

VISITING FRANCE & ITS REGIONS



For those of you planning to stay longer, here are some of our favourite destinations in France. Do not hesitate to reach out to us if you want help in planning your trip.

Normandie

Normandie is the closest escapade to the sea from Paris, easily reachable both by car and by train. The region has many beautiful towns such as **Rouen** and **Caen**, but we recommend you discover the picturesque countryside and villages along the coastline. There are also many historic sites, such as the iconic **Mont Saint-Michel**, or the **D-Day beaches**. You can also visit the charming harbour town of **Honfleur**, **Deauville** with its wide beach and chic centre, or walk along the cliffs of **Étretat** for the many viewpoints of the English Channel and coastline, immortalised many times by Monet and others. When visiting Étretat, do not miss its remarkable **Jardins**, first established in 1905 by French actress Madame Thébault and inspired by the impressionists. Don't miss out on the region's famous apple cider and creamy cheeses like Camembert. Find more information on visiting Normandie on the region's [official website](#).

Loire Valley

Step into the *Vallée des Rois* ("Valley of the Kings"), located less than 3hrs drive from Paris and renowned for its stunning châteaux full of royal history, including the **Château de Chambord** and **Château de Chenonceau**. This UNESCO World Heritage site is also famous for its vineyards and riverside villages. If you are a wine and/or history enthusiast, we recommend you take 2-3 days to drive across the region. Find more information on visiting the Loire Valley in [this guide](#), which includes the map of the châteaux and accommodation options.

Champagne

For a quintessentially French experience, venture to the Champagne region, located east of Paris. Spend a weekend immersed in the world of champagne, where you can dine, sleep and taste among the vineyards that produce this world-famous French beverage. A visit to the historic

city of **Reims**, one of France's most sacred sites and home to its Gothic cathedral, makes a convenient and cultural base for your stay. Make sure to stop in **Épernay** to see its *Avenue des Champagnes*. Here, you can explore renowned Champagne houses, uncover the region's history, and indulge in gastronomic experiences. Find more information on visiting the region's [official website](#).

Alsace

Located beyond the Champagne region, farther to the east on the German border, you can easily reach the city of Strasbourg by train from Paris (a journey of 1h50). Rent a car there to visit villages like **Colmar** and the many historic châteaux, like **Haut-Koenigsbourg**. The region has a rich (wine) history as well – visit scenic vineyards and sip on Riesling or Gewurztraminer. Find more information on visiting the region's [official website](#).

Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur

End of June is the perfect time to head to the Riviera, Maya's favourite region of France. You can reach it by train from Paris Gare de Lyon to Nice (a journey of about 5h30) or to Marseille (shorter journey of 3h20). The *Côte d'Azur* offers a blend of Mediterranean beaches, charming hilltop villages, wineries and olive tree fields, in addition to amazing fresh food. Visit **Aix-en-Provence** for its fountains and markets, the city of **Nice** and its Italian influence, the iconic **Calanques** of Marseille for a day of coastal hikes, the town of **Menton** to try the local lemon tart, the *Jardin Exotique* of **Èze**, **Monaco** for a bling-bling afternoon-out, and so much more. Rent a car to explore. Find more information on visiting the region's [official website](#).

Basque Country

In contrast to the *dolce vita* atmosphere of the Riviera, head to the Basque Country to immerse yourself in vibrant culture, rich traditions, and long stretches of empty beaches. Food lovers will delight in the region's culinary treasures, influenced by nearby Spain. Don't miss the seaside town of **Biarritz**, renowned as a world-class surfing location and for its glamorous history. **Bayonne** offers a taste of the region's medieval heritage, where you can savour its celebrated ham and chocolate. Many enchanting villages, such as **Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port**, **Saint-Jean-de-Luz**, **Espelette** and **Hendaye** are well worth exploring. Find more information on visiting the region's [official website](#).