned to the Deer Gallery and persuaded Monadichi to accept death with the most tactful words, comforting him to seek hope in the arms of the Lord. At this point, Monadichi could only confess his sins in a mixture of Latin, French and Italian with tears in his eyes ( how could he be so serious! ). In the meantime, Christine's personal preacher suddenly came. Monadichi had a glimmer of hope in the darkness and went to ask him for help again. After a long conversation, the priest left and was replaced by Santinelli, who said to Monadichi again: "Marquis, please ask for forgiveness from the Lord! The time has come!"

As he said that, he raised his sword and stabbed Monadichi's abdomen. Monadichi was unarmed, so he stretched out his right hand to grab the sword in a hurry. Santinelli pulled back with force, and Monadichi's three fingers fell to the ground instantly ( shock! ). Santinelli found that although Monadichi had no weapons, he was wearing soft armor ( obviously he knew it was not good before he came ), so it was difficult for the sword to penetrate. So later, one of them swung a sword to chop Monadichi's head, cutting off a large piece of skull. Monadichi probably felt that this was not a solution, so he signaled to the other person to just chop off his neck ( the sooner he died, the sooner he was reborn ). Unfortunately, the iron armor even protected his neck, and two or three swords could not hurt him at all. Seeing that there was no other way, the last person had to use a long and thin sword to pierce the poor guy's neck. Monadichi finally collapsed to the ground, unable to speak, and lingered on. His life was slowly drained away with the flowing blood. The tragic moment lasted for a full quarter of an hour before Monadichi died.

Louis XIV's cousin, the one who was painted as the moon goddess in the royal family portrait painted by Nocré in the Palace of Versailles, saw the murder scene a few weeks after the tragedy. According to her description, despite the vigorous cleaning, the blood stains in the Deer Gallery were still visible - poor Monadic was chased by three people and fled in the Deer Gallery for more than an hour, and the blood splattered everywhere, which was shocking. It can be seen how tragic the scene was at that time.

The reason for this brutal execution is still unknown. One theory is that Monadic, who had fallen out of favor, used derogatory words against Christine in a love letter to another woman, offending the queen's self-esteem; another theory is more serious, saying that Monadic leaked the secrets of Christine's political calculations at the time, which led to the murder. In any case, the fact that a retired foreign monarch arbitrarily ordered clergy who were not his own people in the palace of others to participate in the murder and execution, and the coldness and ease of talking and laughing in the process made contemporary people who read Le Belle's account feel horrified.

In fact, the life of this queen is quite like a novel. Her father is Gustav Adolf, the King of Sweden, known as the "Lion of the North", who is brave and good at fighting. Her mother is the daughter of the Elector of Brandenburg. According to her husband, "you can't trust any of her suggestions". She is a "medieval woman living in the 17th century" with no common sense or knowledge. However, this did not hinder the couple's deep love. Christine was not the son her parents had been looking forward to. Although her father could let it go, her mother hated her and looked down on her. In Christine's autobiography, she said that because her mother hated her, she often fell to the ground when she was a baby, and became a cripple with one shoulder higher



than the other. In any case, King Gustav, who knew that his wife could not be relied on, had already made a will. In case of an accident, whether it was state affairs or the education of the princess, it would be handed over to the Regent Ministers, and the queen was strictly prohibited from interfering.

Later, the king really died in the battlefield, but the regent he entrusted with the important task was stranded on the battlefield and was not allowed to return to the country until three years later. During those three years, the queen, who was morbid after being widowed, kept Christine close to her. The mother and daughter were locked up in a dark bedroom without sunlight for a long time. The queen spent her days wailing for her husband and worshiping the golden box containing her husband's heart. It is self-evident how much damage the young girl's heart could suffer.

After finally escaping from her mother's clutches, little Christine read a lot of poetry and books surrounded by ministers. Within ten years, she became a talented girl that the Swedish people were proud of and famous throughout Europe. She was fluent in several languages and could converse with philosophers ( French philosopher Descartes went to Stockholm at her invitation, but unfortunately he could not stand the severe cold in the north and died of pneumonia ). She was smart and well-educated, which went against the rude and uncivilized Swedish national style at that time.

But on the other hand, she was raised as a boy, had a fetish for men's clothing, yearned for the battlefield, and had a unique and shocking personality. At the age of 25 , she suddenly announced that she would give up the throne to her cousin, abandon the Protestantism believed by the Swedes, and convert to Catholicism, which shocked the whole country. In the end, she fulfilled her wish, abdicated, and won the hard-earned money that the Swedish people continued to support her. From then on, she wandered around Europe, passing through Hamburg, Antwerp, Brussels and Innsbruck, enjoying the fresh and warm welcome of people from various countries, and went all the way to Rome.

At first, people were very curious about this young lady who was different from her previous image of being a scholar, sometimes acting strangely, having a rough personality, being pushy and having a wit. But gradually, her shocking behavior also attracted a lot of negative criticism. Because she converted to Catholicism, which was a political bargaining chip for the Pope, she settled in Rome and enjoyed generous courtesy. In November 1657 , it was her second visit to France, but in fact, her vulgar behavior of disregarding etiquette had already been disliked by the royal family. When the royal family stayed at the Conbiyan Palace, she was allowed to stay at the Maple Palace. Because she was unwelcome, very few people had contact with her, but there were still many people who were friendly to her. After the above incident, people read Leboulter's account and were shocked by Christine's coldness of still talking and laughing when she ordered the murder. From then on, this incident followed her like a shadow for the rest of her life.

As for the reaction of the French court after the incident, there are different versions. One version says that at Christine's request, the king allowed her to stay in Fontainebleau for a few more months, but she was ignored and people who were friendly to her no longer dared or wanted to support her. Some even deliberately humiliated her. Another version says that a few days after the incident, Louis XIV secretly arrived at the Fontainebleau Palace to meet Christine, after which she left and never set foot on French soil again until her death.

Christine herself never regretted it throughout her life, and she scoffed at the fact that people avoided her like the plague because of this. In any case, this incident cast an indelible shadow on her for the rest of her life, and people lost their respect and interest in her. As she grew older, the Swedes were unwilling to continue to be oppressed by her, but she never changed, squandered her money at will, and tried many times to regain her role in European politics, but it was in vain. However, until the end, the Pope of Rome still supported her financially. When she died, her body was dressed in gorgeous clothes, and she had a grand funeral. She was in the limelight for the last time, and was buried in the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

## **Queen Catherine de' Medici**

Francis I died and his second son Henry II succeeded to the throne. When talking about Henry II, people always think of two women, one beautiful and one ugly. Let's talk about the beautiful one first, she is Diana de Poitiers. The ugly woman is a wealthy woman, Catherine de Medici of the Italian Medici family. In order to win over the Pope, Francis I made a very important marriage. The French prince married Catherine of the Italian Medici family, this Catherine.

The Medici family came from Florence, Italy. The specialty of the region is bankers, and the Medici were the big guys among them. The Medici family may not be of noble origin, but their wealth and power are much stronger than those of the nobles, especially in the Renaissance. Let me talk about the Renaissance from a different topic. It can be said that without the Medici family, the Italian Renaissance would be much inferior. When I traveled to Italy before, I might not remember the names of celebrities and artists, but I would definitely remember the Medici family, which was so powerful that it was god-level. Many famous artists and scientists relied on the assistance of the Medici family, the most famous of whom were Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, and the important artworks of the Renaissance were basically collected by this family. Because of their impressive wealth, the Medici family could influence many things in Italy. Therefore, there were 3 popes in his family.

Francois married the Medici family because Pope Leo X was from the family and because he coveted the Medici family's huge dowry and influence in Italy. But after all, he was not a royal aristocrat, and Catherine of Medici looked ordinary and was a bit clumsy, so she could only marry the second prince Henry. When he was not the crown prince, Henry's status was a bit awkward. He would only be a prince in the future, but he also accompanied the crown prince as a hostage in Spain for several years. He did not have the future of a crown prince, but suffered the punishment of a crown prince.

The reason why I talk about Henry's growth experience is to find the reason for his love. Because he fell madly in love with the beautiful Diana de Poitiers, who was 20 years older than him. Diana grew up next to Charles VIII's sister, the regent Princess Anna. Anna herself was a talented woman, and the maids around her were well-read and elegant in conversation. Later, Diana became the companion of Claude, the queen of François I. According to unofficial historical records, François I had countless lovers in his life, and Diana had also spent several nights with him. It is said that when Henry was still a little prince, he and his brother were used as bargaining chips to exchange for his father. Before leaving, the family tutor Diana Poitiers gave little Henry the last farewell kiss, which Henry could never forget. After Henry II grew up and took over as king, he saw Diana again at a party. He was shocked by her beauty and fell in love on the spot. His longing for Diana turned into love between men and women. Henry II was 14 years old that year and had just married Catherine, who was also 14 years old. Diana was 34 years old. Since Henry II had taken a fancy to Diana, he brought her with him openly without any obstacles. The Medici queen lived alone in the harem quietly and calmly. Seeing that woman named Diana moved into the Chenonceau Castle, Henry II was even more inseparable. Henry II loved this woman who was 20 years older than him all his life.

Henry II claimed to be a true knight. During a celebration, the King of France personally went to the battlefield in full armor. The King of France was so brave that he broke the spear of the Scottish Guards captain as soon as he entered the battlefield. He refused to allow the captain to change weapons and insisted on fighting to the end. As a result, the broken spear pierced Henry II's eyes and came out from behind his ear! After being tortured for more than ten days, the King of France died. It is said that the last thing he called before his death was Diana's name. Because Henry II actually died in a knight's tournament, he was called the "Knight King".

After the death of Henry II, Queen Catherine became the famous Queen Mother Medici in history. This woman who later became the most powerful in Europe was not so heartless. She did not kill Diana, but only expelled her from Chenonceau and let her die in the Chaumont Castle built for her by Henry II. The queen gave birth to 10 children without complaint, 7 of whom survived, including 4 sons. Queen Catherine's eldest son, Francis II, succeeded to the throne, and it took exactly one year from his boarding to his death. The eldest died, and the second took over, Charles IX, who happened to run into the beginning of the vigorous "Huguenot War". Charles IX was in poor health and his nerves were not very sound. Charles IX died at the age of 24. Next was Henry III, who could not escape the fate of the last three brothers and was finally assassinated by Protestants.

Henry III was the most handsome of all the children of the Queen Mother Medici. He was very decent when he was young, but was corrupted by his mother. He liked to dress up as a woman when he had nothing to do, and eventually became an outed homosexual. It costs more for a man to dress up as a woman than for a woman to dress up as a woman, and transvestism is very expensive. The country was at war, and the royal family was not rich. The Queen Mother did not stop her son from being so crazy, and she spoiled him.

Henry III seemed weak and effeminate, but he was actually a tough guy. He assassinated his political rival, the Duke of Guise, in his bedroom at the Castle of Blois. As the leader of the Catholic Church, the Count of Guise was popular among the people in Paris. At the time when Henry III was in power, his sister Margot was about to marry the Protestant leader Henry of Navarre (later Henry IV of the Bourbon Dynasty) under the arrangement of her mother. Because Henry III had no children, Margot's husband would be the legitimate heir to the throne. In order to prevent the Catholic-dominated French rule from falling into the hands of Protestants, the Three-Level Conference was about to be held at the initiative of the Count of Guise to re-elect the heir to France. In addition, Henry suffered a loss after the "Barricade Day" caused by the Guise family. On the surface, he agreed to all the conditions of Guise, but he hated it in his heart. Under the situation at the time, the Count of Guise was likely to take the opportunity to establish himself as king, but this move brought him a fatal disaster.

On the day of the Estates General, Henry III summoned the Count of Guise to meet him in the King's residence at the Castle of Blois. As soon as the Count, who had no suspicion of Henry III, entered the room, he was attacked by more than a dozen people, with swords flashing and sabers flying. Before he could see the situation clearly, the Count of Guise fell in a pool of blood. The Queen Mother Medici was more clear-headed and knew that her son had made a big mistake.

The death of Guise once again ignited the anger of the Parisians, and they went to war with the king. A monk who was a French Jing Ke played a replica of the "dagger in the end" and stabbed Henry III in the abdomen when he met him. In 1589, Henry III died, and at the beginning of the same year, the Queen Mother Medici also met God. This melee, with Henry on the left and Henry on the right, made people dizzy, and was called the "War of the Three Henrys" in history.

Now that two of the three Henrys are dead, the situation is much clearer. The remaining Henry of Navarre is much easier to deal with. He is the first French king of the Bourbon dynasty - Henry IV.

#### **St Bartholomew's Day ( Massacre of St Bartholomew)**

Bartholomew was one of the twelve disciples and a witness to the Ascension. August 24th of each year is Saint Bartholomew's Day.

16th century, tensions between the Catholic majority in France and the Huguenots (French Calvinist Protestants) grew. In 1572, the French Queen Mother Catherine de Medici arranged for the marriage of Henri de Navarre, the heir of the Bourbon family (the leader of the Huguenots and the future Henry IV), and her daughter Margaret. The wedding brought together the most important people of the Huguenots in Paris. Catherine therefore planned to massacre the Huguenots. After arguments, she persuaded her son Charles IX to carry out the massacre. On August 22, Catherine instructed the Catholic Maurevel to assassinate the leader of the Huguenots in Paris, Admiral Coligny. But he was only wounded. On August 23, the eve of St. Bartholomew's Day, the king issued an order to kill most of the Huguenot leaders. Coligny and 12 other Huguenot leaders were assassinated. Starting on August 24, mobs in Paris launched a wave of massacres of Huguenots, which then spread to other towns, including Toulouse, Bordeaux, Lyon, Bourges, Rouen, and Orléans. The estimated casualties ranged from 5,000 to 30,000, including the composer Claude Goudimel ( famous for his hymn music).

The St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre "The most terrible religious massacre in centuries". Since then, Protestants throughout Europe have been more or less hostile to Catholicism because of this incident. Alexandre Dumas wrote "Queen Margot" (Marguerite) based on this history. In 1994, a movie of the same name was made.

The bride, Margaret, was extremely beautiful and was known as the most beautiful woman in France. The groom, Henry, claimed to convert to Catholicism due to Margaret's plea and the protection and instruction of Queen Mother Catherine. He escaped from the massacre, and later escaped from house arrest and converted back to Huguenotism. Margot was imprisoned in a castle by her brother Henry III for 18 years.

1589 , Henry III was assassinated. Margot's brothers all died, but her husband unexpectedly inherited the French throne and became Henry IV, the founding monarch of the Bourbon dynasty . After he ascended the throne, he adopted a policy of religious reconciliation and tolerance and issued an edict recognizing the religious freedom of Protestants. Margot also changed from a French princess to the Queen of France.

Since 1592 , Henri IV and Margot have been discussing divorce. There was no love and no offspring, so Margot agreed to divorce but wanted to keep the title of Queen of France. After 7 years of arguing, Henri IV regained his freedom, and Margot would be Queen Margot forever. After that, Margot grew old in the dark and gloomy castle, busy writing a memoir every day. Later, because of debt and difficult life, she reconciled with Henri IV and returned to Paris, and Henri helped her solve the financial crisis. In her later years, Margot lived a fulfilling life, supporting artists and cultural industries.

As a woman, Margot had a distinguished family background and a beautiful face, but her life was filled with too much death, blood, betrayal and divorce, a true tragedy. But perhaps it was precisely because of this that she became a legend in the end.

Marie de Medici was the second queen of Henry IV. Her husband was 20 years older than her. She was a woman with a very turbulent fate. Henry IV decided to marry her because the Italian Medici family was very rich. Her generous dowry attracted the attention of the world. Therefore, the biggest purpose of the French royal family's decision to marry the Medici family was to use her family's money to save the shrinking French economy after the war. Therefore, Henry IV was always indifferent to the queen, and coupled with the language barrier, the queen felt particularly lonely.

Later, with the birth of her son Louis XIII, the queen's royal life changed a little. But the good times didn't last long. Unexpectedly, Henry IV's mistress and a bunch of illegitimate children also moved in. Fortunately, after a funny political farce, the mistress was executed.

Later, Henry IV was assassinated by gangsters and died on the street. Louis XIII was only 8 years old at that time. The fate of France was in the hands of Regent Queen Marie, but she had no talent for playing power games. She devoted most of her energy to building the Luxembourg Palace and pursuing new art forms.

Seven years later , Marie was driven out of Paris by her son and did not return to Paris until her old age. After reconciling with Louis XIII, Marie wanted to record her turbulent life, so the painter Rubens was entrusted with the task, which led to this series of famous paintings with a strong story.

The greatest contribution that Queen Marie made to French fashion was to invite the Baroque painter Rubens to Paris, thus promoting the Baroque style to Europe. Later, Richelieu gradually became a favorite of Louis XIII and his power grew. In 1630 , Marie failed in her attempt to overthrow Richelieu again and was forced to flee to Compiègne. In the last few years of her life, Queen Marie lived in exile. She wandered around in many places and eventually died of illness in Cologne, Germany.

### **Louis XIV, the Sun King ( 1638-1715 )**

Louis XIV reigned for 72 years, the longest reigning independent sovereign in history. (Compared to Kangxi, who reigned for 61 years, Qianlong, who reigned for 63 years including the emperor emeritus). He died at the age of 77. His successor, Louis XV, was his great-grandson, and his sons and grandsons did not survive him. Louis XV also reigned for nearly half a century, and Louis XVI was his grandson. Although the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth were next to each other, they were far apart in generation.

1643 , Louis XIV ascended the throne at the age of 5 , with Queen Mother Anne as regent. In 1661, Louis XIV fled Paris twice because of the "Fronde". He began to rule the country in person. After the death of Mazarin in 1661 , the ministers thought that the king would appoint a new prime minister soon, but the king did not take any action and handled government affairs personally. The puzzled ministers went to ask the king who should be in charge in the future. Louis XIV said briefly and firmly: "I". From then on, Louis XIV never appointed a prime minister again, and he personally asked about everything. For him, only the monarch has the right to consider and make decisions, and the duty of others can only be to execute the monarch's orders; the country belongs to the king, and only the king with divine right is the symbol of the country. Louis XIV pushed the French monarchy to an unprecedented peak. His most famous saying for governing the country is "I am the state". He set the sun pattern as the symbol of the royal family, indicating that he is as great as the sun god, spreading the sunshine of grace to all directions.

The first thing Louis XIV did was to punish the corrupt finance minister Fouquet, and then he appointed Colbert, who came from a merchant family, as the director of finance. Colbert actively promoted financial reforms, eliminated malpractices, reduced tax rates, implemented revenue-increasing and expenditure-reducing policies, and gradually improved the country's financial situation. He also vigorously promoted mercantilism policies, protected and supported domestic handicrafts, implemented protective tariff policies, abolished checkpoints, and developed commerce and foreign trade. In order to control the nobles, he built the magnificent Palace of Versailles on the outskirts of Paris, invited a large number of nobles to leave their territories and move to Versailles, and promised them generous rewards and salaries. The nobles lived in the palace for a long time and gradually alienated themselves from the people of the territory. The king almost did not allow them to hold positions with real power. Therefore, the nobles gradually transformed into idle parasites who could only rely on the king. Louis XIV used this to weaken the power of local dignitaries.

1673 , Louis XIV declared that all bishops in France could only be ordained by the king. This action aroused the public opposition of Pope Innocent XI, and the two sides did not reconcile until 1693 .

Louis XIV was a king with a strong desire for expansion. In 1665 , he personally conquered Spain and won. In 1672 , he launched a war against the Netherlands. Louis XIV himself was officially declared "the Great" by the Paris High Court in 1680. Austria, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden concluded the Augsburg Alliance in 1686. Britain also joined the alliance in 1688 and went to war with France in the same year. The war lasted for nearly 10 years. France was defeated and forced to return many of the territories it had previously occupied. After the War of the Spanish Succession from 1700 to 1713 , France ceded part of its colonies in North America to Britain. This war greatly weakened France's power, and France lost its hegemony in Europe.

The Louis XIV era was one of the most glorious periods in French history. The country was strong, the economy was developing rapidly, the culture was highly prosperous, and the absolute monarchy reached its peak. However, the continuous wars consumed a lot of manpower and financial resources. The king's extravagance and extravagance in his later years caused France to quickly decline. In the later period of his reign , the French people complained and uprisings occurred frequently in various places.

Louis XIV had countless lovers throughout his life. But his last lover was Madame de Maintenon, who was the nanny of the children born to the king and a mistress. In January 1686 , the king and Madame de Maintenon secretly got married in a chapel. At that time, the king was 48 years old and Madame de Maintenon was 52 years old. Louis XIV was no longer old enough to spend his days in debauchery. Although Madame de Maintenon was not young and beautiful enough, her simple heart made him feel peaceful.

Louis XIV, who had a strong desire to perform, turned his dining process into a grand ceremony. Breakfast was relatively simple, with only some bread (if there was a breakfast ceremony after the waking ceremony, there would be no time to do any work in the whole morning). Lunch and dinner must be treated grandly, and the procedures must be extremely luxurious and

complicated. The king's food was heavily guarded from the kitchen to his table to prevent it from being poisoned. While the food was being delivered, servants would shout "Royal Meal", and everyone passing by along the way had to bow in respect. When Louis XIV was dining, in addition to the servants who were responsible for testing for poison (with their mouths, not cameras), holding napkins, and waiting to be dispatched, there were more than 300 people watching, and there was music to entertain. His dinner menu:

Soup

Chicken soup, partridge and cabbage soup, pigeon soup, rooster soup

Appetizer

Chicken, partridge

main course

Steak, pigeon pie

Small Entrees

Braised chicken, partridge, scones, roasted free-range chicken, truffle chicken

Barbecue

Chicken, pigeon, partridge

dessert

Fruits, preserves, stewed fruits, etc...

Do you think this menu is just for reference? No, no, no, there is evidence that he could really finish it! Princess Palatine (Louis XIV's sister-in-law) once wrote that he could eat four bowls of soup, a chicken, a partridge, a large salad, two slices of ham, lamb with garlic sauce, a plate of shortbread, two bowls of fruit and two eggs. It is said that he was once a man who loved dancing, but he had to give it up because he was too fat. Even after his death, doctors opened his abdomen and found that Louis XIV's stomach was twice as big as that of an ordinary person. Tell me, is he convincing? Is he convincing?

### **Louis XIV's Influence on Women's Lives**

**Ballet:** Louis XIV had a special liking for ballet and had received professional training. When he was young, he participated in the court ballet "Cassandra" and played the role of Apollo, the sun god. After he came to power, he strongly funded the development of ballet. In 1661, Louis XIV founded the world's first dance school, the Royal Dance Academy. Professional ballet dancers came into being and gradually replaced aristocratic actors, and ballet began to take the modern development path. After the 19th century, actresses became the protagonists, their costumes changed to short skirts, and they danced on tiptoe in special dance shoes, forming the ballet in the current sense.

**Food:** During the Renaissance, famous Italian dishes and their cooking methods were introduced to France. A large group of Italian chefs came to Paris with the dowry of Queen Medici. Italian cuisine became very popular in the French court and was gradually absorbed into French cuisine. Louis XIV turned the French court's banquets into the best in Europe. He also worked hard to train French chefs to get rid of their dependence on Italian chefs. His approach was to hold a national cooking competition in the Palace of Versailles, where more than 300 chefs showed their talents. The best chefs were personally awarded the "No. 1 Cook in France" ribbon, the Cordon Bleu Award, which is still the dream of all French chefs today. During the reign of Louis XIV, French local ingredients were on people's tables, and the status of fresh fruits and vegetables was greatly improved, replacing pickled ingredients. Recipes written by famous chefs became popular throughout the country, forming a unique French style. At the same time, France developed a systematic dining etiquette that is very similar to modern dining etiquette. The high-end French cuisine that we now think of took root during this period.

**Perfume:** After perfume culture was introduced from Italy to France, the French became obsessed with it. Louis XIV was addicted to perfume and was called the "perfume-loving emperor". He even called on his subjects to change their perfumes every day and ordered the court perfumer to prepare a perfume he liked every day, otherwise he would be in danger of being guillotined.

**High heels:** Louis XIV was only 165cm tall, but he was very narcissistic. He asked the designer to customize high heels for him,

and the height of the heels must not be less than 5cm . The prototype of modern high heels was thus formed.

### **Louis XV and Madame de Pompadour**

Louis XV was the great-grandson of Louis XIV . He took power at the age of 13. He did not have the great talent and vision of Louis XIV. He was indecisive and obsessed with beauty and hunting. When the Director of Finance reported the fiscal deficit to him, he always turned his head away, unwilling to face the precarious situation of the dynasty, "I wish there would be a flood after my death!"

Louis XV had numerous women, the most noteworthy of whom was Madame Pompadour. After 1745 , the French court was controlled by this elegant and charming woman for almost 20 years. Madame Pompadour gradually gained power in the court, and any minister who disobeyed her would be expelled from the court; everyone knew that if they wanted to get a certain position, it would be more reliable to find Madame Pompadour than the king. However, Madame Pompadour was naive and careless in handling state affairs, which led to the failure of the Seven Years' War.

Madame Pompadour also led the trend of art. She was very enthusiastic about art and was an active advocate of the Rococo style. Under her promotion, the Rococo style, characterized by luxury, fantasy and lightness, quickly swept the whole of Europe. Madame Pompadour also had a strong interest in literature. The salon activities she hosted were the most appealing at the time. Many celebrities, such as Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot and others, often participated in them. They surrounded this powerful concubine like stars surrounding the moon, discussing thoughts and culture, and arguing about philosophical issues. With the support of Madame Pompadour, French literature and art have been further developed. But at the same time, her expenses were extremely shocking.

### **Baroque and Rococo styles**

The word Baroque originally means "strange and bizarre". This style originated in Italy. Although it is artificial, it represents innovation and boldness. It breaks the rational tranquility and harmony, has a free and unrestrained romantic color, is full of rich imagination, and the main characteristics of its expression are movement and change, and pursues the fluidity of space. People often confuse the two artistic styles of Baroque and Rococo because they both have luxurious characteristics in their expression. The Rococo style became popular under the admiration of Madame Pompadour. It is light and delicate, with exquisite decorations, and the theme focuses on romance and fantasy. The main tone is bright and gorgeous, but it has a vulgar superficiality, which is far inferior to the artistic achievements of the Baroque style.

### **XVI ( 1774-1793 ) and Marie Antoinette - the Locksmith King and the Deficit Queen**

1774 , Louis XVI, the grandson of Louis XV, became the new King of France. Louis XVI had a stutter, was introverted and dull, and was unwilling to see ministers. Unlike his ancestors, the young king was not obsessed with women, and his only hobby was to fiddle with all kinds of locks. His bedroom was equipped with studios such as lockmaking, clockmaking, physics and geography. He spent most of his day in the studio, and the person with him was not the beautiful queen, nor the princes and ministers, but the locksmith Garman he hired at a high salary. Louis XVI's lockmaking craftsmanship was superb, and the locks and machine models he made were a perfect combination of skills and art. He said that there was no lock in Europe that he could not open. If he were an ordinary person, he would surely be able to become an excellent locksmith, but unfortunately he was a king, which doomed him to a tragic fate. Comparison with Ming Xizong Zhu Youjiao (1605-1627 , reign title Chenghua ) - Carpenter Emperor, Wei Zhongxian

Under Louis XIV and Louis XV, France had been pursuing a policy of external expansion, which caused a surge in government debt. However, because the aristocracy, the wealthiest class in France, was exempt from taxation, successive French monarchs had difficulty raising large sums of money for war. Louis XV tried to address this problem in his final years in office, but reforms could not be advanced because the aristocracy dominated the courts and parliament. During the reign of Louis XV, the aristocracy consolidated their privileges and successfully prevented the king from taxing the upper classes. In the struggle between the aristocracy and the king, the parliament won public support and was seen as a stubborn opponent of the absolutist system. After

Louis XV abolished the court in 1770 , his popularity hit rock bottom. Louis XVI reorganized the parliament soon after he ascended the throne, which led to a short-term increase in his popularity, but brought hidden dangers to himself and France.

When Louis XVI ascended to the throne, he faced a dynasty that was on the verge of collapse. In the late reign of Louis XIV, the Sun King, he was militaristic and his finances were on the verge of collapse. Louis XV, who succeeded him, went even further and tried to ease the pressure on the treasury by raising taxes, but what he got was the hatred of the people. When the dynasty passed to Louis XVI, France was already heavily in debt. The annual interest repayment alone consumed more than half of the treasury revenue, and the financial system was almost collapsed. In foreign policy, Louis XVI played a positive role in promoting it. But this aggravated the financial problems that had not been solved. During the reign of his grandfather, Britain conquered many French colonies in the Seven Years' War. In foreign policy, Louis XVI opposed Britain and tried to rebuild France into a colonial empire. Therefore, in the American War of Independence, France stood on the side of supporting the United States. Since 1778 , Louis' government has begun to provide supplies to the Americans. French funding helped the United States win independence, but the high cost made Louis's finance minister, Jacques Necker , consider imposing new taxes on the nobility. This move angered the nobles, who put pressure on Louis XVI through Parliament. Eventually, Louis XVI dismissed Necker and abolished the new tax in 1781 .

Encouraged by a series of victories, the aristocracy continued to sabotage the French government's fiscal reform plans. Necker's successor barely maintained the normal operation of France's finances through a policy of arbitrary borrowing, but this state only lasted for a few years, and the financial crisis inevitably broke out. In 1788 , the citizens of Paris began to protest against heavy taxes and accused the royal family of excessive waste. At this time, Louis XVI had to let Necker return to the post of French Finance Minister. However, faced with heavy government debts and a fiscal situation that was not enough to cover expenditures, the re-appointed Finance Minister also seemed quite helpless. There was only one way to solve the fiscal crisis, that is, to tax the richest class in society - the aristocracy. But the aristocracy said that as long as the monarch maintained absolute authority over state affairs, they would refuse to pay taxes.

1788 , in order to break the deadlock, Louis XVI convened the Estates General. Prior to this, the Estates General had been suspended for 175 years. The participants of the Estates General were divided into three classes: the nobility, the clergy, and the representatives of the Third Estate. The so-called Third Estate included the middle class and the vast majority of ordinary French people. At the meeting, due to the decline of the nobility and the clergy, and the growth of the Third Estate, especially the bourgeoisie, the representatives of the Third Estate firmly grasped the initiative of the meeting. They put forward the requirements of reforming the tax system and reducing the privileges of the other two classes. These demands were not met, and the Third Estate established the National Assembly on its own to make its voice heard. Louis XVI attempted to use military force to suppress the parliament, but the angry people of Paris arrested the royal family and captured the Bastille on July 14, 1789. The French Revolution broke out, and Louis XVI was eventually sent to the guillotine.

In October 1789 , the mob forced the royal family to return from the Palace of Versailles in the suburbs to the Tuileries Palace in Paris, effectively placing them under house arrest. At a critical moment, Louis XVI called on the people to wear red hats, a symbol of revolution, to express his praise for the people's revolution in order to calm the people's riotous emotions. Such examples seemed to reveal Louis XVI's willingness to compromise with the revolutionaries. The revolution was likely to establish a new constitutional monarchy, with Louis XVI as a monarch having only limited power. At the same time, Louis XVI secretly negotiated with the moderate revolutionary faction led by the Comte de Mirabeau . The Comte de Mirabeau advocated limiting the royal power to a certain extent, but Louis XVI's refusal to compromise and his wife's treasonous plan conspired with the Austrian Habsburg family caused public opinion to begin to turn away from the king.

1791 , the royal family attempted to flee France en masse. However, when they reached Varennes , they were intercepted by revolutionaries and had to return to Paris. Faced with hostility from Austria and other European countries, the revolutionaries prepared to declare war on neighboring countries. Even Louis XVI encouraged the revolutionaries to go to war with Austria because he mistakenly believed that this would divert public attention and win public support again. The following year, France



declared war on Austria, and the revolutionary government announced the abolition of the monarchy and accused Louis XVI of opposing the revolution. The National Convention, a product of the victory of the revolution, tried Louis XVI and the majority of representatives found him guilty.

The king had hidden a large number of secret letters colluding with foreign forces in a secret closet and locked it with a lock he had carefully made. However, the lock he thought was foolproof was opened by his most trusted locksmith, Garman. These letters became strong evidence of the king's treason, and he was sent to the guillotine on January 21, 1793. Ironically, Louis XVI personally participated in the design of the guillotine, changing the guillotine blade into a triangle to speed up the beheading, but he did not expect that he would eventually become the ghost under the knife. In October of the same year, Queen Marie Antoinette was also beheaded in public.

Marie Antoinette's father was Francis I, Holy Roman Emperor, and her mother was Maria Theresa, Queen of Austria. In 1770, she married Louis XVI. Their wedding was grand and luxurious, and the debt owed for planning the wedding was not paid off until the outbreak of the Revolution. She was addicted to gambling and dancing all day long, and was crazy about pleasure. What she liked to do most was to discuss the design of her clothes and hairstyle with tailors and hairstylists. Due to her own physical defects, Louis XVI made Marie Antoinette his real wife seven years after marriage. The guilty king therefore listened to Marie Antoinette and was willing to pay for the queen's extravagance. Marie Antoinette's extravagance caused dissatisfaction among the French people. Known as the queen of deficit, the castle of 18 million francs was blown up if it didn't look good. During her 20 years as queen, she spent her days at the wine table, gambling table, and dressing table. Her activity radius never exceeded 20 miles from the Palace of Versailles, and she never visited the homes of any French farmers or Parisian citizens.

1789, the French Revolution broke out. Marie Antoinette spared no effort to maintain the monarchy, and encouraged King Louis XVI to oppose any request to limit the royal power, showing more independent-mindedness than her husband. Compared with Louis XVI and the moderates who advocated the establishment of a constitutional monarchy, Marie was quite stubborn. She hoped to rely on the military power of Austria to maintain her autocratic rule in France. To this end, she tried to persuade her brother, Habsburg King Leopold II, to declare war on France. However, to her disappointment, her request was rejected.

1789, Queen Marie's position in the hearts of the French people had already been questioned. After the French Revolution began, her position in the hearts of the French people further declined, and she became a symbol of royal frivolity, debauchery and immorality. The French people attributed many domestic problems to the queen's extravagance. The revolutionaries printed her crimes into pamphlets and distributed them everywhere. However, Marie did not realize that her actions had aroused the strong resentment of the French people. She continued to act arrogantly because in her imagination, the queen should be like this. In this way, she further damaged her image in the hearts of the French people and her position further declined.

In October 1789, under the threat of angry Parisian citizens, the French royal family had to move from the Palace of Versailles in the suburbs to the city of Paris to be monitored by the revolutionary masses. So far, Queen Marie and her entire royal family had actually become prisoners of the revolutionary masses. Queen Marie and King Louis XVI then held secret negotiations with the moderates of the revolution, trying to seek help. However, Marie gradually began to doubt these politicians and persuaded her husband to end the negotiations with them. In June 1791, the king and queen decided to flee France with their children. However, they were captured by revolutionaries in Varennes, a city on the French border, and the escape plan failed. This escape further reduced the public image of the royal family.

After returning to Paris, Marie continued to plead with her brother in Austria to declare war on France in order to save them. After France declared war on Austria in 1792, Marie continued to collude with Austria and revealed the French army's battle plan to Austria. The French revolutionaries soon saw through Marie's trick. In August 1792, the angry people of Paris launched a riot. During the war between Austria and France, the revolutionaries forced the royal family to move out of the Tuileries Palace and placed them under house arrest in the revolutionary government.

Louis XVI was soon imprisoned for opposing the revolution. In 1792, the Revolutionary Tribunal found Louis XVI guilty and sent him to the guillotine in 1793. After Louis XVI was executed, Marie and her children remained in prison. In July 1793, the revolutionaries took her son, Louis XVII, away from her. In August of the same year, she began to be held in solitary confinement. In October 1793, Marie finally stood in the court. The revolutionaries also put some insulting charges on her, which seriously damaged her reputation. From this, the anger of the revolutionaries was clear. Although Marie behaved quite gracefully throughout the trial, she was still found guilty by the Revolutionary Tribunal. It turned out that Marie had been encouraging Austria to go to war with France and had revealed the detailed battle plans of the French army to her Austrian brother. On October 16, 1793, Marie was sent to the guillotine.

#### The famous "necklace incident"

Marie Antoinette liked exquisite ornaments, especially jewelry, and often spent a lot of money on them, which gave some people with ulterior motives an opportunity to take advantage of her. Paris jewelers Bohémé and Bassanger owned a priceless necklace. They tried their best to persuade Louis XVI to buy it, but the price of the necklace was too high, and even the king had to shake his head. Bohémé and Bassanger were almost desperate. If they didn't sell the necklace, they might go bankrupt. At this time, a noble lady, Countess Jeanne La Motte, appeared in front of them and claimed that she would buy the necklace. Countess La Motte came from a ruined aristocratic family and was good at calculations. After seeing Queen Marie's luxury in the Palace of Versailles, she decided to make a fortune from the queen.

Madame La Motte targeted Cardinal Rohan. Bishop Rohan had angered the Queen of Austria, the mother of Queen Marie Antoinette, and had also offended the Queen herself, so he needed to please the Queen. Madame La Motte lied to Rohan that the Queen had taken a fancy to this luxurious necklace, and if he bought the necklace, the Queen would favor him. Madame La Motte showed a forged tender and sweet letter from the Queen, and even found a prostitute who looked very similar to the Queen to pretend to be the Queen to meet Rohan. The brief meeting in the hazy night made Rohan mistakenly believe that he was meeting the Queen herself. He soon fell into the trap, obtained the necklace with his own credit guarantee, and handed it to Madame La Motte, entrusting her to present it to the Queen. After Madame La Motte successfully deceived the necklace, she quickly split the necklace and sold it for a large sum of money. The scam seemed to be flawless so far. But the necklace was too expensive, and Bishop Rohan could not pay the balance even if he went bankrupt. The jeweler had no choice but to demand the money directly from the king and queen, and the matter was exposed.

The evidence fabricated by Madame La Motte made it difficult for the Queen and the Bishop of Rohan to defend themselves, and almost ruined their reputation. Although Madame La Motte's trick was eventually exposed and she was convicted and sentenced, the Queen's reputation had been ruined. Marie Antoinette became synonymous with the most dissolute, evil, sinister and extravagant woman in France.

Marie Antoinette was born into a distinguished family. Her father, Francis I, was the Holy Roman Emperor, and her mother was the most famous female politician in Europe at the time, Queen Marie Theres of Austria. She was born in Vienna on November 2, 1755, and was the youngest child in the family, so she was deeply loved. However, she was lively, willful and lazy by nature. She could not write correctly in French and German until she was thirteen years old, and she lacked the most basic knowledge of history and other necessary knowledge. Her mother invited many famous teachers for her, but she still could not become a lady.

At the age of eleven, Antoinette was enjoying her carefree life as an Austrian princess in the harem. At this time, the political situation in Europe was changing, and this change affected her life. Her mother and King Louis XV of France decided to stop the long-standing war between the two families for hegemony, form an alliance, and agree on a marriage to strengthen it. Louis XV had no intention of marrying any Austrian princess, and the Austrian Emperor Joseph II, whose wife had just passed away, had no intention of choosing a new queen from the French princesses. Therefore, the historical responsibility fell on Antoinette, who was only eleven years old at the time, and Louis XVI, the French prince and grandson of Louis XV. In 1766, France solemnly proposed to Marie Antoinette.

After accepting the French proposal, Theresa looked back at her daughter and realized that she was too young and didn't know anything. But she knew very well that if nothing unexpected happened, her young daughter would be the Queen of France. She knew that her daughter was not good enough to be a qualified queen. But it was too late. She had always been busy with military affairs and neglected her children's education. When the time came, she had to use a quick method to teach her daughter some basic etiquette.

1769, Louis XV wrote to Theresa, formally proposing for his grandson and suggesting that the wedding be held the following year. Although Marie Antoinette had not made any substantial progress in the past few years except for teasing her teacher with her cleverness, Theresa still waited for this letter with great patience. She may have known that it was very unfortunate for her daughter to marry a French prince who was said to be "stupid and rude", but she had no way out. She knew very well that Austria had no choice but to cease fire. She was a queen first and a mother second. For the country, she could sacrifice everything, including her daughter's happiness. Antoinette, who was only fourteen years old at the time, was just a child. How could she know what marriage meant? Of course, she would obey her mother's arrangement.

The wedding ceremony for Antoinette was of course grand and extraordinary. Neither Austria nor France wanted to lose to the in-laws in terms of pomp and circumstance. But behind the grand scene, Theresa was vaguely uneasy. As a mother, she was worried about her daughter's future. She had a bad feeling that this was the beginning of a tragedy.

Marie Antoinette bid farewell to her life as an Austrian princess amidst the sound of salutes and cheers, and set foot on a foreign land to become the most distinguished woman in the French court at that time - the Dauphin. Her wedding day was full of emotions, from nervousness, fear to excitement. But for the young and slow-witted French Dauphin Louis, the meaning of this day was so simple: "Meeting with the Dauphin."

The misfortune began on the wedding bed. On the wedding night, Louis wrote only two words in his diary: "Nothing happened." Simplicity is the characteristic of the future French king's diary, but it is strange that nothing happened on the wedding night. Facing such a young and beautiful wife, he actually had "nothing" all night! It's unbelievable. The prince did not lie, nothing happened that night.

At first, people kindly speculated that it was just because the prince was not used to it and was timid due to his youth. But as time went on, goodwill gradually disappeared, rumors began to appear, and rumors spread all over the country that the prince was impotent. It is conceivable how disappointed Antoinette, who was active by nature, was at that time. In her letters to her mother, she repeatedly complained that "nothing happened" between her husband and her for a long time. Moreover, this "nothing" situation lasted for seven years. In other words, in the seven years after marriage, Antoinette was still a virgin. For a normal and young woman, this was a great shame. The problem was not solved until seven years later, when Antoinette's brother, the then Austrian Emperor Joseph II, visited France. Joseph II found that the problem was just because his somewhat shy brother-in-law had a long foreskin, not because he was impotent as people said. Soon after a simple minor operation, Antoinette became pregnant for the first time. At this time, she had become the Queen of France. She sat in front of Louis XVI and said, "Your Majesty, one of your little subjects is making trouble in my belly." After that, Antoinette brought two princes and two princesses to France. Unfortunately, her last child died when he was less than one year old, and the first prince also died at the age of four.

Louis XVI was an honest man, full of energy, who liked hunting and locksmithing. He was not greedy for money and was not obsessed with women. If he was born in an ordinary family, he would definitely be a very good person. But a person who can be a good person may not necessarily be a good king. Because of the problems in his marital life, he could not hold his head up in front of Antoinette. His honesty and shyness made the already arrogant queen even more domineering. In many things, he had to listen to Antoinette's opinions. Although Theresa wisely told Antoinette not to interfere in political affairs, Antoinette did not listen at all and repeatedly intervened in important personnel appointments and other issues.

Louis XV was greedy and extravagant. In order to spend money on himself, he imposed heavy taxes and extorted money during his reign, which caused public outrage. Therefore, when Louis XV passed away, people were delighted to think that the honest and loyal Louis XVI would make their lives a little easier, so they had high expectations for him. But Louis XVI was just an ordinary man who knew nothing about military and national affairs. He always took a conciliatory attitude towards Antoinette's random interference in personnel affairs. Antoinette was arrogant and domineering. When she became the queen admired by everyone, she was only 19 years old and still a little girl. She did things without considering the consequences. When she met such a weak husband, she became even more lawless. She ignored the opposition of the ministers, decorated her palace with gold and jade, and dressed extravagantly and wastefully, causing a deficit in the national finances. She also hung out with a group of flatterers all day long, and followed the advice of her favorite Madame Polina, placing the uneducated and low-class nobles she introduced into various lucrative positions. Not only did she like to attend various high-society balls and watch opera performances, but she also often traveled incognito, regardless of her status, and personally participated in opera performances. At that time, there was a book circulating among the people called "The Dirty Life of Antoinette", which contained various scandals that the authors had guessed based on rumors, saying how her private life was indecent, and even that she had a lesbian relationship with Madame Polina.

In fact, she was indeed frivolous and unethical, but she was not as corrupt as the folk legends said. She herself had no idea what she should and should not do as a queen, what the power in her hands meant, and how to help her husband manage a country. She only knew how to use these powers to satisfy her desire for fun. She thought that as a queen, she could do anything without worrying about the consequences. Before the revolution, she never knew how her subjects lived and where the money for her to squander came from. When she rode through the streets in a carriage, all she heard were the ecstatic citizens cheering "Long live the queen" enthusiastically, or the flattery of the envious little people around her. At this time, she thought she was living in heaven. How could she have thought that she would spend the last part of her life in prison, and how could she know that her life would end on the guillotine?

However, the birth of the prince did not bring her the corresponding glory and praise. Many people speculated that the father of the child was not Louis XVI, and people suspected that the child was a bastard. People believed this because of the high taxes brought to them by her long-term extravagant life, which made their already difficult life even more difficult, and because she was attacked by two political conspiracy groups in the court. One was the revolutionaries gathered around the Duke of Orleans, and the other was the Count of Provence, the king's brother who had been waiting for an opportunity and wanted to be king. The slogan shouted by the revolutionaries under the instigation and protection of the Duke of Orleans was "Against the king, first against the queen." The Count of Provence was full of hope that he would become king because Louis XVI had no children, but the child born by Antoinette shattered his hope. In 1785, she was actually surrounded by enemies, and all kinds of pamphlets and folk songs that slandered and defamed her were circulated in every corner of France. People believed that the queen was a shameless whore and the king was a cowardly turtle. They had lost the necessary respect for the royal family.

Antoinette was completely unaware of all this, and even if she knew, she would still be self-righteous and think that people would not really do anything to them. Things began to change with the necklace incident. A prostitute who had turned over a new leaf learned that the powerful Cardinal Rohan could not become the prime minister he had longed for because he was despised by Antoinette. She pretended to be the queen's close friend and established a relationship with Bishop Rohan. She also found a prostitute with a figure similar to Antoinette, who wore Antoinette's clothes that were stolen from the palace, and "met" Bishop Rohan in a garden in the harem at night. Rohan was overjoyed and trusted them even more. When he learned that the queen wanted to buy a necklace worth 1.6 million livres but had no cash, he immediately sold his property and spent all his money to buy the necklace for the queen. However, the jewelry was taken to England by the prostitute and her husband and sold secretly. When the jeweler learned that the buyer was the queen when he paid, he went to the palace and alarmed Antoinette who was preparing to perform an opera. Antoinette was furious and asked Louis XVI to arrest Rohan and put him on trial in court.

The result of the court's trial was, of course, that the female swindler was brought to justice and thrown into prison, but she

miraculously escaped from prison. Moreover, some people claimed that they saw Antoinette's close friend, Mrs. Lambar, visit the female swindler before she escaped from prison. So people believed that the prostitute was just a scapegoat for the queen, and the real swindler was the queen. Not long after, the financial report published by Finance Minister Calon showed that Louis XVI had a debt of up to 1.5 billion livres in the twelve years since he ascended the throne. People knew that the king was a kind man and did not live a luxurious life, so it could only be the queen. She lived a luxurious life and liked to give her family money of 100 million to let them go to war. The queen's extravagance and selfishness caused a huge deficit in the national finances, and the result of the fiscal deficit was that people's necessities became more and more expensive and taxes became higher and higher. Pamphlets promoting revolution began to appear at the right time, people became more and more dissatisfied with the royal family, and the foundation of the Bourbon throne began to shake.

In order to survive the financial crisis, Louis XVI had no choice but to turn to the common people and convene the Estates General. When the Estates General convened, Antoinette had just lost a daughter a year ago, and now her son was dying. Therefore, when she went to the venue to meet the representatives of the conference, her face was very ugly, and she did not smile as she should have, which was seen by the common people as Antoinette's contempt for the "people" and "people's representatives." The "people's representatives" vowed that "the National Assembly would never retreat except with bayonets." Should they compromise? The court was hesitant at first, unwilling to give up the right to levy taxes, but also unwilling to offend the "people." When the "people" were becoming more and more "revolutionarily enthusiastic" under the instigation of revolutionary agitators, the king decided to challenge the "people." On July 11, 1789, he dismissed Necker, the only minister of state who was still popular, and ordered him to leave France immediately and return to his hometown in Switzerland.

This day was the real beginning of the famous "French Revolution", because the removal of Necker marked the beginning of the break and confrontation between the king and the people. But Louis XVI, who had always been indifferent, wrote in his diary that day only the simple words "Nothing happened, Mr. Necker left". On July 12, Desmoulins, who later became the leader of the revolution, jumped onto the bench, waved his pistol, and shouted to tell people that the king was mobilizing troops to massacre them. The "people" were immediately filled with indignation and excitement. They began a large-scale riot, seized military outposts, looted arsenals, and built barricades to prepare for a decisive battle with the king and the army. July 14 -this day in history, 20,000 people rushed to the Bastille and occupied it in just two hours. At this time, Louis XVI, who thought he could rest easy after the annoying Necker left, thought that this matter should be handled by the National Assembly, and he went to bed peacefully at ten o'clock. When the Duke of Lioncourt broke into his bedroom despite the guards' obstruction, woke him up from his sweet dream and told him the news that the Bastille had been captured, he asked in panic: "Ah? You brought me news of a rebellion?" The Duke immediately corrected his inappropriate use of words: "No! Your Majesty, this is a revolution!"

Louis XVI knew that there had been a "revolution" in Britain 150 years ago, so he knew what the "revolution" meant to him, but he was always slow to react and had no way to deal with it.

"The revolution is the enemy - this is the queen's point of view. The queen is the main obstacle on the way forward - the revolution is sure of this." Louis XVI is not to be feared. He dare not resist the will of the "people". There is only one person left in France to defend the royal throne, and there is only one person who is irreconcilable with the revolution. As Mirabeau said, the queen was the only man in the court at this time. Therefore, everyone in the revolutionary camp must oppose the queen, and all guns are aimed at her. Antoinette really acted like a queen since the revolution. She cursed fiercely in the palace. Whether it was the nobles who participated in the "rebellion" or the "people" who celebrated the victory of the revolution in the streets, in her eyes, they were all "a group of lunatics and rogues, a group of idiots and hooligans." She was full of hatred for the revolution, and the revolution was merciless to her. The revolutionary pamphlets and tabloids flying all over the sky portrayed this "Austrian woman" as a tyrannical, cruel, ruthless, and shameless whore who instigated the king to confront the "people". Moreover, the "people" of the revolution had no doubts about the image of the queen portrayed in pamphlets and tabloids.

"When the tree falls, the monkeys scatter." The noble men and women who had surrounded her fled in panic, fearing that they would be implicated. Only her true lover, the Swedish officer Ferson, stayed with her and planned to stick with her. She gathered

the king's guards, reviewed and rewarded them, and encouraged them to defend the royal family. Because the revolutionary masses, organized and planned by some people, formed a team of women (it is said that the main role was played by men dressed as women) and were rushing to Versailles, preparing to "invite" the royal family back to Paris, so that they would be under the supervision of the "people" and dare not engage in any conspiracy of "massacre of the people" and "counterattack on the revolution." When this revolutionary women's team had surrounded the Palace of Versailles, Louis XVI's weakness was revealed again. He hesitated and didn't know whether to order the guards to resist. The soldiers of the guard dared not fight back because they had not received the order to open fire. They had to let the women push and shove through their defense line, go to the palace and "escort" the royal family members - at that time the royal family members only included the king, Antoinette, the prince and Louis XVI's sister, Madame Elizabeth - back to Paris.

After returning to Paris, the royal family lived in the Tuileries Palace, under the surveillance of the "people". Even the correspondence had to be checked by people appointed by the revolutionary leaders to monitor the royal family. At this time, Antoinette, who had been in the position of queen for 20 years, finally began to act like a queen, becoming self-respecting, majestic, strong, and like a "man". She kept writing letters in code in the palace, listening to reports, convening ministers to discuss matters, educating her children, and actively planning and contacting to prepare to escape from the Tuileries Palace to where the royalist forces were concentrated and organize the army to fight back. Fison did his best for his "beloved woman" and made detailed arrangements, but because of improper use of people, repeated delays in the opportunity to escape, and taking the wrong road on the way, he failed to connect with Choiseul and Bouillet who came to pick them up, and finally failed to escape. When they were looking for Choiseul everywhere in Varennes, they were finally discovered by the patrolling "people" and detained. Although Antoinette tried every means to delay time and wait for the arrival of the reinforcements, when Choiseul arrived, they were still taken back to Paris twenty minutes ago.

In Paris, Louis XVI obediently accepted the constitution drawn up by the revolutionary masses. However, the constitution only implemented the will of the "people". For the king, the constitution did not provide corresponding protection, and even did not stipulate basic rights. More importantly, in the eyes of the "people", because the constitution was only the embodiment of their own will, they could do whatever they wanted without worrying about whether it was legal. In France at that time, the people were the constitution, just as the "king was the law" before. Therefore, the people attacked the palace without any procedural review and placed the royal family completely under their guardianship. On March 11, 1792, Austrian Emperor Leopold died, and his son, Antoinette's nephew, 24-year-old Franz ascended the throne. On April 2, 1792, Louis XVI declared war on Austria "with tears" in accordance with the will of the Girondists. The royal family became increasingly insignificant amid the high patriotic trumpets. No one was willing to save the royal family. The revolutionary masses were convinced that the Austrian invasion was the mastermind of Antoinette, so they repeatedly attacked the unguarded Tuileries Palace. Brunswick, the commander of the Prussian-Austrian coalition, issued a declaration that the French revolutionary masses should respect the royal family, which infuriated the revolutionary masses and caused them to rush into the palace again. The king and his family fled to the National Assembly in a hurry, and were moved to Fort Temple when the fanatical revolutionary masses gradually calmed down and retreated.

August 13, 1792, the king's family was moved to the Temple Castle. They were no different from prisoners. Their movements, words and deeds were closely monitored, and all non-royal members were forced to separate from them. On September 21, the crowd cheered: the king was abolished. In December, Louis XVI was tried by the Revolutionary Tribunal. On January 20, 1793, Antoinette was told that she could go see Louis XVI, who had been forcibly separated for a long time. She knew that this was the last time she would see her husband. Although she did not love him, they had lived together for twenty years and had four children. She also knew that it would not be long after her husband's death before it would be her turn.

After the death of Louis XVI, she continued to be isolated in the Temple Castle. An ardent royalist planned an escape, but failed. An anxious Fersen begged bitterly, hoping that Austria would take back their princess - at this time, legally speaking, Antoinette was an Austrian princess and Austria had the right to do so. But it was useless, and it was another arrogant and disastrous declaration. Later, she was transferred to the Paris Inquisition Prison. Generally speaking, anyone who went there was basically

sentenced to death, and going there was waiting for death. Here, even her last comfort, her child, was separated from her. She could only peek at the child singing the revolutionary songs taught to him by others outside, and was accused of incest with her own son. The "people" also believed such absurd things because they knew that this shameless and vulgar whore could do anything.

On October 12, 1793, her trial began. Many charges were put on her. Although there was no evidence, the result was foreseeable to everyone. Because the people believed that they were the evidence and their will was the law. "The majority oppressed the minority" is the basic logic of the people's revolution. As long as the majority of people think so, even if there is no evidence, it can be considered as a fact. She was indifferent, and the lawyer who defended her was executed shortly after leaving the court. France was in complete terror at this time. Fanatical people were shouting revolutionary slogans everywhere. The court had become a dispensable decoration. No matter how the trial went, the result was the same: being pushed to the guillotine. The same was true for Antoinette. No matter what she said in court, the result was death. On the 15th, she was officially sentenced to death.

At about 11 o'clock on October 16, 1793, she walked out of the Paris Court Prison, boarded the prison car, and was taken to the guillotine for execution. At this time, she was no longer the queen who was graceful and appeared in various luxurious places. She was forced to take off her original robe in front of a soldier who came to escort her and put on a white robe. The reason was that if she did not go out like this, it would be considered a provocation to the people, because she asked the prison to wear a black robe as mourning clothes after the death of Louis XVI; her hair, which took two hours to comb, was also cut off. People saw that the once charming Antoinette's image now was "pale face very calm, red eyes staring into the sky", white hair, "proud mouth closed, expression extremely indifferent; feet tied behind her back, challenging sitting upright on the bench in the prison car, as if sitting on the throne."

Not far from the guillotine is a Statue of Liberty. After Antoinette was beheaded towards the Statue of Liberty, the executioner lifted her bloody head into the air, and the onlookers cheered: "Long live the Republic!" It was as if Antoinette was used as a sacrifice to the Statue of Liberty, as if her death would give the people freedom.

The executioner inserted her head between her legs and pushed her body away on a cart. No one knew where she was buried.

Rather than saying that Antoinette was killed by the revolutionary "people", it is better to say that she was crushed to death by the behemoth of history. An ordinary and mediocre woman was unknowingly involved in a storm of history. Her personal destiny was inevitably entangled with history, and as a result, she was crushed by history. Human life is so fragile, how can it withstand the pressure of so many countries, ideologies, and ideals? "Heaven and earth are not benevolent, and they treat all things as straw dogs." History is not benevolent, and it uses living beings as sacrifices. Opening the history books, the blood of innocent mortals has become the blood in the long river of history. Wars, disasters, and coincidences have caused some people to appear in places where they should not have appeared. Their blood is always ignored in a series of "turning point", "historical", and "inevitable" events. Time and again, major historical events have swept away one once-living life after another like a hurricane. History is like a monster, and needs to be fed by mortal lives.

History is a weight that no mortal life can bear!

## **French Revolution**

background:

- The Enlightenment (advocating equality for all and opposing monarchy). It was popular to read Voltaire's critical works in European salons, and European monarchs were proud to communicate with Voltaire to show their enlightenment. The difference from the Chinese autocracy was that the Qing Dynasty's laws exterminated three clans and even killed all the audience.

- The French royal family was in financial crisis. In 1789, the French government was in debt of 4.5 billion livres (silver coins, 1 livre = 5 grams of silver), while the French government's annual income was 300-400 million livres, which was not enough to pay the interest. The French government was almost facing bankruptcy. What to do? First of all, the money had to be borrowed, and secondly, it was best to default on the original loans. King Louis XVI of France was forced to convene the Estates General (the first time in 165 years).
- The third class: priests (serving the king with bells), nobles (swords), and others (money bags). The third class (sans-culottes) accounted for 98% of the population. They were dissatisfied with the way of holding meetings and voting, and renamed the third class members as the Constitutional Convention in the indoor tennis court of the Palace of Versailles, and called it the "Tennis Court Declaration". Louis XVI mobilized the army to suppress it, so the people of Paris revolted and captured the Bastille on July 14, 1789. Louis XVI was escorted from the Palace of Versailles back to Paris to live.

This incident marked the beginning of the French Revolution. Therefore, the French National Day is set on July 14. It's funny to say that the Bastille was used to imprison political prisoners, but when Louis XVI was in power, the political atmosphere was actually relatively relaxed. The prisoners in the Bastille were not abused and were supplied with wine every day. However, the people of Paris believed someone's rumor and firmly believed that the Bastille was "a place where human lives were taken lightly, and hundreds of revolutionary heroes were tortured inside." So thousands of people flocked to the Bastille, and eventually rescued seven prisoners inside at the cost of more than 100 deaths and injuries. These seven prisoners included four counterfeiters, two mentally ill people, and a nobleman who was imprisoned here for playing SM games...

**The first stage:** the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Constitution of 1791. The king's autocratic rule was overthrown, and the Feuillants (because of the Feuillants Club) representing the big bourgeoisie (financial capitalists) came to power, implementing the policy of constitutional monarchy and retaining the king. If you owe the bank 10,000, the bank is awesome. If you owe the bank 100 million, you are awesome. The Declaration of the Rights of Man was adopted in August 1789. Copies of the Declaration of the Rights of Man are sold all over the streets in France. It is a piece of paper, not a book. It is very beautiful, with gold letters on a blue background and in color. There are two girls on it. The one on the right with white clothes and wings is the goddess of victory, the one without a head in the Louvre. The one on the left in blue clothes is Marianne, the national symbol of the French Republic. In terms of its extensional meaning, she is also a personification of freedom and reason, in contrast to the "Gallic rooster" representing the French nation and its history, territory and culture. She belongs to the national girl, just like the national flower and the national bird. Every ten years, a virtuous and talented actress plays Marianne, and the current actress is Sophie Marceau. The Declaration of Human Rights is based on natural law and social contract, declaring that law is the embodiment of public will, everyone is equal before the law, and private property is sacred and inviolable. Everyone is equal, which is different from the Qing Dynasty. In 1791, the Constituent Assembly promulgated the first French Constitution. The Prussian and Austrian feudal monarchs were deeply afraid that the French Revolution would spread to other parts of Europe, so they intervened militarily in the French Revolution. The French army was defeated, and the French people spontaneously formed an army to defend the country. Each army sang its own military song. Among them, the "Marseillaise" sung by an army from Marseille later became the French national anthem. Born in the gunfire, compared with the national anthems of Japan and Britain. In 1792, the people of Paris revolted and arrested the king and overthrew the Bourbon dynasty.

**The second stage:** The Girondists (from the Gironde Province) came to power, representing the industrial and commercial bourgeoisie. Valmy defeated the Prussian-Austrian coalition (European wars are very interesting, unlike our China. In ancient China, wars must destroy the enemy's living forces, but European wars are not aimed at this. They are aimed at conquering cities and extorting ransoms). The First French Republic was established. Louis XVI was sent to the guillotine. 0.6 seconds, invented by Louis XVI. The First Anti-French Coalition was established. After the Girondists came to power, prices soared and the market speculated. The people of Paris launched the third uprising, overthrew the rule of the Girondists, and established the Jacobin dictatorship.

**The third stage:** Jacobin dictatorship, representing the petty bourgeoisie, "Jacobin dictatorship", also known as the "Age of Terror", is the autocratic dictatorship of Jacobin leader Robespierre. Implementing a policy of terror. "Those who have constant property have constant heart". Robespierre is different. This kind of person is the most terrible. There is also Hitler. He is a small



and medium-sized intellectual and middle-class person. It is impossible for him to be a real pauper. None of them said that I have received a good education, a bachelor's degree or above, and came from a relatively wealthy class, and then engaged in dictatorship and murder. It is absolutely impossible. I am used to seeing money and don't take money as money. Why are corrupt officials basically from poor backgrounds? It's not easy to get today. If not now, when will I get it? Robespierre believed that violence conquers the world and governs the country. He thought this trick is the most effective. Mussolini, Liu Bang, Zhu Yuanzhang, and Li Zicheng are all such people. During the Jacobin dictatorship from 1791 to 1794, the guillotine was set up in Paris. Within three years, as many as 70,000 "counter-revolutionaries" were beheaded, but many of them were not members of the royalist party, but were just people who opposed the Jacobin party. The site of the guillotine execution is today's Place de la Concorde in the center of Paris. When he was a lawyer, he lost the case. If you win, you will be the enemy of the Republic and go to the guillotine. Anyone who has beaten me will go to the guillotine. He chased a girl but failed, so he sent the girl's husband and his family to the guillotine, so that the girl could watch from below and regret it. It was so good to be with me. So the guillotine in France at that time was the busiest machine in France. In the Thermidorian coup of 1794, the Thermidorians came to power and the power returned to the hands of the big bourgeoisie. Robespierre was executed, and his tombstone was engraved with "I, Robespierre, rest here. Passers-by should not mourn for me, because if I live, none of you can live." .

The third stage: The Thermidorian Directory came to power. They corrected some of the Jacobins' radical actions and measures and maintained the achievements of the bourgeois revolution. However, the Directory was weak and incompetent, always losing wars abroad, and could not solve the rebellion of the royalists at home. In 1799, Napoleon launched the Brumaire coup, overthrew the Directory, and established the Consulate.

The fourth stage: Napoleon's reign, the First French Empire (see Napoleon)

After Napoleon's defeat, the Bourbon dynasty was restored, with Louis XVIII and Charles X. In 1830, the July Revolution overthrew the Bourbon dynasty, declared Louis Philippe, Duke of Orleans, king, and financial capitalists took power. The French Revolution ended.

1848, Louis Philippe was deposed and the Second Republic was born. Napoleon's nephew, Louis Bonaparte, became president and later launched a coup to establish the Second Empire, calling himself Napoleon III. The Third Republic was established after France was defeated in the Franco-Prussian War in 1871. After World War II, the Fourth (1945) and Fifth (1959) Republics were established.

1789, the constitutional monarchists were in power. This constitutional monarchist represented the big bourgeoisie and the liberal aristocracy, that is, the new aristocracy, and represented the interests of these people. As the revolution progressed, the Girondists, who represented the industrial and commercial bourgeoisie, came to power. Then, further forward, the Jacobins, who represented the petty bourgeoisie, came to power. It is very obvious that the revolution of the Girondists and the Jacobins had deviated from the normal track. To get the revolution back on the normal track, the Thermidorians had to rely on it. It can be seen that the constitutional monarchists and the Thermidorians actually represented the same stratum and class, both of which were the big bourgeoisie and the financial aristocracy, and represented their interests. Then the Napoleonic Empire appeared. Although Napoleon was a bourgeois emperor and affirmed the measures of the revolution, he established an empire after all, and the hierarchy, titles, aristocrats, and civilians were all restored. All men are born equal, this most basic concept was broken, and then after the defeat of the Napoleonic Empire, the Bourbon dynasty was restored, and the revolution reached its lowest point. How do you compare it with the dictatorship of the Jacobins? It is equivalent to reaching two extremes. So does it mean that the French Revolution is over? It was not over until 1830. In 1830, the "July Revolution" broke out in France. The restored Bourbon dynasty was overthrown in the "July Revolution". The direct descendant of the Bourbon dynasty, Duke Louis Philippe of Orleans, established the July Monarchy, a constitutional monarchy representing the interests of big assets. Only then did the process of the French Revolution end.

From 1789 to 1830, the French Revolution was considered to have completed its cycle. We can all clearly see the characteristic of the French Revolution—the starting point is the end point. You go around and come back again, and the big bourgeoisie is in

power and the monarchy is constitutional. The revolution is complete. In fact, the task of the French Revolution was completed in 1789. Its bourgeois revolution first implemented capitalist politics, formulated a constitution, and established a constitutional monarchy; then developed capitalism in the economy.

1789 , the constitutional monarchy was in power. It was already completed. It was not like Britain, which was isolated overseas and in a remote corner. It did not have such a big influence. If you close the door and isolate yourself, no one will care about you. The French Revolution was not good. There was foreign armed intervention and the anti-French alliance. Therefore, the French Revolution was magnificent, with ups and downs . After a circle, it had to come back. Why was it so chaotic? The spear is here. The end is the starting point, and the starting point is the end.

## **Napoleon**

Napoleon Bonaparte ( 1769-1821 ) was a French military strategist, politician and jurist who reached the height of his power at the end of the French Revolution and during the French Revolutionary Wars. As Napoleon I, he reigned from 1804 to 1815 .

Napoleon was born in Corsica. His name means "wild lion" in Italian. Corsica was originally part of the Republic of Genoa, but was sold to France in 1768. His family also became French citizens. His French had a strong Corsican accent, and there were many spelling errors in his manuscripts until his death. His French accent was often ridiculed and teased by his classmates at school.

During the French Revolution, Napoleon was just an unknown soldier. During the Jacobin dictatorship, in the Battle of Toulon in December 1793 , Napoleon came to prominence. The French army had spent a year but failed to capture the city. He used artillery flexibly and repelled the British warships in Toulon in less than a month, defeating the royalists. Napoleon, who was only 24 years old, was promoted from artilleryman to commander-in-chief, becoming the youngest general in modern human history and the youngest general since the birth of the military rank system. He had never worked as a colonel for a day, but he jumped directly from captain to commander-in-chief!

25 , General Napoleon retired with honor. Why? The Thermidorian Reaction broke out, and it was Robespierre's brother who appreciated Napoleon. —Robespierre the Younger. When Robespierre the Younger was guillotined, Napoleon also suffered and was considered to be in the same party with Robespierre the Younger. Napoleon was expelled from the army and imprisoned for more than 100 days. He was released only after he wrote letters of appeal. After he was released, he was allowed to retire. Napoleon wore a shabby gray military coat all day, strolling pitifully by the Seine River, thinking about the future of France. Others wore that coat to their knees, but he wore it to cover his feet.

In September 1795 , the French royalists successively controlled many other areas of Paris and decided to take the final action on 13th of the month of Vendôme ( October 5th ). Barras, the new commander of the Paris armed forces, was not a soldier, but a politician who was used to playing tricks. Moreover, the National Convention had only about 5,000 troops, while the rebels had 30,000 to 40,000. Barras carefully searched the names of each general in his brain, thinking about who could take on this important task. Finally, the word Napoleon flashed into his mind. He was deeply impressed by Napoleon's outstanding, strong-willed and decisive command in the Battle of Toulon. Barras immediately sent someone to find Napoleon. Napoleon asked no one to interfere with his command of the army. Only in this way could he ensure the smooth suppression of the rebellion. Barras agreed without hesitation. Based on past experience, Napoleon thought of cannons. He learned that there were 40 cannons in the Sablon barracks northwest of Paris. He urgently ordered the cavalry captain Murat to bring 200 people to drag the cannons. As soon as Murat dragged the cannon away, the rebels also came to get the cannon, but they were caught empty-handed, which was a fatal defeat for them. Napoleon used the cannon to quickly rearrange the defense around the National Convention, and at the same time he sent another reserve to guard the Carrousel Square. Everything was ready, waiting for the rebels to fall into the trap. Due to internal disagreements and indecision, the rebels lost many precious opportunities. At about four o'clock in the afternoon, they held flags and marched towards the Tuileries Palace happily to the accompaniment of triumphal music. When they entered the effective range of the cannon, Napoleon decisively ordered a fierce bombardment of the enemy. The frightened enemy fought and retreated in panic, and the rebels surrendered the next morning. Engels once said: "Before this, the bombardment of the streets of Paris with cannons only happened once, that is, in the month of Vén in 1795 ,

Napoleon used grapeshot to disperse the insurgents on the Rue Saint-Honoré." Napoleon's bombardment this time was indeed beyond the expectations of many people. He did something that no one had ever done before. Although it seemed a bit cruel, it defended the bourgeois republic. "The successful resolution of the Vén in ...

The Second Anti-French Coalition was formed, and Britain instigated Austria to attack France and Italy. At that time, Napoleon suggested to the Directory that we should take the initiative to send troops to Italy to welcome the Austrian army, and drink the wedding wine in our own courtyard. When Napoleon led his army to attack Italy, a cartoon appeared in European newspapers, showing a man with a big head and a small body leading a group of beggars to attack Italy. As a result, Napoleon unexpectedly climbed the highest mountain in Europe. - The Alps. When he reached the top, he exclaimed, "Alps, I am 1.62 meters taller than you." He suddenly appeared behind the Austrian army, catching Austria off guard. Napoleon became famous and became the first general in Europe. He was only 27 years old at the time.

1799 , Napoleon launched the Brumaire coup. He overthrew the Directory and established the Consulate. He was the First Consul of France ( 1799-1804 ). Later, he was elected as the lifelong ruler of the French Republic. The so - called lifelong ruler means that he will not be counted until he dies. He was 29 years old that year. However , Napoleon felt that being the lifelong ruler of the French Republic was not enough, so in 1804 , he changed France from a republic to an empire. This is the famous First French Empire in history. Napoleon's enthronement was the result of a referendum, with 90% of citizens voting in favor. In the presence of the Pope, Napoleon was crowned as emperor in Notre Dame de Paris. However, it was not Napoleon who put the crown on himself, but he put the crown on his head himself, and then crowned his wife Josephine as queen, to show that his power was supreme and not controlled by the church. A year later, he was crowned as the King of Italy by the Pope in Italy. The famous "Coronation of Napoleon Josephine" by the French painter David is displayed in the Louvre and the Palace of Versailles.

1805 , facing the Third Anti-French Alliance formed by Austria, Britain and Russia, Napoleon won the Battle of Ulm and then the Battle of Austerlitz, forcing the Austrian Emperor to cancel the title of the Holy Roman Empire, and the Napoleonic Empire reached its peak. He was the Emperor of France and King of Italy, Protector of the Confederation of the Rhine, and Grand Duke of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw. He ruled France, Germany, Italy and Poland alone. Then his brother Joseph was the King of Spain, his younger brother Louis was the King of the Netherlands, his sister was the Grand Duke of Tuscany, and his brother-in-law was the King of Naples. It was almost their family that ruled the whole of Europe. If Napoleon had not failed, the European Union would have been realized long ago, all because of the Napoleon family. Now when you visit these countries, there are a lot of traces of Napoleon. It is said that Napoleon has been here, Napoleon has been there, and Napoleon has lived here. There is almost no place in Europe that Napoleon has not been to. He ruled almost the whole of Europe.

1805 , Napoleon sent a joint fleet of France and Spain to conquer Britain. As a result, they were annihilated by the British national hero, Admiral Nelson, who was one-armed and one-eyed, at Cape Trafalgar. But after Admiral Nelson defeated Napoleon's joint fleet, he was shot by a French sniper at the moment when the battle was about to end. Before he died, he heard his deputy report to him that the French fleet had surrendered, and then Nelson closed his eyes. Therefore, the one-armed and one-eyed general Nelson is a national hero of Britain. Today, Trafalgar Square in London is also called Victory Square. There is a pillar in the center of the square, and Viscount Nelson is on it. Britain is the most powerful country in capitalism, so Britain has repeatedly united with other countries to organize anti-French alliances, a total of seven times. Napoleon defeated the first five times, and did not practice the last two times.

Two big mistakes: invading Spain and expedition to Russia. Napoleon held back 300,000 elite French troops in Spain, and attacked Russia with 600,000 troops. In the end, less than 20,000 survived, and the whole army was basically wiped out. In the Battle of Leipzig in 1813, Napoleon was defeated and abdicated in 1814. In 1815 , Napoleon was restored to the throne, the "Hundred Days". On June 18, 1815 , Napoleon was defeated by the anti-French coalition led by the Duke of Wellington of Britain and the Prussian general Blücher in Waterloo, Belgium, which is known as the "Battle of Waterloo". Napoleon was exiled to St. Helena Island in the Atlantic Ocean, 7,000 kilometers away from France, in Africa. On May 5, 1821 , Napoleon died on the island. To this day, there are still many different opinions about the cause of Napoleon's death. The autopsy report showed that he died of severe gastric ulcers, but new research believes that Napoleon died of arsenic poisoning. In addition, historians have also found minerals containing arsenic on the wallpapers that the nobles loved to use at that time. It is estimated that the arsenic

permeated into the environment because of the humid environment. In 1840 , Napoleon's body was transported back to Paris and buried in the Invalides. Napoleon's tomb has 7 layers, just like in China, the emperor has seven layers. The outermost is a red marble coffin, surrounded by 12 pillars, which are 12 statues of the goddess of victory. There are many place names inlaid with mosaics on the ground around the coffin, which are the victories he won, and Waterloo is definitely not one of them.

Before his death, Napoleon recalled his life. He said that the glory of my life was not that I won more than 40 battles (Napoleon fought 52 battles of varying sizes in his life, and he won 40 of them, 80% of them). The defeat at Waterloo wiped out all traces of glory, but there is one thing that is immortal and will be remembered forever by future generations. This is my code, the Napoleon Code. As mentioned earlier, the French Constitution of 1791 , these things are all constitutions. The constitution is the fundamental law of the country, and it does not solve civil problems. For example, if you are cheated in business, how to ask for money and debts from others; how to divide property when divorcing your wife; how to compensate for blinding one eye. The constitution does not deal with these things, which are the scope of civil law, criminal law, and commercial law. And these laws were first formulated by Napoleon. Many clauses were discussed and finalized by Napoleon himself, and more than 100 meetings were held. Basically, the more rational principles proposed in the early days of the French Revolution were adopted. The code was officially implemented in 1804 , and even more than two centuries later it is still the current law in France. It is not only a civil code, but later also includes a criminal code and a commercial code, so we simply call it the "Napoleonic Code". This "Napoleonic Code" established the legislative norms of capitalist countries, the legislative norms of the bourgeoisie, and developed from inequality to equality for all.

Napoleon was the most charming dictator. He did not allow any group to enjoy privileges. All citizens were treated equally. The state provided all children with the opportunity to receive education, and all positions were open to candidates. He recruited talents from all walks of life into the government, whether they were royalists or republicans, supporters or opponents of the Jacobin terror regime, without caring about their past roles in the revolution. He only gave them one mission: to establish a rational and orderly government system. He removed the old forces, privileges and many pathological phenomena of the Middle Ages from the European continent and established a new rational order. After a long period of recuperation, several powerful European countries finally joined forces to defeat Napoleon, but his achievements could not be erased.

### **Republic Calendar**

During the Revolution, the National Assembly adopted a new calendar that removed all religious anniversaries. The calendar began on September 22, 1792 , the day the Republic was founded. The 12 months were renamed Vigne, Brum, Frost, Snow, Rain, Wind, Bud, Flower, Pastoral, Harvest, Thermidor, and Fruit. Each month consisted of three weeks, and each week had 10 days , called a ten-day week. The last day of each ten-day week was a day of rest, and the extra 5-6 days a year were used for anniversaries (Sans-culottes Day). Although the Republican calendar was perfect in theory, it caused a lot of confusion in practice. Napoleon returned to the Gregorian calendar on January 1 , 1806 .

### **Congress of Vienna**

's first defeat, France, Britain, Russia, Spain, Prussia, Austria and other countries held a meeting in Vienna from October 1814 to June 1815 to decide on the distribution of European territory. The core figures of the meeting were British Foreign Secretary Castlereagh, Russian Tsar Alexander I and Foreign Minister Nesselrode, Prussian King Frederick William III and Prime Minister Hardenberg, Austrian Emperor Franz I and Foreign Minister Metternich.

During this period, Napoleon regained the throne, and various countries put together the seventh anti-French alliance. In June , Napoleon was forced to abdicate again, and the Vienna Conference continued and signed the final general resolution: Russia, in addition to occupying the territory of Poland, also obtained Finland and Bessarabia; Prussia occupied Opon and Malmedy, which originally belonged to the Netherlands; Austria occupied Salzburg, Tyrol, the coastal areas of Dalmatia, as well as Lombardy and Venice in Italy; Britain greatly expanded its colonies, and the colonies seized from France and the Netherlands were confirmed. It was also decided that Switzerland would be a permanent neutral country, and the Austrian Netherlands would merge with the Netherlands to form the Kingdom of the Netherlands. France's borders returned to the state of 1790, and it would pay a compensation of 700 million francs within 5 years and hand over all warships.

The Vienna Conference made the feudal forces in Europe succeed for a while. Later, Russia, Prussia, and Austria established the "Holy Alliance". Russia, Prussia, and Austria signed the "Quadruple Alliance" with Britain, which became the supplement of the Holy Alliance. The Vienna Conference was essentially a redivision of the territories in Europe and colonies between the victorious countries. However, under the Vienna system, European countries often resolved disputes with each other through conferences, which objectively reduced the frequency of wars and promoted the development of modern international relations.

#### **King Carl XIV Bernadotte of Sweden**

The biggest problem in Napoleon's military career was the mismatch between his extraordinary talent and the quality of his marshals. In war, the ability of his generals to implement Napoleon's instructions became one of the key factors for victory.

However, after a Frenchman ascended the throne as king in another country on February 5, 1818, Napoleon's foreign conquests underwent subtle changes. In 1813, Napoleon, who had just returned from the defeat in Russia, had not yet taken off his fatigue, when his former allies came to him with their knives sharpened. The first to start the fight was Napoleon's dear old father-in-law. Austria demanded that France withdraw from some of the occupied territories, otherwise it would join the Sixth Anti-French Alliance led by Britain (mainly paying) and Russia.

Is there any reason to return the land that was conquered by force? Napoleon flatly refused. Since we can't reach an agreement, let's fight! In Leipzig that summer, a melee broke out between the anti-French alliance and the French army. France was very passive at this time. Although the fighting was mainly carried out in Germany, it was in a situation where it was semi-surrounded by the enemy. There were wars everywhere on the Western Front, the Northern Front, and the Southern Front. The scale of the Battle of Leipzig was larger than usual, and Napoleon's fatal flaws were exposed. There was no shortage of brave marshals in the French army, but unfortunately they had one common characteristic: they lacked the ability to respond, were submissive to Napoleon, and the orders issued by the emperor had to be completed meticulously according to the regulations on paper!

The anti-French coalition army seemed to have eyes, concentrating its forces to attack the troops commanded by the French marshal. Once Napoleon came to put out the fire, the army quickly retreated. Napoleon was furious and could not fight against the enemy. He stopped fighting on the front line and increased the offensive on the other two lines. The French marshal, who lacked the ability to respond, could only send letters for help to Napoleon continuously.

The exhausted French emperor was unable to command three fronts at once and could only write orders to remotely control the troops in the distance. However, the battlefield was filled with allied cavalry, who specialized in intercepting and killing French messengers. The French marshals in the distance could not get Napoleon's orders and finally gave up. The Battle of Leipzig ended in the defeat of the French army. Cutting off the connection between Napoleon and his marshals was a trick that was thought up by the Frenchman Bernadotte, who was the King of Sweden at the time.

During the turbulent French Revolution, Bernadotte was inclined towards the Republic and was said to have tattooed his body to show his aspirations. As a young man, he joined the army and became a brigadier general. In Italy, Bernadotte met Napoleon, who was just starting his life. He accompanied him all the way and witnessed Napoleon's gradual rise.

Napoleon was a proud and successful man, but his family was not well-off. Although he had a noble title, he was actually very poor. When he was young, he met a rich lady named Eugenie. The beautiful and kind-hearted woman overcame many obstacles and fell in love with this poor boy. It was originally a classic love story that has been passed down through the ages, but as Napoleon's status rose, the socialite Josephine stepped in. At that time, Napoleon had already proposed to Eugenie! Reality is always cruel. The old hand in the love field quickly squeezed out the young girl and married Napoleon as a second marriage with two children.

Eugenie, whose spirit was almost broken, tried to force her way into the wedding. Napoleon was a new favorite in the military

and political circles at that time, so his guards were naturally tight. Bernadotte, who was at the scene, felt sorry for the girl and took her in. Soon, Eugenie, who ruined the atmosphere, was expelled. Bernadotte, who was at the scene, felt sorry for the girl and proposed to her on the spot. This kindness was flatly rejected by Eugenie, who only loved Napoleon. Several years later, the two met again and became husband and wife by fate. After the marriage, Josephine's debauchery and hospitality made Napoleon unacceptable. It was too late to regret it. Napoleon kept the guilt for Eugenie in his heart.

The marriage with Eugenie made Bernadotte treated as a family member by Napoleon. The powerful Napoleon vigorously supported him and promoted him to the Marshal of France. Unfortunately, Bernadotte, who had republican ambitions since childhood, was keenly aware of Napoleon's ambition to become emperor and began to slack off.

Although he participated in all the foreign wars in the early period of France, he made more mistakes than right ones. Napoleon did not punish him because he was Eugenie's husband. In the famous Battle of Jena, Bernadotte captured a group of Swedish prisoners, which was the first time that the Swedish authorities paid attention to him. Finally, in the Battle of Wagram, Bernadotte's poor performance made the French emperor unbearable. He no longer had time to care about whose husband he was, and directly cancelled his military command position. A year later, Bernadotte, who had lost power, was ready to go to Rome as governor. It happened that the Swedish crown prince died without an heir, and the country lost its direct heir. Bernadotte, who had been noticed by the Swedes before, became the first choice for the crown prince.

Anyway, Sweden was under the control of France, and the regime was just a puppet. Whoever was in power would be the same, so let's do Eugenie a favor. In 1810, Karl Johan became the adopted son of the King of Sweden and changed his name to "Karl Johan". After taking office, Karl Johan opposed Napoleon in every policy. First, he made Sweden neutral, so that France lost a vassal state; then he opposed Napoleon's economic blockade of Britain; in order to occupy Norway, he was always pro-Russian regardless of the fierce battle between France and Russia. Napoleon, who was very unhappy, sent troops to occupy Pomerania in Sweden, and Karl Johan, who had long wanted to fly solo, immediately joined the anti-French alliance. Based on his previous experience in the French army, the former marshal proposed a highly targeted strategy, which led to Napoleon's defeat in Leipzig and then his first exile. Taking advantage of Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo and the redistribution of the European continent by the powers, Bernadotte marched westward and occupied Norway.

1818, Charles XIII died, and Bernadotte, the crown prince, ascended the throne on February 5 of that year, known as Charles XIV. Charles XIV was relatively benevolent during his reign. Having seen the advantages of capitalism in France, he vigorously promoted the development of capitalism after becoming the King of Sweden, and promoted the modernization process of Sweden and Norway. At the same time, relying on smooth diplomatic means, when Napoleon lost power and the European continent was in a mess, he kept Sweden and Norway away from chaos and maintained their independence. In the end, he and Eugenie spent their lives happily.

### **Franco-Prussian War ( 1870 )**

Just after the Austro-Prussian War, Napoleon III hoped that Prussia would fulfill its pre-war promise to France to remain neutral and demanded the occupation of Belgium and Luxembourg. Bismarck, then Prime Minister of Prussia, did not directly refuse, but played a trick and asked the French envoy to write a memorandum on the pretext of "asking the king". Bismarck then sent the memorandum to Britain and Russia as a special "gift" in an attempt to provoke conflicts between them and France. After learning about this, Napoleon III was furious, and starting in 1868, both countries actively began to prepare for war.

The issue of the succession to the Spanish throne became the fuse of the Franco-Prussian War. In 1868, a revolution broke out in Spain, overthrowing the Queen's rule. Bismarck bribed the powerful figures in Spain with a large sum of money and supported Prince Leopold, the cousin of King William I of Prussia and the son-in-law of the Queen of Spain, as king. Under pressure from many countries, Prussia had to give up. Napoleon III also asked him to guarantee that the Prussian royal family would not inherit the Spanish throne in the future. This excessive request was rejected by William I. William I telegraphed Bismarck about the meeting. Bismarck, who was eager to provoke a war, changed the content of the telegram to insult France and published the

telegram in the newspapers. After reading the telegram, Napoleon III rushed towards the "red cloth" set by Bismarck like an angry bull.

On July 19, 1870, France declared war on Prussia. On August 2, the French army attacked the Prussian army in the Saarbrücken area. But by August 4, the Prussian army had successfully defeated the French army and entered the counterattack stage. At the same time, the French army suffered defeats in other battlefields and was forced to retreat back to the border and switch to defense. In mid-August, the French army had been divided into two by the Prussian army. The Rhine Army, led by Marshal Bazaine, had a total of 170,000 people and was surrounded by the Prussian army in the Metz Fortress; while the more than 120,000 people led by Napoleon III and Marshal MacMahon. On August 30, after a fierce battle with the Prussian army, they were forced to retreat to Sedan. From September 1 to 2, the Prussian and French armies fought a decisive battle at Sedan, namely the Battle of Sedan. The Prussian army cut off the French army's retreat route to the west, blocked the French army from behind, completed the encirclement of the French army, and attacked with powerful artillery. That afternoon, after the French army failed in several attempts to break out, Napoleon III formally surrendered to the Prussian army with 83,000 officers and soldiers. In this battle, France captured one emperor, one marshal, and 24 generals. The French army lost 124,000 people, while the Prussian army lost only more than 9,000 people. The whole country of France was in an uproar.

On September 4, a coup d'état took place in France, overthrowing the Second French Empire that had ruled France for 18 years, thus ending the era of dynastic rule forever. The Third French Republic was established.

Prussia was not satisfied with the surrender of the French emperor and continued to attack France. On September 19, the Prussian army surrounded Paris. In order to defend Paris, the citizens of Paris established a national self-defense force of 300,000 people. This was a political force opposed to the Third Republic. In 1871, France signed an armistice agreement with Germany, ceding the provinces of Lorraine and Alsace and paying 5 billion francs in compensation in exchange for Germany's withdrawal from France and the release of 100,000 captured prisoners of war. On January 18, 1871, King William I of Prussia was crowned as the German Emperor at the Palace of Versailles in France, establishing the Second German Empire.

**Paris Commune:** A government that briefly ruled Paris from March to May 28, 1871, before being severely suppressed by French government troops. The Paris Commune is considered by communists to be the first "dictatorship of the proletariat."

After France lost the Franco-Prussian War, it was forced to cede Alsace and Lorraine. The French teacher gave his students his last French lesson with a heavy heart. This article, "The Last Lesson", written by the French writer Daudet, is not unfamiliar to the Chinese.

Alsace is a region in France, the intersection of the northern and eastern borders of France, with an area of 8,280 square kilometers and two provinces. The Alsace region faces Germany across the Rhine River, and there is a famous city in the region - Strasbourg. Lorraine is a region west of Alsace, with a larger area of 23,500 square kilometers, famous cities such as Metz and Nancy, and four provinces.

Lorraine ranks first in France in terms of black gold and white gold production. Black gold is coal, and white gold is cotton. What is the proportion of coal in Lorraine in France? The number is very scary - 76%. Alsace is the second largest economic center in France after the Paris metropolitan area, with a complete range of industries. Strasbourg is a famous conference center in Europe, with many European institutions located here, and is known as the second capital of Europe.

After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the Franks, a branch of the Germanic people, established a powerful country, the most famous of which was Charlemagne. In 843 AD, the Frankish Kingdom was divided into three parts: East Francia was the predecessor of Germany, West Francia was the predecessor of France, and Middle Francia was the predecessor of Italy. Alsace and Lorraine were included in Middle Francia. In 855 AD, Middle Francia was divided into three parts: the Kingdom of Lorraine, the Kingdom of Northern Italy, and the Kingdom of Burgundy-Provence. The Kingdom of Lorraine became the new owner of

Alsace and Lorraine. In 880 AD, King Louis III of West Francia and King Louis II of East Francia made a deal, assigning Alsace and Lorraine to East Francia, and East Francia remained neutral in the struggle between West Francia and the Vikings.

After the new King of East Francia, Otto I, succeeded to the throne in 936, he expanded the territory and became the first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Alsace and Lorraine were clearly assigned to the Holy Roman Empire (Germany). The famous Habsburg family controlled the Holy Roman Empire. After the Habsburg family was defeated by the French and Swedish coalition forces in the Thirty Years' War, they were forced to sign the Treaty of Westphalia with France in 1648. France obtained Alsace (excluding Strasbourg) and most of Lorraine.

In 1697, France and Austria signed the Treaty of Ryswick, and France officially acquired Strasbourg. Lorraine was returned to the Holy Roman Empire. The French army had already controlled the Lorraine region in 1735, and in 1766, France officially controlled the Lorraine region. Although Alsace and Lorraine were controlled by France, most of the residents spoke German, and their customs and habits were the same as those of Germany (Prussia).

After the defeat in the Franco-Prussian War, France ceded Alsace and Lorraine to Prussia, which greatly stimulated France. France could not forget the shame of this defeat. In the First World War, when Germany was defeated, France retaliated strongly against Germany. France forcibly took back Alsace and Lorraine, restored the border line of the Franco-Prussian War, and united with the victorious countries to almost hollow out Germany.

### **"Miracle of the Marne"**

In August 1914, the French and British coalition forces retreated to the south of the Marne River and deployed on the line from Paris to Verdun. On September 2, the vanguard of the German Kluk Army had advanced to only 15 miles from Paris. When Kluk's Army passed the east of Paris, it could even see the Eiffel Tower. However, Kluk did not advance to Paris immediately, but rotated eastward to cooperate with the German Second Army commanded by Bulow to encircle and annihilate the French Fifth Army. In this way, the flank of the German rotating front would pass near Paris and cross the front of the French Sixth Army. On the evening of September 3, Kluk arrived at the Marne River, occupied the bridgehead, and prepared to cross the river the next morning to continue to pursue and annihilate his defeated generals. On this day, although Kluk's Army had marched nearly 30 miles, his soldiers were exhausted and his supply convoy and heavy artillery were far behind.

The commander of the Paris garrison, veteran General Gallieni, saw an opportunity and seized the opportunity that would have a significant impact on the course of the war. He launched a full-scale counterattack on September 6. Gallieni quickly sent reinforcements from Paris and ordered the Paris Police Department to requisition taxis to urgently transport a division of troops to the battlefield. In Paris, loudspeakers began to broadcast, asking all taxi drivers to drop off their passengers and gather at the entrance of the City Hall. 2,000 taxis transported a division of French troops to the front line. This was the first time in the history of war that mobile troops were transported on a large scale by cars.

On September 11, several German armies were forced to retreat, and the Battle of the Marne ended with the victory of the French army. In this battle, both sides invested 1.5 million troops and suffered nearly 500,000 casualties. Among them, the French army lost 250,000, the British army lost 13,000, and the German army lost 220,000.

In the Battle of the Marne, the French Army and the British Expeditionary Force crushed the German Army's plan for a quick victory and saved the French capital of Paris. The significance of this battle was very significant. The Schlieffen Plan was completely ruined. The Germans lost their only chance to quickly defeat France first and then turn around to deal with Russia. This battle was called the "Miracle of the Marne".

. From then on, the Western Front entered a stalemate phase. The Germans were dragged into a two-front war with great reluctance, and their chances of victory were slim. After the Battle of the Marne, the German army's attempt to win a quick victory was completely thwarted, so they began to dig trenches. The French army responded tit for tat and also began to dig trenches.



## **Battle of Verdun**

In World War I, the focus of the war shifted to the Western Front again in 1916. The German army hoped to concentrate its forces to defeat the French army in order to reduce the pressure of fighting on two fronts. The breakthrough point chosen by the German army was Verdun. Verdun was a military fortress on the northern border of France. Once Verdun was captured, it would be possible to march straight to Paris and force France to surrender. The Battle of Verdun lasted for 10 months from February to December 1916, when the French army basically recovered the positions captured by the German army. In order to fight for this tiny piece of land, both sides suffered nearly 1 million casualties. Due to the heavy casualties, the Verdun Fortress was called "meat grinder", "slaughterhouse" and "hell".

Henry Tandy, a British combat hero during World War I, was awarded the Victoria Cross many times. During the Battle of Verdun, Tandy found a German soldier limping out of his position and saw Tandy's gun pointed at him not far away. However, the wounded soldier was obviously exhausted. He neither raised his gun nor panicked. He just stared at Tandy expressionlessly, as if waiting for the inevitable final moment. "I did aim at the time, but I never shoot wounded soldiers," Tandy later recalled the dramatic moment at the time, "I let him go." The young German wounded soldier nodded slightly, and then slowly walked away.

On the eve of World War II, then British Prime Minister Chamberlain went to Germany to meet with Hitler in an attempt to achieve "peace for an era". At Hitler's Berghof villa in Bavaria, Chamberlain noticed a painting hanging on the wall of Hitler's study, which depicted a battle in 1914. The soldier in the front of the painting was said to be British soldier Henry Tandy. He was carrying a wounded soldier on his back. Hitler told Chamberlain that the soldier in the picture had pointed a gun at him, but ultimately did not kill him in cold blood.

Historians have questioned the authenticity of this story. Some believe that this story was deliberately fabricated by Hitler. This has only added to his mystique and is part of Hitler's "deification".

## **General Charles de Gaulle**

There have been two true great men in French history - the first one is Napoleon. With a sharp sword, he made France conquer the Western world, almost unified the whole of Europe, expanded the territory of the French Empire, established prestige, and made the world know France. The other is General Charles de Gaulle, who founded the "French Fifth Republic". It can be said that without Napoleon, France would not have its historical glory; without Charles de Gaulle, France would not be what it is today. In the "Top Ten Great Men of France" selection held by France National TV in 2005, Charles de Gaulle was voted as the greatest man in French history by TV viewers all over France. During his tenure as President of France, he supported the development of nuclear weapons, formulated a pan-European foreign policy, worked hard to reduce the influence of the United States and Britain, urged France to withdraw from NATO, opposed Britain's joining the European Community, and recognized the People's Republic of China. This series of ideological policies was also called "Charles de Gaulleism" by later generations.

Charles de Gaulle was born in an intellectual family in Lille. When he grew up, like many passionate young people at that time, he vowed to avenge the defeat in the Franco-Prussian War and enrolled in the military academy without hesitation. After graduating from the military academy, he served in the army headed by Pétain, but World War II brought them to the opposite side: Pétain surrendered to Germany and betrayed France, while Charles de Gaulle became a national hero. Before World War II, Britain and France were a whole era behind Germany in military theory. They had no idea about concentrated armored forces for combat, and stubbornly believed that tanks were wonderful, moving mechanized toys, and artillery was the king of the battlefield. Charles de Gaulle wrote two books, "Building a Professional Army" and "The Blade", to vigorously promote the theory of tank warfare, and sold them for only half a franc. As a result, they were bought by the Germans and translated into German. Guderian read it, clapped his hands and praised it for implementation, saying that we defeated France with half a franc.

After France surrendered in World War II, Pétain was ready to let Charles de Gaulle serve as the Minister of Defense of the puppet Vichy French regime. As a result, on the night when France announced its surrender, General Charles de Gaulle went to

the airport to send a British general back home. After the two shook hands and hugged, the British general boarded the plane. When the plane began to taxi, Charles de Gaulle suddenly started to chase the plane, because the plane was small at that time, unlike today's Boeing 747, you can't catch up. At that time, the plane was very small, and Charles de Gaulle suddenly accelerated and started to chase. All the people who saw him off on the plane and on the runway at that time were dumbfounded - the general was crazy, what was he doing? General Charles de Gaulle was 1.98 meters tall and had long legs. He caught up with him in a few steps. The British general on the plane came to his senses, leaned out and grabbed General Charles de Gaulle's arm, and lifted him up. The plane had already taken off, and the general's legs were still kicking in the air. That evening General de Gaulle flew to London and immediately delivered a speech, announcing the establishment of the Free French Government and calling on all people in mainland France who were unwilling to surrender to form an army to resist. He then called on all French overseas territories, those that were not occupied by Germany, such as North Africa and the French soldiers in Vietnam, to obey the Free French Government.

General de Gaulle was only a brigadier general at the time. So much so that Prime Minister Churchill smiled and said, "Can you represent France?" But later, many people with much higher military ranks than him stood under his flag to safeguard the dignity of the country. Next, General de Gaulle began to preside over the political affairs of post-war France. He organized Free France, tried Marshal Pétain twice, and sentenced him to death. After the country was liberated, de Gaulle retired from the position of interim chairman. Before stepping down, the last order he signed was to pardon his teacher, Marshal Pétain. Pétain was 89 years old at the time, and it didn't matter whether you sentenced him to death or not. Two years later, Marshal Pétain died at the age of 91. At this time, General de Gaulle returned home and stayed at home for 13 years. Until 1958, when the Fourth Republic of France was in turmoil, he came out again to lead the people to establish the Fifth Republic.

Today's France is the continuation of the Fifth Republic, and Charles de Gaulle was the founding president (1959-1969). In 1964, France established diplomatic relations with China, becoming the first Western power to formally establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, representing France's non-compliance with the United States' position and maintaining an independent foreign policy. He resigned after serving for 10 years and no longer sought re-election. Before leaving, his only request was to take away the old bookcases that had been used in the Elysee Palace for many years. He asked his secretary if he could take them away, and asked the manager if he could take them away. The manager burst into tears and said that the whole of France was saved by you, so what's the big deal about taking two bookcases? Take them. So, General Charles de Gaulle asked his secretary to pay the price of the new bookcases and take the two old bookcases away. After taking them away, the general refused to receive the president's pension, saying that he wanted to use the money to give to the families of the fallen soldiers. When France was liberated, Congress wanted to confer the rank of marshal on Charles de Gaulle, but he refused because he believed that victory should belong to the glorious soldiers. I am a brigadier general, the lowest level.

He received a very meager salary as a retired brigadier general. His wife did not work. In European countries, especially in the upper class, wives did not work. When his daughter was three years old, she became mentally retarded due to a medical accident. He had to support so many people with his meager salary. What should he do? The old man could only write memoirs to make a living. He died two weeks before he turned 80. In fact, he was exhausted to death. People at this level don't need to write memoirs by themselves. They usually lie in a rocking chair, drink champagne, smoke cigars, and their secretaries type for them... He was not good at that. He quit smoking and drinking because he could not afford it. He typed on the typewriter himself. So, not counting ancient times, in modern world history, there are only three politicians who are worthy of my admiration: General Washington, Mr. Sun Yat-sen and General Charles de Gaulle. Because these three people are real politicians? They are truly great and never rest on their laurels.

Charles de Gaulle's life is full of incredible legends, and he is also the most legendary of all the French presidents. There are no less than 15 documented murders in his life, and the plots are as bizarre as a thriller movie. Fortunately, Charles de Gaulle always managed to escape danger at the last minute. Once, The terrorist organization came up with a plan - to make plastic explosives into clothes and put them on pet dogs. When Charles de Gaulle was giving a speech, the dog would run to Charles de Gaulle on the rostrum, and the assassin hiding in the venue would use a radio device to detonate the explosion. In order to

implement this plan, they quickly trained a puppy to automatically run up to and flatter anyone who looked like an official, especially someone like Charles de Gaulle.

June 10, 1962, Charles de Gaulle went to a square to give a speech as scheduled. Members of the "Secret Military Organization" mixed in with the puppy among the audience in the square. When Charles de Gaulle's speech reached its climax, they released the puppy, which was enough to kill Charles de Gaulle. The puppy ran to the rostrum where Charles de Gaulle was according to their plan. However, at this moment, an accident happened: a beautiful female dog came into its sight, and the two sides flirted on the spot. Although the puppy tried to rush to the rostrum to get close to Charles de Gaulle several times later, it was held back by the female dog every time. The proud work of the "Secret Military Organization" was thus forced to abort. Afterwards, the secret of the puppy was discovered by the police. Since then, pet dogs are either not allowed to enter the occasions where French leaders give speeches, or they must undergo strict security checks like their owners.

The most thrilling incident was when Charles de Gaulle was on his way to the airport in the presidential car. The terrorist organization set up an ambush on the way. Several cars surrounded the presidential car and fired more than 150 bullets, 14 of which hit the presidential car. The closest bullet grazed Charles de Gaulle's head just a few centimeters away.

### **Franco-German reconciliation**

France and Germany have been enemies for many years, but after World War II, when peace became the demand and when reconciliation was more in line with the common interests of the two countries, France and Germany resolutely joined hands and put aside their grudges.

France, which suffered greatly from German aggression during World War II, unanimously demanded severe sanctions against Germany, and Charles de Gaulle was a staunch implementer of this policy. He expounded on his policy toward Germany in many public occasions: indefinite occupation of the Rhineland; control of the Saarland and placing the Ruhr under international control; opposition to the establishment of a central government in Germany. After coming to power, Adenauer, the chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, was committed to Franco-German reconciliation and delivered a famous "ice-breaking thaw" speech, expressing his willingness to rebuild friendly relations with France. The German leadership expressed extremely frank remorse for the war crimes they had committed.

1950, in response to Germany's friendly gesture and to get out of the passive situation, France proposed the "Schuman Plan". Through this plan, France attempted to place all coal and steel production in France and Germany under the jurisdiction of a high-level joint venture organization that other European countries could participate in. This move received a positive response from Germany. On April 18, 1951, the "European Coal and Steel Community Treaty" was signed in Paris and officially came into effect on July 25, 1952. This was an epoch-making event, marking the first important step in the reconciliation between France and Germany, and was also the predecessor of the European Union.

In June 1958, Charles de Gaulle returned to power and invited German Chancellor Adenauer to his private home. This was the first and only time that Charles de Gaulle received a foreign head of state at his home. The two had a pleasant conversation and maintained close contact from then on, making an indelible contribution to the reconciliation between France and Germany.

1963, the two countries signed the Franco-German Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in Paris, which fixed the comprehensive reconciliation and cooperation between France and Germany in the form of a treaty. The treaty planned extensive cooperation between the two countries in the fields of diplomacy, defense, economy, science and technology, education, etc. Especially in diplomacy, it was carefully stipulated that the two governments should consult before implementing all major diplomatic decisions in order to take the same position as much as possible. The Franco-German Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation laid a solid foundation for the reconciliation and further cooperation between France and Germany. In the following 40 years, the cooperation between France and Germany has been continuously deepened, the feelings of the two peoples have also been integrated, and all the grievances of the past have gradually drifted away with the wind...

## **French History Chronology**

49 BC : Caesar, dictator of the Roman Republic, conquers Gaul (France).

476 : The Western Roman Empire falls. Gaul is invaded by the Franks.

6th century: The Frankish Kingdom establishes itself in France.

8th century: Charlemagne, King of France, unified Western Europe.

800 : Charlemagne is crowned Holy Roman Emperor.

987 : The Capetian dynasty begins.

1066 : William I of Normandy conquers England.

1187 : France joins the Third Crusade. King Philip II of France invades French territories in England.

1214 : Philip II defeats the Anglo-German coalition at the Battle of Bouvines.

1216 : Philip II's prince Louis VIII joined forces with English nobles to oppose King John of England, and the First Barons' War broke out.

1250 : French Crusaders landed in Egypt to fight against Muslims and suffered a crushing defeat.

1309 : King Philip IV of France imprisoned Pope Boniface VIII, known as the Avignon Prisoner.

1328 : The House of Valois replaces the House of Capet.

1337-1453 : The Hundred Years' War between England and France .

1429 : Joan of Arc leads the French army to victory in the Battle of Orleans, marking a turning point in the Hundred Years' War.

1494 : France launches the Italian War.

1547 : The French Wars of Religion begin.

1589 : Henry IV ends the Wars of Religion and the House of Valois is replaced by the House of Bourbon.

1643 : Louis XIV ascended the throne and French monarchy reached its peak.

1648 : Peace of Westphalia signed. France becomes the dominant power in Europe.

1667-1668 : The war of power transfer between France and Spain. France captured 12 cities in the Spanish Netherlands in this war .

1672-1688 : Franco - Dutch War. This war weakened the Dutch military.

1688-1697 : War of the Grand Alliance between France and the anti-French coalition. French expansion was hindered.

1701-1713 : The War of the Spanish Succession between France and the anti-French alliance. The Bourbon dynasty became the Spanish royal family because of this war, but at the same time, France and Spain would never merge .

1740-1748 : War of the Austrian Succession between France and the Anglo - Austrian alliance.

1756-1763 : The Seven Years ' War between France and the Anglo - Prussian alliance, which resulted in France losing most of its overseas colonies.

1789-1804 : The French Revolution overthrew the Bourbon dynasty, and the revolutionaries established the First French Republic and defeated two anti-French alliances. Finally , Napoleon established a dictatorship.

1804-1814 : Napoleon's First French Empire. After its fall , the Bourbon dynasty was restored.

1815 : Brief restoration after the fall of the Napoleonic Empire. The Seventh Coalition led to the failure of the restoration.

1830 : July Revolution, Louis Philippe's July Monarchy replaces the Bourbon Monarchy.

1848 : February Revolution, the Second French Republic replaces the July Monarchy.

1851-1870 : The Second French Empire of Napoleon III .

1870-1871 : Franco - Prussian War and Paris Commune .

1940 : France was defeated, the north became a Nazi-occupied zone, and the south became a puppet government of Vichy France.

1944 : Liberation of France.

1945 : World War II ends. The United Nations is founded and France becomes one of the five permanent members.

1999 : The European Union is established.