

# A WINTER BREAK IN FRANCE

## PARIS



Photo Credits : Long Nguyen / EyeEm

**Visit the department stores and along with some Christmas Shopping, admire the “vitrines de Noel” (Christmas window displays)**

- La Vallée Village
- Galeries Lafayette
- La Samaritaine
- Printemps
- BHV Marais
- Le Bon Marché

**Visit the picturesque Christmas Markets open from late November through the first week of January.**

- La Magie de Noël at Tuileries Garden (*The Magic of Christmas*)
- La Défense Marché de Noël
- Saint Germain des Prés Christmas Market
- Marché de Noel Notre Dame (*Notre Dame Christmas Market*)
- Christmas Market at Hôtel de Ville

### **A meal on the Seine**

Cruise on the Seine which invites you to admire Paris's museums and monuments as you glide along the river. Choose either the lunch or the dinner cruise. Another way of exploring Paris!

- Compagnie des Bateaux Mouches: <http://www.bateaux-mouches.fr/en>
- Bateaux Parisiens : <http://www.bateauxparisiens.com/>
- Yachts de Paris: [www.yachtsdeparis.fr](http://www.yachtsdeparis.fr)
- Ducasse Sur Seine : <https://www.ducasse-seine.com/en/>

### **Take a stroll in some trendy neighbourhoods of Paris**

- **The Latin Quarter** is one of the most charming and romantic neighbourhoods in Paris and is often depicted in movies or postcards.
- **Le Marais** is one of the trendiest neighbourhoods of Paris! The charm of the Marais lies in its cobblestone streets, historic spots and quirky boutiques.
- The **Boulevard St-Germain de Pres** is one of the most picturesque, famous, one of the most expensive and stylish areas of Paris, high-end boutiques as well as historic cafes.

Day trip to **Château de Versailles (Versailles Gardens)**

A stay at **Le Grand Contrôle**, the first hotel on the domaine of Chateau de Versailles, will unlock a host of exclusive benefits and privileged access to Château de Versailles and its grounds. Dine at its exclusive restaurant. <https://airelles.com/en/destination/chateau-de-versailles-hotel>

## ALSACE



### STRASBOURG

The large island of this European Capital is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin your discovery of Strasbourg with:

- Notre-Dame Cathedral – gem of Gothic art with the famous Astronomical Clock. - Place du Chateau
- Discover the picturesque Petite France district replete with winding canals and half-timbered houses. Best discovered by boat.
- Pier of Palais des Rohan – remarkable building once home to Marie-Antoinette.

### COLMAR

- Start your visit of Colmar with the Petite Venice: a charming maze of small canals which one can visit in a flat-bottomed boat.
- A must visit are the old towns; Gothic or Renaissance gems, particularly the Saint-Martin Collegiate Church and/or the Unterlinden Museum.
- Discover the Alsace Wine Route from Colmar. Along its wine route that spans up to 170 km, it offers many vineyard trails.
- The Eguisheim trail offers a superb panorama over the village and its 3 castles.

### Do not miss the most beautiful and enchanting Christmas Markets in Alsace

- **Alsace Christmas Market Calendar** <https://www.christmas.alsace/christmas-markets/>
- **Strasbourg Christmas Markets:** <https://www.christmas.alsace/strasbourg-christmas-market/>  
From around the magnificent Cathedral to the city's most beautiful squares, Strasbourg, Capital of Christmas, invites you to be a part of the most marvellous of all the holidays.
- **Mulhouse Christmas Markets:** <https://www.christmas.alsace/mulhouse-christmas-market/>  
The city centre is decked out with shimmering colours and patterns to create a uniquely warm atmosphere!
- **Colmar Christmas Markets:** <https://www.christmas.alsace/colmar-christmas-market/> In the picturesque streets of Colmar, the succession of stalls, Christmas decorations and lights will sweep you up in the magic of the Christmas season. Truly the place to be for a genuinely exceptional Christmas experience!

## NORTHERN FRANCE



Photo Credits: Allan Baxter

### TOP EXPERIENCES

#### Lille

- **Maison Méert in Lille**- Drop in at this timeless tea salon and indulge in a plateful of *gaufres* – thin, oblong waffles filled with rich Madagascar vanilla, a decadent treat indeed.
- **Beer breweries in Lille**- Discover the best brewery addresses, visit a micro-brewery and get refreshed with some of the best craft beers. Cheers!

#### Amiens

- **Amiens Cathedral**- Built in the 12th and 13th centuries, the Amiens Cathedral was restored in the 19th by Viollet-le-Duc. This gigantic cathedral is one of the most beautiful models of Gothic sacred art.

#### Chantilly

- **Fairy tale castle of Chantilly**- The picture-perfect Château de Chantilly houses the Condé Museum, which showcases artworks and artefacts collected by the Duke of Aumale. It has the second largest collection of antique paintings after the Louvre.
- **Savour Chantilly whipped cream**-The traditional mouth-watering French crème Chantilly is a classic on every honourable dessert platter all over the world! Trying a true Chantilly cream is a must when visiting Chantilly and La Capitainerie – the restaurant in the château is one of the best places to taste it.

**Raise a Toast at Champagne Pannier.** For a *très chic* experience, include Champagne tasting in your agenda. In the medieval cellar of Champagne Pannier, discover a place full of history and all the mysteries behind Champagne's sparkle.

Experience the winter wonderland at the magical **Christmas Markets** of Northern France in the regions of **Lille, Amiens and Arras.**

## AUVERGNE RHÔNE-ALPES



Photo Credits: Robin-Angelo Photography

### Experiences in Auvergne Rhône-Alpes

- **Basilica of Notre Dame de Fourvière** in **Lyon**: for panoramic views of the city.
- Traboules or covered passageways of Old Lyon.
- **Fête des Lumières**: <https://www.fetedeslumieres.lyon.fr/en>  
Experience four nights of variety of different artists light up buildings, streets, squares and parks all over the city.  
From December 8 to December 11, 2021
- Visit the **Christmas market** in **Lyon: Marché de Noël de Lyon** at Carnot Place
- **Ski in the Alps**  
In winter, with 4 large skiing areas, the **Chamonix Valley** welcomes snow-sport enthusiasts from all over the world. It offers slopes designed for amateurs to professional skiers.  
**Morzine** offers its beginners the "YouCanSki" Package  
**Val d'Isère** has guaranteed snow cover in its vast ski area with great snow and optimal weather conditions for skiing.  
**Méribel** is the perfect resort for beginners, families, more advanced skiers and snowboarders. The Mont d'Arbois ski area, in **Megève**, is your best bet for both skiing and hiking. For best views of the majestic Mont Blanc, head to **Le Jaillet** that also has a great variety of slopes.
- Experience a party in the mountains at **La Folie Douce Meribel-Courchevel** (also possible in other ski resorts such as Val d'Isère and Val Thorens). Watch the amazing cabaret and then dance to the live, dynamic house band.