First time in Lyon, France

Lyon, 4 Days

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AUTHOR NOTE: Reflected in the city’s architectural prowess, Lyon’s rich historical roots tell the story of a city that continually endeavours to maintain and enrich its proud cultural legacy. From UNESCO World Heritage architecture to the delicacies of a world renowned gastronomic tradition, the Lyonnais have infused their city with a certain ‘je ne sais quoi’, resulting that the city has become one of France’s top tourist destinations.

Lyon’s physical geography is defined by two hilled areas and two rivers. The Saône and the Rhône rivers converge in the southern part of the city, forming the ‘presqu’île’ or peninsula where the famous Place Bellecour – the largest pedestrian square in Europe – lies roughly central on the presqu’île. West of Place Bellecour, the first of the two hills (Fourvière hill) is adorned by the Romanesque Basilique de Fourvière, which can be viewed clearly from Place Bellecour. To the north, Croix-Rousse hill, famous for its rambling traboules (covered passageways from the Renaissance period), is one area of the city listed by UNESCO due to its outstanding architectural and cultural heritage.

Lyon is a city that is best discovered on foot or, when necessary, via the public transport system, which is extensive and incredibly reliable. For those visits which do require public transport, visitors can choose between the tramway, the underground, buses or the vélo (stations of bicycles located in abundance around the city that can be rented for a minimal fee using a credit card). For public transport –excluding the vélo – a single hourly ticket can be purchased and used on any or all of the transport services.
Day 1 - Lyon

**DAY NOTE: THINGS TO DO**

For those who haven’t visited Lyon before, you'll be pleased to discover that all the listed ‘things to do’ in this section are accessible on foot, with the exception of the Institute Lumière, which is just a short bus ride away from the centre of city (take the number 9 bus and get off at the Monplaisir-Lumière stop). Walking is really the best way to capture the magical ambiance from the rambling traboules of the Croix Rousse area to the panoramic views offered from the Basilique de Fourvière, on top of Fourvière hill. But have your best walking shoes on; up, down in and around is the way of the walk in Lyon.

- **Institut Lumière**  
  Where cinema was born
- **Traboules de la Croix-Rousse**  
  Passageways of the Croix-Rousse silk workers
- **Croix-Rousse**  
  World Heritage Croix-Rousse
- **Amphithéâtre Gallo-Romain**  
  Gallo-Roman Amphitheatre, Outdoor Concerts
- **Parc de la Tête d'Or**  
  Large and lovely nostalgic park
- **Basilique de Fourvière**  
  The centrepiece of Lyon’s glory
- **Jardin Zoologique de la Tête d'Or**  
  Outdoor zoo on the grounds of Tête d’Or park
- **Place des Terreaux**  
  Large Public Square
- **Musée des Beaux-Arts**  
  Fine arts on a grand scale
- **Place Bellecour**  
  Largest public square in Europe

With Lyon being hailed as France’s gastronomic capital, visitors are really spoilt for choice when it comes to choosing where to dazzle their taste buds. While some of France’s top chefs and restaurateurs reside in Lyon, it’s not necessary for visitors to pay top fees if they want to get a taste of the local Lyonnais delicacies, in fact, local small scale restaurants and bouchons (typical Lyonnais restaurants) take great pride in serving up the best of Lyonnais cuisine, for generally reasonable prices. All restaurants in this section are either Lyonnais bouchons or restaurants specialising in Lyonnais cuisine, where you won’t pay over the odds for a sumptuous meal. For exceptional value, checkout the midday ‘plat du jour’ menu, where you can often find a two or three course lunchtime meal for less than 10€!

- **Café des Fédérations (Le)**  
  Try Some Wines from Lyon
- **Café du Soleil**  
  Great Lyonnaise food and atmosphere
- **Maison Villemanzy (La)**  
  French Cuisine on Croix-Rousse hill
- **Mon père était limonadier**  
  Classic French restaurant with live music
- **Mère Jean (La)**  
  Lyonnaise Bouchon At Reasonable Prices

Day 2 - Lyon

**DAY NOTE: RESTAURANTS:**

- **Café des Fédérations (Le)**  
  Try Some Wines from Lyon
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  Great Lyonnaise food and atmosphere
- **Maison Villemanzy (La)**  
  French Cuisine on Croix-Rousse hill
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Day 3 - Lyon

**DAY NOTE: NIGHTLIFE**

From gritty live music venues to a night at the opera, Lyon genuinely caters for all tastes and budgets when it comes to a night on the town. The city is also a central crossroads on the European and international entertainment and live events circuit, so expect to find truly diverse options for an evening soirée. Included in this ‘nightlife’ section, visitors can choose between a night of clubbing on the swanky Q-boat (situated on the river Rhône), live music at the Marquise and Kinkasi Kao, or for those looking for a dose of high culture; head to the Grand Cafe des Negociants or Lyon’s acclaimed opera house.

- **Q-Boat**  
  Swanky dance club boat on the river Rhône
Day 4 - Lyon

**DAY NOTE: OUTDOOR MARKETS**

While local market trade is dying out in many parts of Europe, In France, and particularly in Lyon, the deeply rooted culture of outdoor markets is alive and kicking! The Lyonnais pride themselves on the quality of fresh produce found in their local food markets (marché alimentaire), much of which is sold directly by out-of-town farmers. In addition to fresh produce, Lyon is famous for its book markets, which line the banks of the Rhône and Saône rivers at the weekend. These markets are a treat to visit and offer a valuable glimpse into the essence of real French culture.

- **Place Commandant Arnaud**
  Local French produce and culture

- **Place du Maréchal Lyautey**
  Extensive book market

- **Place des Martyrs de la Résistance**
  Varied market produce and products

- **Place Saint Louis**
  Popular food market

- **Quai Victor Augagneur**
  Food Market By the River
Day 1 - Lyon

DAY NOTE: THINGS TO DO

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contact:
tel: +33 4 7878 1895
fax: +33 4 7878 1894
http://www.institut-lumiere.org

location:
25 rue du Premier Film
Lyon 69352

hours:
Tues-Fri 9am-12:30pm and 2-6pm; Sat-Sun 2-6pm

Institut Lumière

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
For access to Institut Lumière, take metro line D and stop at Monplaisir-Lumiére station, or take the number 9, or number 34 bus and get off at the Monplaisir-Lumière stop. If you’re driving; the institute features a free parking area.

DESCRIPTION: In 1895 the Lyonnaise inventor Louis Lumière patented a device which he called the ‘cinématographe’, and thus, the world of cinema was born! The Institut Lumière pays tribute to this achievement and the development of cinematography since its birth. The institute is located on the grounds of the former Lumière family residence (Lumiére Villa) and the Lumiére factory, which provided the set for the world’s first ever film footage. The institute includes a museum dedicated to the lives of the Lumière family and the world of cinema, a cinema theatre, a library and a gift shop. Don’t miss the ‘filmmaker’s wall’, which includes comments from international directors who have made the pilgrimage to the birthplace of cinema. © NileGuide

Traboules de la Croix-Rousse

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
There are 78 listed ‘traboule’ passageways in Croix-Rousse, but unfortunately many can only be accessed by residents. For a full ‘traboule’ listing and information on which ones are accessible, contact the Office du Tourisme at Place Bellecour.

DESCRIPTION: The Croix Rousse district started developing in the 18th century when the silk workshops moved here from the Vieux Lyons area. These slopes became a typical working class neighbourhood where the silkworke
streets and it is easy to imagine the bustle in the streets when Lyons was the centre of silk manufacture in Europe. To help people get from one street to another, staircases and passages (traboules) were added inside buildings and inner courtyards. The idea was to create short cuts from street to street to go up and down the hill. Some of the traboules were used as hiding places for the silkworkers protesting in the 1831 revolution. As in the area of Vieux Lyon, some of the traboules are only accessible to residents who know the entrance door codes. The Croix-Rousse area and its unique passages is absolutely charming. One of its most famous site is undoubtedly the cours des Voraces (entrance at 9, place Colbert, exit rue Imbert Colomès) which takes its name from a secret "canut" society headquartered in this building. The huge staircase is particularly impressive by day or by night with its special lighting. Another one is at 19, rue René Leynaud where you go along passage Thiaffait which leads down to the rue Burdeau. There is so much to discover: simply open a door and let the arched passages and steep steps show you their secrets. © wcities.com

**Croix-Rousse**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Croix-Rousse is an area famous for its stairways, bistros and gardens hidden among the buildings, former silk workshops and its passages known as Traboules de la Croix-Rousse. On every street, you will see lots of different things typical to the Croix-Rousse area. Being a culturally rich area, you will find here old churches, monasteries, amphitheaters and many other buildings of historic and cultural interest. So as not to miss anything, take the 2 hour guided tour organized by the Office du Tourisme and discover the silk workers area and then take the famous passageways on the hills to return quickly to the Place des Terreaux. © wcities.com

**Amphithéâtre Gallo-Romain**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Head up the steps and to the back of the amphitheatre for a unique vista across Lyon. Try this in the morning, as the amphitheatre was built to face the rising sun!

**DESCRIPTION:** An inscription that was discovered in 1958 and is now on display in the Museum of Gallo-Roman civilisation helped date the construction of the Amphithéâtre Gallo-Romain to 19 AD, under Tiberius. This amphitheater was used for entertainment and showcasing of tragicomedies, but it was also the federal sanctuary of the Three Gauls in which each tribe was represented, thus ensuring loyalty of the Gallic people to the Emperor. The highest social standing a Gaul could reach was to become a federal priest of Rome and Augustus. The amphitheater is nestled atop a hill and measures 128 x 104m.
Coins displayed in the Museum of Gallo-Roman civilisation reproduce the holiness of the altar of Rome and Augustus which is overlooked by two statues of the Victory perched on columns. Call the museum for more details. © wcities.com

**5 Parc de la Tête d'Or**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**
If you arrive at the park on a cold day; head to the park's tropical greenhouse to warm-up amidst the luscious palm trees.

**DESCRIPTION:** Visitors entering the lovely Parc de la Tête d'Or may find it reminiscent of locations used in a multitude of English period dramas; in fact, the park design was inspired by traditional English gardens, but landscaped on a very grandiose scale. Covering 105 hectares, the park includes a large man-made boating lake, which covers roughly one quarter of the park area. The lake features an enigmatic island area which can be accessed using an underground tunnel (closed after 5pm), or used as a landing spot for boaters. The rest of the park includes large green spaces with mature flora, a zoo, botanic gardens and tropical greenhouses. Access to the park and all mentioned attractions (excluding boat hire) are provided free of charge. To experience the most enchanted entrance to Parc de la Tete d'Or, take a walk along the tree lined river Rhône and enter the park through the 'Enfant du Rhône' gate. © NileGuide

**contact:**
tel: +33 4 7889 0203

**location:**
Boulevard des Belges
Lyon 69006

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**6 Basilique de Fourvière**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**
The Office du Tourisme provide an unusual tour of the roof tops of Basilique de Fourvière. For more information contact the Office du Tourisme at Place Bellecour.

**DESCRIPTION:** Built between 1872 and 1884 by the architect Pierre Bossan, the Basilique de Fourvière, that has been nicknamed the "upside down elephant" is representative of the eclecticism of the end of the 19th century. The oriental, symbolist and neo-classic influences (twisted columns and columned porticoes) are mixed with architecture inspired by the medieval style machicolated towers, which creates a shocking fortress church. An observatory offers spectacular views, and under the basilica is a crypt, accessible from the esplanade. Guided tours are available. Check website for mass and admission details. © wcities.com

**contact:**
tel: +33 4 7825 1301 / +33 4 7825 8619 (Reservations)
fax: +33 4 7238 2835
http://www.fourviere.org/

**location:**
Place de Fourvière
Lyon 69005

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7 Jardin Zoologique de la Tête d'Or

DESCRIPTION: This zoological garden in the middle of the Parc de la Tête d'Or on the corner of boulevard des Belges and avenue Verguin is a real home for over 1100 animals. Next to the deer park, visitors of all ages can see wild animals from all over the world, such as elephants and giraffes and in the spring you may be lucky enough to get a glimpse of their babies. A little patience and a stroll in the park will probably reward you with a sighting of a grey heron by the lake, a squirrel on a bench or even a rather bad-tempered Florida turtle (which some people unfortunately drop in the lake!). Admission is free. Hours vary seasonally. Check website for more details. © wcities.com

8 Place des Terreaux

DESCRIPTION: The word "terreaux" describes the old moats and medieval mud ("terre") walls that protected the town up to the end of the 16th century. These were filled in to make room for a large square where the town's guillotine was erected. It is the second most important square after Place Bellecour, as it is flanked by Palais Saint Pierre and the Hôtel de Ville (city hall). In 1892, the city council bought a statue from the famous sculptor Bartholdi (of Statue of Liberty fame) which Bordeaux had commissioned then refused. © wcities.com

9 Musée des Beaux-Arts

DESCRIPTION: Previously a Benedictine Abbey, Musee des Beaux-Arts has housed France's second largest collection of fine arts since 1803. The museum's collections include paintings from 14th to the 20th century (including works by Manet, Monet and Matisse), 19th century sculptures, a large collection of Egyptian antiques (displayed in 9 separate rooms!), antiques from ancient Greece and Italy and artefacts from the Sumerian, Assyrian and Babylonian civilisations. The museum also houses France's second largest collection of coins and medals. With so much to see, you really need to leave a few hours free to take it all in, after which, you can enjoy a coffee and take in the sights of the grand Place des Terreaux, located on the doorstep of the museum. © NileGuide

A Place Bellecour

DESCRIPTION: Bellecour is one of the largest public squares in Europe and is a great place to start any tours around the city of Lyon. Situated on the Presqu'île - within the UNESCO World Heritage area - the square provides great views of Basilique de Fourvière, on top of the nearby Fourvière hill. If the square could speak, it would talk of a turbulent and often bloody history; revolutionary battles and public executions all took place on the Place Bellecour of latter days. Today you won't see any
guillotines on the square, but Bellecour does somehow speak its history and it's not hard to imagine all that has passed over this iconic location. © NileGuide
Day 2 - Lyon

DAY NOTE: RESTAURANTS:

With Lyon being hailed as France’s gastronomic capital, visitors are really spoilt for choice when it comes to choosing where to dazzle their taste buds. While some of France’s top chefs and restaurateurs reside in Lyon, it’s not necessary for visitors to pay top fees if they want to get a taste of the local Lyonnais delicacies, in fact, local small scale restaurants and bouchons (typical Lyonnais restaurants) take great pride in serving up the best of Lyonnais cuisine, for generally reasonable prices. All restaurants in this section are either Lyonnais bouchons or restaurants specialising in Lyonnais cuisine, where you won’t pay over the odds for a sumptuous meal. For exceptional value, checkout the midday ‘plat du jour’ menu, where you can often find a two or three course lunchtime meal for less than 10€!

Café des Fédérations (Le)

DESCRIPTION: This is one of the busiest bistras in Lyon, and sometimes the most amusingly raucous. Open only on weekdays and catering to the office-worker crowd, it’s operated with panache by a team of hardworking employees who would probably perform beautifully in the trenches of a war zone. The fixed-price menus offer a selection of appetizers, main courses, and desserts. Each evokes old-time Lyonnais cuisine at its least pretentious, with such options as a green salad with bacon and croutons; eggs en meurette (poached in red wine); pork chops; andouillette (chitterling sausages) served with gratin dauphinois (potato croquettes); and several other kinds of sausage, usually with pommes de terre dauphinoise (a potato gratin dish with cream and garlic). © Frommer’s

Café du Soleil

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Saint Jean metro station, on line D, is the closest underground link to Café du Soleil (about five minutes walking). Leaving the station, turn left on to Rue du Doyenné, which leads to Rue Saint Georges.

DESCRIPTION: Café du Soleil is situated on the historic Rue Saint George in a quieter area of the UNESCO World Heritage zone. Having resided on the premises for over a hundred years, this established Lyonnaise bouchon is proud of its heritage, and is equally proud that the Café du Soleil kitchen supplies most local restaurants with the Lyonnaise speciality ‘quenelle’ (pike dumpling). In true bouchon style, the interior of Café du Soleil is characterised by homely intimate surrounding. Be ready to have a conversation with your neighbour, as the tables are grouped together in a fashion that promotes a collective dining experience.
Day 2 - continued...

experience. Adding to the collective dining experience, the staff at Café du Soleil tend to float from table to table, sharing jokes and good humour, while treating all diners as guests in their home. The atmosphere is full of jovial banter; don't ask for an English menu if you don't want to be heckled (in a friendly way), but do ask the accommodating waiters to help you if you're unsure of the menu.

The menu at Café du Soleil consists of Lyonnaise specialities including the prized 'quenelle', Lyonnaise tripe, terrine de foie gras (liver of duck or goose that has been specially fattened), poulet au vinaigre (chicken in vinegar) and Lyonnaise salade, to name a few choices from the menu. The restaurant offers a selection from three set menus priced at 23 and 32 euros for three courses and a 'menu quenelle', which is priced at 19 euros. House wines include the regional Cote du Rhone and a selection from other regional vintages. In addition to wines, the restaurant has a wide selection of aperitifs and digestives. © NileGuide

3 Maison Villemanzy (La)

Our Local Expert Says:
For a stunning view across the city of Lyon; visit the Villemanzy park, situated next to La Maison Villemanzy.

Description: The Maison Villemanzy restaurant is situated on the slope of the Croix-Rousse and offers a unique view of the city. Warning: you absolutely must book to be able to enjoy such a wonderful panorama. This former bourgeois house has managed to keep all of its style. On the food side, one of the particularly popular dishes is Poultry Livers in Red Pepper Sauce or Cauliflower Crème Froide with l'oeuf du vigneron. © wcities.com

Contact:
tel: +33 4 7298 2121
fax: +33 4 7298 2122
http://www.maison-villemanzy.com/

Location:
25 Montée St-Sébastien
Lyon 69001

Hours:
Mo from 07:30 PM to 09:30 PM, Tu to Sa from 12:00 PM to 01:30 PM, Tu to Sa from 07:30 PM to 09:30 PM, Su from 07:30 PM to 09:30 PM

4 Mon père était limonadier

Description: The name of this restaurant (my father was a lemonade maker) is funny, but this restaurant could have just as well have been called "meeting place for friends" as the atmosphere is simple and convivial. The décor, done in the style of a junk room, is original and adds to the relaxing atmosphere. Come here for the carefully-served traditional cuisine, but also come in a group for a moment of pure relaxation. Everyone comes out of this restaurant with a smile on their face. © wcities.com

Contact:
tel: +33 4 7830 9310

Location:
9 rue Justin Godart
Lyon 69004

5 Mère Jean (La)

Description: The peninsula is crammed full of bouchons and other Lyonnaise restaurants, so why is it that this one has been so successful for such a long time? The answer is simple, they have mastered the perfect blend of a friendly welcome, reasonable prices and good quality food. It is that simple. Therefore, the menu is full of Lyonnaise specialties like Pike Quenelle and the ingredients are always fresh. © wcities.com

Contact:
tel: +33 4 7837 8127

Location:
5 rue des Marronniers
Lyon 69002

Hours:
Day 2 - continued...

Mo to Fr from 12:00 PM to 01:30 PM, Mo to Fr from 07:00 PM to 09:30 PM
Day 3 - Lyon

DAY NOTE: NIGHTLIFE

From gritty live music venues to a night at the opera, Lyon genuinely caters for all tastes and budgets when it comes to a night on the town. The city is also a central crossroads on the European and international entertainment and live events circuit, so expect to find truly diverse options for an evening soirée. Included in this ‘nightlife’ section, visitors can choose between a night of clubbing on the swanky Q-boat (situated on the river Rhône), live music at the Marquise and Kinkasi Kao, or for those looking for a dose of high culture; head to the Grand Cafe des Negociants or Lyon’s acclaimed opera house.

Q-Boat

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Enjoy the riverside terrace during the spring and summer months.

DESCRIPTION: Moored on the bank of the river Rhône, at the smartly renovated Quai Victor Augagneur, the Q-boat is in a prime location for getting noticed. Quai Victor Augagneur, which begins under the central Pont de la Guillotiére, is a hotspot for riverside activity, particularly in the spring and summer months when the place comes alive with outdoor musical performances, street art and even the odd public film viewing. The Q-boat, formerly called 'The Fish', provides a swanky terraced area during the day when the weather is good. This is a great place to sit back and watch the action of the quay while enjoying a drink or a light meal. By night, the Q-boat opens its spacious interior and turns up the volume attracting Lyon’s young clubbers, who come to dance the night away to house and techno music. Entrance is free, but the bar is a bit pricey. © NileGuide

Grand Café des Négociants (Le)

DESCRIPTION: Something of an institution in Lyon, this café has been in existence since 1864: it houses luxurious historical glassware, lush interiors and a brasserie-style menu. You can choose from rice and veal, mussels (when in season), sauerkraut and even filet of wolf! You can eat late in the evening, but during the day people go mostly to drink tea. You can also choose to sit at the terrace during the summer and winter months. A distinguished and serious establishment, the, “Négos”, as it's fondly called by locals, is frequented mostly by people who know the café. With philosophy evenings every month, it welcomes great thinkers, and it must be said, those who like to show off! © wcities.com
Day 3 - continued...

3 Ninkasi Kao

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
If you own a student card, have it at the ready to receive discounts on some Ninkasi gigs.

DESCRIPTION: Located in Gerland - not far from the Olympic Statuim - Ninkasi Kao is the original of an ever growing family of Ninkasi creations, which keep popping up all over Lyon and beyond. Gerland is home to Ninkasi Kao and the Ninkasi Kafe, both of which are located on the same premises. Ninkasi Kao is the place to be for live entertainment. The venue holds a capacity of 600 and opens the stage with live music from France and beyond. Recent concerts have included blues, reggae, electro and rock bands of both little and well known names. There are generally five or six concerts per month and some DJing tours offering electro break, drum’n’base, house and disco pop. Ticket prices range from 13€ to 25€ (depending on the gig) and student discount is available on some, but not all events. Ninkasi Kao is also famous for the grand selection of beers they have on offer, all of which are brewed on the premises in Gerland. They’re so proud of their micro brewing talents, Ninkasi invites the public to come and learn about their brewing enterprise on the first Saturday of every month at 11am. It costs just 3€ for adults to take the one hour tour and children under twelve can join for free. For more information call Roland Berne on: + 33(0)4 72 76 89 02. © NileGuide

Emma Muldoon

4 Marquise (La)

DESCRIPTION: This is a barge which, at different times, serves as a café-theatre, and turns its English pub into an intimate and warm venue for intelligent, spicy humor. The program is varied and embraces all kinds of comedy, which is quite rare in Lyon. It is generally popular with higher income people ages 30 to 40. Live DJs rumble weekly with disco, jazz, jungle and salsa tunes and the upper terrace is open for star gazing. © wcities.com

La Marquise

5 Opéra National de Lyon

DESCRIPTION: If there is one opera house that bears witness to the theatrical past of its town, then it is the Opera House of Lyons. This opera house was built between 1756 and 1832 to cater to the growing popularity of opera in Lyons at the end of the 18th century. The style is neo-classical, which was typical of the time, with a peristyle on the ground floor and décor you would expect in a Greco-Roman temple with its chimera and muses. Following a competition set up by the Council of Lyons, the Opera House was renovated by the architect Jean Nouvel; who retained its original structure and the four outer façades whilst giving it a modern face lift. It now accommodates a corps de ballet, an orchestra as well as many

Christophe Finot
rehearsal rooms, storage areas for costumes and props. The main hall has been decorated using various black and red materials such as granite and wood and uses a soft lighting system which is particularly effective at nightfall when combined with the outside lights. Apart from opera performances, audiences will definitely enjoy the impressive line-up of dance shows, cultural events and concerts they feature every year. Check website for details. © wcities.com
**Day 4 - Lyon**

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**1 Place Commandant Arnaud**

**DESCRIPTION:** Place Commandant Arnaud, located within the Croix-Rousse neighborhood of Lyon, is known for the 'Marché alimentaire Commandant Arnaud' that it hosts. Apart from localites, tourists who want to get a taste of local fare, also attend the market with zest. The place is flanked by shops on both sides and comes to life especially during the market days. Call for further details. © wcities.com

**2 Place du Maréchal Lyautey**

**DESCRIPTION:** Situated between Rue Tronchet and Rue de Seze, the street Place du Maréchal Lyautey offers a breathtaking view of the adjoining river. The street has become popular for being the venue of the weekly market called Lyautey Book Market (Marché aux livres Lyautey) that attracts a lot of crowd. The market offers all kinds of books and is a book lovers paradise. © wcities.com

**3 Place des Martyrs de la Résistance**

**DESCRIPTION:** Place des Martyrs de la Résistance is simply a famous hub of a number of market products. Edible products like fruits, vegetables, snacks and cold storage products are available. Moreover, household products such as kitchenware and appliances are available too. This street is certainly reliable, when it comes to household shopping. © wcities.com
Place Saint Louis

DESCRIPTION: Known for hosting St Louis Food Market (Marché alimentaire Place St Louis), the Place Saint Louis is a popular landmark. With several metro stations situated nearby, it is no wonder that this place is easily accessible by the locals and the tourists. The food market held here, offers everything from vegetables, fruits to meat and fish. © wcities.com

Quai Victor Augagneur

DESCRIPTION: Situated between Rue Aime Collomb and Pont de la Guillotiere, the street Quai Victor Augagneur is popular for hosting Victor Augagneur Food Market (Marché alimentaire Victor Augagneur). Overlooking the river, this street bustles with the shoppers and the tourists during the ongoing weekly market. Easily accessible by train, bus and car, the street has become an important landmark of the city. © wcities.com
Lyons Snapshot

Local Info
France’s third-largest city, Lyon is best known for its culinary prowess and its lively cultural scene. A metropolis with a vibrant ambience, Lyons takes advantage of its strategic location between the north and south of Europe to welcome travelers from all over the continent.

Sights
Lyon does not have the grand landmarks-- the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the Champs Elysees-- but it does have its share of historic architecture. The city was founded by Romans in 43 BC and was the empire’s capital of Gaul. There are several Roman sites worth a visit, including the oldest Roman theater in France. There is also a mediaeval quarter near the city center with charming, cobbled pedestrian streets and the most Italian Renaissance architecture in France. Many of the buildings here date to the 15th century and most have now been refurbished and painted in the pastel hues of Tuscany. For a panoramic view over the city, take the funicular up Fourviere Hill, where you’ll also find the Fourviere Basilica, built between 1872 and 1896.

Lyon has cultural events happening almost every week and you can easily find a show by checking the local dailies for music, opera and dance performances. There are plenty of theaters and cafe-theaters in the city where you can catch anything from avant-garde productions to comedy to the classics.

Shopping
Lyon was once the center of the European silk industry and this legacy lives on in La Croix-Rousse, where there are still many local artisans and craftsmen selling beautiful silk creations. If you’re looking for antique pieces, head for the narrow streets of Rue Auguste Comte. If you’re in the market for branded luxury goods, try the Place des Jacobins or the Place Bellecour(the largest“clear square” in Europe), as well as the trendy boutiques along Rue Emile Zola, Rue Gasparin and Rue President Herriot. Also check out the very French department store Printemps and the lovely glass-roofed Galeries Lafayette Part Dieu.

Dining
Lyon claims the title of France’s gastronomic capital-- and those who think French food is the best go one step further and call the city the culinary center of the world. Lyon is full of high-end dining but eating on a budget is also possible, particularly at the Croix-Rousse Market, Lyon’s biggest and busiest. Here you’ll find vendors selling fresh bread, roasted chickens, pastries, sausages and many different cheeses. St. Antoine market is another option for eating on a budget, though it is slightly pricier than Croix-Rousse. For upscale dining, Lyons has plenty of bistros, wine shops and restaurants to please the pickiest palates. Definitely reserve a night to eat in one of the city’s many vibrant, no-frills bouchons, where you’ll find traditional Lyonnaise dishes like sausages, roast pork and pates. There is a wide variety in the neighborhood around city hall. © NileGuide

History
Nestled between Fourvière and Croix-Rousse Hills, nicknamed by author Michelet during the 19th century“The Praying One” and“The Working One” respectively, Lyon is the second largest French metropolis after Paris. Capital of the Rhône-Alpes region, ideally located between Massif Central and the Alps, not far from the Mediterranean, the city benefits from an exceptional location at a cross road of commerce, ideas and cultures. This extraordinary capital offers a plethora of monuments and buildings telling the tale of Lyon’s 2000-year history. Accordingly, 1235 acres of the town were classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1998.

From the founding of Lugdunum city to the downfall of the Roman Empire Lyon’s site was settled long before the city was formally founded by the Romans. Legend explains that the city is named after a god from Celtic mythology. Tribes from northern Europe(Celts) are said to have erected a sanctuary in honor of Lug, the God of the Sun or a God of Light. This sanctuary was supposedly located on Fourvière Hill, next to Lyon’s other original site, Condate, at the bottom of Croix-Rousse Hill.
The true history of this city began after the Romans founded it during the first century before Christ. Julius Caesar, during his campaign to conquer the Three Gauls in 58 B.C., decided to set up camp at the bottom of Fourvière Hill. In 43 B.C., a lieutenant named Lutius Munius Plancius chose the same site to build the city of Lugdunum which would welcome Romans expelled from neighboring Vienna by the Allobroges. The name of the city has several meanings. It could mean“Hill of the Light”(luc being equivalent to the latinlux, meaning light) or“Hill of the Crow”(taking lug from the wordlukos meaning crow, an animal that announces the presence of God Lug in Celtic mythology). In 27 B.C., Lugdunum gained weight and importance when named Capital of the Three Gaurs under Emperor Augustus. Little by little, the city grew significant enough to become second only to Rome in the Roman Empire. Its role, originally limited to military, was expanded to include politics, economics, and religion. An amphitheater, called Amphithéâtre des 3 Gaules, was built at the bottom of Croix-Rousse Hill to celebrate the imperial cult. It was the meeting venue for the 60 Gallic tribes attending the ceremonies. Later expanded to host as many as 20,000, it served to honor and entertain Roman Emperors visiting the city. During the period of conversion to Christianity in 177 A.D., 48 Christian martyrs were sacrificed here, including Bishop Pothinus and Saint Blandina. Under Augustus’ reign, many monuments were erected like the theater, the Temple dedicated to the Phrygian goddess Cybele, and the thermal facilities.
The downfall of the Roman Lugdunum began with the first invasion by Germanic
people in 276 A.D. and the internal squabbling that accompanied the decline of the Roman Empire. The once thriving city fell victim to the pillaging and political instability that put an end to its growth. By the end of the 3rd century, it had lost its status as Capital of the Three Gauls. Its inhabitants, expelled from their houses by tribes of Barbarians, found refuge in the low part of the town, the old city now called Vieux Lyon. Vestiges and tracks from that period remain in the Cathédrale Saint-Jean neighborhood as well as in the Musée de la civilization Gallo-Romaine, a Gallo-Roman museum.

The gloomy Middle Ages: marked by religious events The early Middle Ages saw the invasion of the Germanic tribes, the Burgundians who were expelled from their territory by the Huns. They finally settled in Lyon and named it Capital of Burgundy in 461. In 532, the sons of Emperor Clovis annexed Burgundy, making Lyon a part of the Frank Empire. During the next several centuries, the city saw many waves of invaders. Outside the brief but stable reign of Emperor Charlemagne(742-814), the city was plagued by ravages and instability as it was successively devastated by Normans, Hungarians and Muslims eager to annex Provence or Burgundy.

After this long dark period, the city was reborn thanks to its religious role in the 11th century, when it was named"Primate of Gaul" in 1079 under the reign of pope Gregory VII. During that period, numerous churches, abbeys and bridges were erected. Among the extraordinary edifices remaining are the Saint-Jean Cathedral and the abbey of St-Paul and Saint Martin d'Ainay. The bridges built in the ecclesiastic city at these times created a strong infrastructure for the future development of the garment and food industry and trade. However, Lyon still remained modest in size and much smaller than it had been in the Gallo-Roman times. The Fourvière and Croix-Rousse hills were deserted while the bank alongside the Saône River grew. The bank alongside the Rhône River remained undeveloped until the 15th century because of the difficulty of building a bridge in the regularly flooding water.

In 1307, Philip IV The Fair definitively attached Lyon, which had always been under the aegis of archbishops, to the French Kingdom. But it remained undeveloped due to the Hundred Years' War and the many disasters(floods, epidemic diseases, etc) that occurred in the 14th century. For example, the Black Plague killed approximately half of Lyon's population in 1343 reducing it to 40,000 people.

From the thriving times of Renaissance to the French Revolution It was not until the Renaissance that Lyon took full advantage of its geographic characteristics. Benefiting from the attention and favors of successive French kings, Louis XI"The Prudent", Charles VIII and Francis I, the city saw its largest development and economic growth. It became a center of trade and business. Charles VIII allowed Lyon to host four international fairs annually, when merchants came from as far as the Middle-East and Asia to buy, sell, and trade silk, leather goods, spices, and metals. Numerous occupations and jobs developed in relation to these trades. The silk industry brought a great number of workers, sometimes highly qualified, to design the best pieces for the French crown. Banking families arrived from thriving Italian cities like Venice, Florence, or Genoa to be part of the bustling city. The first real use of credit was invented in Lyon at that time, and the city was home to Europe's first Stock Exchange(Bourse). Both the economy and the culture flourished. Printing methods had been imported from Germany, and the first book published in the French language was printed in Lyon in 1473. Famous works by legendary French writers- physician and philosopher François Rabelais, poet Louise Labé, and Ronsard- were published here.

This cultural and economical wealth led to the erection of sumptuous masterpieces of architecture that dramatically changed the city of Vieux Lyon. Under the influence of powerful and wealthy families establishing their activities in the city, numerous mansions(hôtels particuliers) were built.

The Hôtel Gadagne which now houses the Musée Historique de Lyon, the Loge du Change, and the Traboules are from that period.

The economic and cultural prosperity of this flourishing city was destabilized by the looming wars between Catholics and Protestants. Beginning in the 1560s, massacres and acts of vengeance plagued the town. People were killed and churches were destroyed, chasing away those engaged in cultural activities and merchants afraid of losing their capital. Banking families returned to Italy while publishers emigrated towards Geneva. Lyon became a working-class city, hidden behind the splendor of Paris.

However, in the 17th and 18th centuries the city regained prosperity thanks to the silk trade and the garment industry. It also benefited from the favors of the prosperous French crown, notably under the reign of Louis XIV. The city was redesigned and roads, buildings, and the Hospital were renovated. The Place des Cordeliers and the Place Bellecour were designed during that period. The general hospital, called Hôtel Dieu, was expanded. Some new buildings appeared: the Hôtel de Ville(the city hall from 1643), Saint Mary's Chapel in Fourvière, the city Theater, and the fountains replacing the medieval wells. Architects and politicians sought to enlarge a narrow city by elevating the buildings(they are taller in Lyon than is common in other French cities) and building new neighborhoods. The Presqu'île, Saint-Clair, and Les Brotteaux neighborhoods knew their development at this time under the aegis of architects Soufflot, Perrache, and Morand.

The French Revolution put an end to this quiet and prosperous period. In 1793, Lyon chose to support the Girondists against the"Convention"(the government that reigned from September 1792 to September 1795) and was considered too royalist. As a result, she had to endure a 2-month siege. During the French Revolution, 2000 people were shot or decapitated in Lyon. The architectural work was suspended and numerous frontages were
ruined, especially in the Place Bellecour neighborhood.

Nevertheless, Lyon’s Age of Enlightenment was punctuated by major scientific discoveries surrounding the first veterinary school in Europe, the Brothers Montgolfier (Aérostat), and the notable talents of Ampère, the genius of physics who developed units for measuring electricity.

From the Industrial Revolution to the contemporary era In the 19th century, the main activities in town linked to the silk industry continued to expand but their location, influenced by a number of historical inventions, changed significantly. In the beginning of the century, Joseph Marie Jacquard revolutionized the textile industry by inventing a mechanical loom that could replace six men at work. In need of more space, the workshops moved to the Croix-Rousse hill, and Lyon grew to the north and east. Another major innovation changed the garment industry: the sewing machine of Barthélemy Thimonnier, invented in 1829.

The benefits of the Industrial Revolution in Lyon extended beyond the textile industry itself. The chemistry of dyes and other synthetic products, linked to that industry, saw strong development with the colorant products constituting a foundation for the success of the future giant of French chemistry, Rhône-Poulenc. The pharmaceutical sector was represented by Marcel Mérieux who founded the eponymous institute. Besides Rhône-Poulenc and Mérieux, we should also mention Berliet, a key company in the French automotive industry. The great banking institution, Le Crédit Lyonnais, was created in 1860 as a result of the prosperity of these sectors. Working in Lyon towards the end of the century, the Brothers Lumière developed the cinématographe that founded the cinema industry, Rhône and Saône rivers and the large streets on the Presqu’île. The bourgeoisie, made up of merchants and “captains of industry”, lived in the magnificent buildings still standing on the Cours Morand or the Avenue de Saxe. Workings in the Parc de La Tête d’Or began at that same period.

By the end of the century, the Guillotière, Croix-Rousse and Vaise neighborhoods had become part of the city. The modern city grew with the construction of large roads, making the town more sanitary, making paths for natural light to fall or to emphasize municipal monuments. Meanwhile, the oldest parts of the city underwent extensive renovations.

Throughout the first half of the 20th century, the mayor of Lyon, Édouard Herriot, continued to remodel the city to improve quality of life for its inhabitants. During his term (1905-1957), numerous public buildings were erected under the direction of architect Tony Garnier. The slaughterhouse and the cattle marketplace remain today as the great Halle, and the Stade Gerland stadium built in 1912, the Hospital, and low-income housing structures are among the masterpieces built under Herriot.

During World War II, being located on the frontier between the occupied and free zone, Lyon played a great role as the headquarters of the French Resistance fighting against the Nazi regime, notably under the leadership of Jean Moulin. It was bombed in May 1944, only months before being freed in September. After the war, as was true throughout France, the population and the city grew again. During the 30 Glorieuses, communication and transportation infrastructure was built to give Lyon its European dimension: the Satolas airport, now called Saint-Exupéry (1975), the metro (1978), the Fourvière Tunnel, where the highway goes through Lyon, and the TGV (high speed train) shortening the trip between Paris and Lyon to only two hours. Municipal and cultural infrastructures like the Exhibit Center Eurexpo, the Auditorium Maurice Ravel, the Maison de la Danse, the Bibliothèque Municipale, the Palais des Congrès, and the Cité Internationale are also from that time. The Opéra was remodeled by French architect Jean Nouvel as was the Place des Terreaux by Drevet and Buren. In Old Lyon, all the monuments, bridges and riverbanks are illuminated to emphasize the historical and artistic style of this city.

Today’s city is much more than the once-industrial city of factories. It is praised for its gastronomy, its arts & crafts, its culture and its history. Thanks to its metalworking activities, its garment industry, and its chemical and pharmaceutical sector, it has developed cutting edge technologies (located in Gerland metropolis) and a bustling business center (in La Part-Dieu neighborhood) offering a new dynamic economy in Lyon which has resulted in the appearance of a large service industry. The Hôtel Hilton and the casino, devotion to cutting-edge research (biotechnology, medical sciences, vehicle manufacturing) and services, the city is dedicated to a successful future.

Hotel Insights

Like most large cities, Lyon offers a wide range of accommodation, with hotels to suit every taste and pocketbook. To find your way around, it helps to think of the town in terms of three distinct parts separated by two rivers; therive droite (right bank) of the Saône (comprising Old Lyon and Vaise), the presqu’île (the spit of land between the two rivers) and therive gauche (left bank) of the Rhône (the eastern districts).

The right bank of the Saône (5ème and 9ème arrondissements) Here in the heart of Old Lyon you will find the finest of the city’s four-star hotels: the Cour des Loges and Villa Florentine. Both have a
Restaurants in Lyon have quite a reputation to live up to. Recognised nationally and internationally as the gastronomic capital of France, chances are most visits to the city are preceded by high expectations and an eager gearing up to taste the touted supremacy of Lyon’s acclaimed restaurants. But does Lyon still live up to the grand reputation of ‘gastronomic capital’, a title prescribed to it over fifty years ago? Is the label all hype, or does Lyon truly offer something special to visitors wanting to indulge in France’s proclaimed capital of quintessential delights? The answer – in short – is yes! And there’s a host of reasons to support this confirmation.

A legacy of Lyonnaise cuisine

Evolving from centuries of social and political change, Lyonnaise cuisine owes much of its gastronomic ranking to a cultural legacy that has consistently highlighted the importance of food culture within all reaches of its society. Work hard, eat well and enjoy the pleasures of the table’, is a socially undivided Lyonnaise maxim that underlines the cultural attitude associating Lyon’s enduring economic success with the quality of food served and enjoyed at its tables. Traditionally, Lyonnaise cuisine can be broadly defined as unpretentious, high quality cuisine with roots that lead back to the culinary traditions of Classique Cuisine, as opposed to the highly stylised dishes and elaborate serving style of Haute Cuisine, or ‘high cuisine’. But owing to the city’s prime location on the crossroads of French culinary traditions, influences near and far have fed a cuisine evolution that prizes the traditional while embracing the new. In addition, Lyon has served as an oven nurturing the talents of the world’s most highly acclaimed chefs. Eugenie Brazier (Les Mères), Paul Bocuse, Pierre Orsi and Jean-Paul Lacombe, are just a few of the city’s Michelin award winning chefs, credited in raising the banner for Lyon as ‘gastronomic capital’ of France.

The foundations of Lyonnaise cuisine

In addition to Lyon’s prestigious cuisine legacy and its parenting of superstar chefs, the city’s culinary reputation can also be attributed its geographical location and the quality of regional produce. Located favourably in the natural plains of the Rhône-Alpes region, and at the confluence of two regionally significant waterways (the rivers Rhône and Saône), Lyon is situated at a regional crossroads of culinary traditions and is surrounded by an abundance of fruitful resources and fertile land. To the south of Lyon there’s a high concentration of agriculture and farming in Charolais and Bresse, for which Bresse is internationally recognised for the high quality of its free-range chicken farming. To the east, the fish lakes of Savoy provide the kitchens of Lyon with a plethora of fresh fish and to the south, Drôme provides the organic produce and wild game, while the fertile plains of the Rhône Valley deliver a wide variety of seasonal fruits and vegetable. And all of this before the wine has even been added to the table!

Wine, wine, wine, and more wine!

Wine and Lyonnaise cuisine go hand in hand, if fact, the ‘pleasures of the table’ would not be complete without a bottle or carafe from one of the famed local wine growing regions. Lyon borders with Côtes du Rhône to the south (one of the world’s most ancient vineyards), Beaujolais to the north; home of the distinctive gammy grape and the highest vineyard density in the world, and to the west – around the outskirts of the city – Coteaux du Lyonnais are a lesser known, and relatively small appellation, producing wines popular primarily in the restaurants of Lyon.

Knowing your ‘brasserie’ from your ‘bouchon’

With no short supply of fine vintages and fresh produce, and with a legacy of nurtured culinary expertise, Lyon is in good shape to be granted the award of French gastronomic capital, but there’s still one ingredient missing from the pot. The Restaurants! Lyon contains France’s highest concentration of restaurants per capita, and given that the French love to categorise, the city’s restaurants fall into an array of classifications that can prove to be a bit bewildering to the uninitiated food enthusiast, and it’s no wonder! Lyon features over one thousand restaurants that are highly concentrated within the central area of the city. Walking down the street – particularly the restaurant packed streets of Rue de Marronniers and Rue Merci-ère – the cuisine excited visitors may find the vast number of restaurants and their unique titles a bit perplexing. A ‘bistrot’, followed by a ‘bouchon’, followed by a ‘brasserie’, and the list goes on as you stand spoilt for choice and a bit mystified about French restaurant classification.
course, ‘mystification’, is one of the joys of travelling, and delving-on-in is often the best way to decode the French culinary enigma, but for those visiting the city for a short period of time, some prior knowledge can result in less time pondering and more time tasting, so get ready for a quick ‘what’s what’s in knowing your ‘bouchon’ from your ‘brasserie’ in the gastronomic capital of France.

The Lyonnaise ‘bouchon’
‘Bouchon’ is the typically Lyonnaise name giver to small, intimate and friendly restaurants, which specialise in traditionally hearty Lyonnaise cuisine. The ‘bouchon’ menu is characterised by being simple, reasonably priced, substantial and heavily meat based, with dishes that include; Tête de Veau (caff’s head), Coq au Vin (chicken thighs stuffed with morels), Andouillette (tripe sausage made with veal) and Lyon’s famed Quenelle (pike dumpling). Wines found in Lyon’s ‘bouchons’ are generally regional, with Côte de Rhône and Beaujolais being the most common table wines on offer.

There are hundreds of ‘bouchons’ in Lyon, but only around twenty are certified with the title of ‘Authentique Bouchon’, as subscribed by the certifying body ‘Authentique Bouchons Lyonnais’. You can recognised an authentic ‘bouchon’ by looking on restaurant windows for a sticker portraying a little (drunk) guy holding a glass of wine, with the words ‘Authentique Bouchon Lyonnais’ printed on the edge of the sticker. ‘Bouchon’ well worth a visit include; Chez Paul, Chez Mounnierre, Café du Soleil and Café des Fédérations, all notable for their true ‘bouchon’ hospitality and quintessential Lyonnaise menu.

The ‘brasserie’
The word ‘brasserie’ comes from the French word ‘brasser’, meaning to malt or brew, therefore in French and Lyonnaise ‘brasseries’, expect to find an emphasis on food with beer rather than wine. That said, most Lyonnaise ‘brasseries’ tend to include an extensive wine selection in addition to a variety of beers. The ‘brasserie’ originated in Alsace, so the menu generally features a lot of seafood and specialities such as sauerkraut. For a truly authentic ‘brasserie’ experience in Lyon, head to the daddy of them all, Brasserie Georges.

The mothers of Lyon

A little bit of history is required in explaining the appearance and importance of restaurants ‘Les Mères’ (the mothers) in Lyon. Starting somewhere around the middle of the 1800’s, a number of women in Lyon left their employment as cooks in rich bourgeois households, finding a better uses for their culinary talents in setting up shop on their own. These women started a tradition of ‘Les Mères’ cuisine, which would prove to be hugely influential in Lyon and beyond. In fact, Paul Bocuse apprenticed at Lyon’s acclaimed Mère Brazier, a restaurant owned by Eugenie Brazier who, in 1933, was the first female chef to be awarded three Michelin stars. ‘Les Mères’ honest and refined cuisine, in addition to the ‘being fed at mamma’s house’ atmosphere, is still very popular in Lyon today. In addition to Mère Brazier, visitors should check out the culinary girl-power at Mère Vittet and Mère Jean.

Bigwig restaurants in Lyon
From Classic Cuisine, to Haute Cuisine, to Nouvelle Cuisine – and everything in between – Lyon’s big name, Michelin stared restaurants are the place to go for dining at its most rated, and most expensive. Leaders on the table include the famed restaurant of Paul Bocuse; Auberge du Pont de Collonges, which is just outside of Lyon, and La Terrasses de Lyon is notable in the big league, not only for its Michelin stared Haute Cuisine menu, but also for the restaurant’s special location on Foursière hill (within La Villa Florentine hotel). Located near to Tete d’Or park, Pierre Orsi is another big name glowing on the list of Lyon’s great culinary achievements and Léon de Lyon-restaurant owned by Lyon’s acclaimed Jean-Paul Lacombe- should also include for its iconic status and two Michelin star awards. Restaurant de Foursière is another Michelin starred restaurant, but like La Terrasses de Lyon, it is notable for its location, as well as its award winning menu.

The Lyonnaise Café
Café culture in Lyon centres around terrace fronted establishments which typically offer a number of hot drinks including coffee and hot chocolate, and alcoholic drinks including; wines, beers and spirits. Food is generally not the focus of the café, but you will usually find some food on offer, ranging from light-bites to full meals. A common fare of cafés in Lyon is theaperitif menu, which can include a selection of cold meats, sausages, pates and pickled vegetables. The categorisation of cafés can sometimes become a bit blurred, with restaurants such as Café de Négociants and Café des Fédérations using the title of café, when in fact they provide extensive menus and restaurant services. For typical café culture, visit Café 203, and for a notable café-restaurant, visit Café Perl, located in a lovely area near Église Saint Nizier.

International restaurants
As you would expect to find in France’s second largest city, international restaurants are represented in droves, and being located in an internationally acclaimed gastronomic city, standards are high as international restaurants stretch to achieve the benchmark set in France’s gastronomic capital. Some notable international menus include that of Lolo Quoi, a large Italian restaurant with an extensive menu (located on the restaurant packed Rue Mercier) and Saigon Gourmet offers Vietnamese food at its very best. Saigon Gourmet is located on Rue Passet, within the Vietnam/Chinatown area of the Guillemitière neighbourhood. This is the area to arrive for a taste of East Asia in Lyon. La Mamounia, a popular Moroccan restaurant, offering a reasonably priced menu, is a good place to go to for a taste of North Africa and Indian food at its best can be found at Shalima in Croix-Rousse.

Lyon and the Salon de Thé
The traditionally French Salon de Thé (tea room) offers non-alcoholic drinks, including tea, with light snacks and pastries. However, in recent history, with influences from North Africa and the Middle East, the Lyonnaise Salon de Thé is more akin to an Egyptian tea room offering shisha pipes, a variety of tea beverages and light meals or snacks. These tea rooms are a real addition to Lyon. Attracting a youthful clientele, Salon de Thé establishments are a great place to have anight meal, drink some tea and sit back on a comfy chair while smoking shisha! A few good ones to try are L’Arbre à Thé, La Shisha des Gones and Le Pharaoh.

The bistrot
A bistrot, in its original Parisian form, is a small restaurant serving reasonably priced meals amidst simple surroundings. In Lyon, bistros tend to combine bar and restaurant facilities on a varying scale. Some bistros are primarily bar oriented, while others
Lyon Snapshot continued

provide a full food menu. The title of ‘bistrot’ doesn’t fit very well within Lyonnaise restaurant categorisation. Being a primarily Parisian type of eatery, the rough equivalent to the bistrot in Lyon is the home grown ‘bouchon’. Generally, if you see the word ‘bistrot’ in a restaurant title in Lyon, it’s likely to offer a menu including some Lyonnaise specialities along with dishes of a more national flavour. A good example of this type of bistrot is Bistrot Verdi, located on historic Rue Giuseppe Verdi, not far from the Opera National de Lyon. © NileGuide

**Nightlife Insights**

**ART AND CULTURE** Lyon is one of the most famous cities in France for its artistic and cultural activity. Once the capital of Gaul, the contemporary city has succeeded in gracefully combining ancient and modern components, and has earned the classification of UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visitors can explore the celebrated old neighborhoods of Lyon, enjoy the city’s museums, artistic and historical, and search through the many libraries or take in the great variety of educational attractions.

**Museums** Lyon boasts a wealth of museums, all worth a visit. The best known and most popular are the Musée de la Civilisation Gallo-Romaine, which explains in depth the history of ancient Gaul under the Roman Empire, the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, the Musée des Beaux-Arts, a name recognized worldwide, the Institut Lumière, which focuses on the Lumière brothers and their great invention and finally the Musée des Miniatures, which provides a birds’eye view of our world, reproduced in miniature.

**Film** Lyon is certainly not lacking movie theaters, offering new releases, old classics, and even small, low budget movies. The most popular movie theaters in Lyon, frequented for their quality and reasonable prices are the UGC Lyon Part Dieu 4, the Pathé and the Ciné Cité. These cinemas show new releases for the most part, in very comfortably equipped screening rooms. Lesser known or small budget movies and old cult classics can be found in the local cinemas, like the Cinéma Opéra, the Fourmi and the Cinéma Le Zola, as well as the UGC Astoria which shows both major motion pictures and small-budget films. Finally, it would be criminal to forget the marvelous and historical Institut Lumière.

**Theater & Dance** There are many stages for theater and dance performances in Lyon, which are usually well-appreciated and frequented by the population. The best known are the Théâtre des Jeunes Années, the Théâtre National Populaire, the Maison de la Danse, the Théâtre des Célestins, and the Théâtre de la Croix-Rousse. Lyon is an excellent place both to discover new talent and admire established names, as many well-known troupes make this city a regular stop.

**Music Classical** Auditory treats abound in Lyon, with busy concert schedules at the Auditorium Maurice Ravel and the Opéra de Lyon. The Opera hall is truly spectacular, the sound is remarkable, and the decor beautiful. A memorable evening is guaranteed, particularly on nights featuring masterpieces like the Magic Flute.

**Jazz & Blues** Those travelers who love nothing better than a peaceful evening accompanied by the soulful sounds of jazz and blues will have no trouble getting some satisfaction in Lyon. There are many music-themed bars which cater to this style: try the Hot Club or the New Orleans to start out.

**Rock** There are also many places where you can enjoy good rock music: the Eden Rock Café, the Phoebus, and the Athmosphère are all worth visiting. The groups who perform are good, and the number of skilled musicians in Lyon is surprisingly high.

**House, Dance, Techno** These genres of music are typically found in dance bars and discos, such as DV1 and the Chapelle Club.

**Nightclubs and Shows** Lyon by night is by no means Paris, and many find the town less "active" than it should be, considering its size. Still, there are many places to go out and have fun on the town with a friend (or a few!). There are excellent evenings to be had at Duplex, Eden Rock, or the République. The atmosphere of these nightspots is young and energetic.

Of course there are also places for more intense partying or drinking. The rue Sainte Catherine is unbeatable for mythic nights, if not always the most pleasant. Bars line the street, creating an energetic buzz all night. Start at Ayers Rock and keep moving down the street for an intense evening! A final suggestion for the night: varied bars and pubs follow each other from Saint-Jean to Vaise along the Saône riverside. Cruise through to find a fun-loving crowd!

**Districts** Saint-Jean is the most widely known district of Lyon. The Cathédrale St-Jean and the visual beauty of the neighborhood are remarkable, and the restaurants deserve recognition. The cobblestone streets lead peacefully to old Lyon, where cars are quite rare because they are barred from the area. Locals and tourists on foot enjoy the "Traboules" (passages particular to Lyon which traverse courtyards and link the streets) and historical architecture. The Place des Terreaux, situated in the heart of the city, is also quite popular. Always full of crowds, there are many shops in this area: there’s a bar on every corner, and a large, straight avenue links the Hôtel de Ville and the Place Bellecour, where attractive people compliment the ornate architecture.

The Part-Dieu area is quite popular, thanks to its well-known shopping center, the Centre Commercial de la Part-Dieu. You can find anything you want here, despite the intense summer heat and overwhelming crowds.

The sixth arrondissement is the fashionable quarter of Lyon, providing a quiet and peaceful space for those seeking luxury and beauty.

The Gerland area is known mainly for its stadium, the Stade de Gerland, which belongs to the Olympique Lyonnais.
You will see the striking towers of a Neo-Gothic church looming in the near distance. Keep walking until you arrive at the towers and enter the area of Saint Georges church. Turn right into Place Saint Georges, and cross the square to join Rue Saint Georges. From here, head back in a northerly direction on Rue Saint Georges. There are so many interesting nooks, crannies and mysterious old buildings on cobbled Rue Saint Georges, it might take you a while before you arrive at Place de la Trinité.

You will notice as you enter Place de la Trinité (immediately to your right Café du Soleil, a typical 'bouchon', housed on the first floor of Maison du Soleil and, further along the square La Maison de Guingnol. To the right of Maison du Soleil, you will notice the cobbled street rising up, up, up! This street is Montée du Gourguillon; one of the oldest streets in Lyon and well worth a little detour. Exit Place de la Trinité onto Rue Bellière, then turn right onto Rue du Doyen. You have now moved from the area of Saint Georges to the start of the Saint Jean area. From here, look straight ahead and you will see Saint Jean Metro station. Now get ready to go up!

Saint Georges to Fourvière and back down to Saint Jean

Saint Jean Metro station - on the crossing between Saint Jean and Saint Georges is the place to catch the Funicular (hill tram) up Fourvière hill, to either Saint Just or Fourvière. You could walk, but it’s not advised unless you have legs of steel! Take a ticket and board the Funicular going to Fourvière. When you reach the top, you have arrived at Basilique de Fourvière. Here, you are in the vicinity of the Esplanade de Fourvière (view point), Crypte de Fourvière, Parc des Hauteurs, Tour Métallique et Musée d’Art Sacré, so take your pick, but arrive back at the Basilica to continue the tour.

From the Basilica, go down on Rue Roger Radisson until you arrive at Musée de La Civilisation Gallo-Romain and the Amphithéâtre Gallo-Romain. Continue along Rue Roger Radisson and then take a right onto Montée du Télégraphe, which will bring you to the mighty edifice of Saint Just church. Saint Just is also the location of Saint Just Metro station, so you have two choices from here! You can either take the Funicular back down to Saint Jean, or, you can take a leisurely walk down the hill, which will allow you to take in the special atmosphere of residential Fourvière.

Going for the walking down Fourvière option (that’s the spirit!), go down Rue des Fargers and join with Rue de l’Antiquaille and then join the road Montée Saint Barthélemy. As well as allowing you to take in Fourvière’s residential area, this route provides a number of excellent view points from Fourvière hill, across the city of Lyon. Continue forward, passing the hotel Villa Florentine and La Terrasse de Lyon on your right.

Just after Villa Florentine, you will see a turning to the right and a sign saying Montée des Chazeaux. Here, you will find a steep and long staircase that will send you back down the hill to Saint Jean, delivering you at the end of Rue du Boeuf Saint Jean to Saint Paul

From the end of Rue du Boeuf, turn left and enter Place Saint Jean via Rue Tramassac. Having just entered the centre of the World Heritage zone, you are now surrounded by two thousand years of evident history. Dominated by the imposing Romanesque-Gothic Cathédrale Saint Jean, you will also notice Maison du Chamarier, located next to the cathedral. Behind the cathedral, you can visit Jardin Archéologique Saint Jean, a site featuring the 6th century remains of the area’s original churches and also, take a look at the civil Gothic architecture of Palais Episcopal Saint Jean.

Heading back to Place Saint Jean, exit the square onto Rue Saint Jean. You are now in the vicinity of Palais de Justice, the Traboules Saint Jean and Maison des Advocates (adjoining the Musée des Miniatures et Décors de Cinéma). In addition, the tourist hotspot of Rue Saint Jean is crammed full of Cafés, restaurants and souvenir shops. Continue along the cobbled street of Rue Saint Jean - passing Place du Gouvernement - until you reach Place du Change, the historic location of Lyonnaise trade faires. Here you will see the 17th century Loge du Change and the 14th century Maison Thomassin.

Exit the Place du Change onto Rue de la Lainerie. You are now entering the area of Saint Paul. There are some great photo opportunities on Rue de la Lainerie, so have your camera at the ready. Keep an eye out for number 14; the 16th century Maison Claude Debourg, and at
number 2 Rue de la Lainerie, see the house where Laurent Mourguet lived (creator of Guignol).

At the end of Rue de la Lainerie, turn left on to Rue François Vernay and continue forward. Cross Rue Octavio Mey and continue until you reach Place Saint Paul. Join Rue Saint Paul (to the left of Gare Saint Paul) and continue until you see the Romanesque Église Saint Paul, one of the oldest churches in Lyon. From here, head back to Place Saint Paul and join Rue de la Juvierie, situated opposite Gare Saint Paul. Pass Le Palais de la Miniature and then take a left onto Rue de la Loge, followed by a right onto Rue de Gadagnes. You are now back in the Saint Jean area.

Continue forward on Rue de Gadagne until you reach the grand Renaissance building which houses the Musée Gadagne. Here you will find the Musée Historique de Lyon and the Musée des Marionnettes du Monde. Continue forward onto Rue du Boeuf. Here you can enjoy walking on one of Old Lyon’s most beautiful streets, minus the crowds that tend to build on Rue Saint Jean. The most notable place of interest on Rue du Beouf is La Tour Rose, a magical Renaissance building which now houses a hotel. To experience this building in full effect, you need to go inside to the interior court which features picturesque Florentine galleries and the enigmatic Tour Rose (pink tower). Walk forward on Rue du Beouf and find yourself back in the vicinity of Place Saint Jean.

Saint Jean to Terreaux
Exit the area of Saint Jean via Avenue Adolphe Max (heading towards the Saône) and then take a left onto Quai Roman Rolland. Enjoy the walk along the Saône and, for future reference, take note of all the nightspots along the quay. When you arrive at the bridge Pont Alphonse Juin, take a left, cross the bridge and continuing straight onto Rue Grenette.

Pass the restaurant packed Rue Mercière on your right and then take a left onto Rue Brest. Materialising in the near distance, you will see the grand edifice of Église Saint Nizier. Before you know anything about Saint Nizier church, its façade exudes something quite special, if fact, the edifice represents influences from Gothic, Baroque and Neo-Gothic architecture, which is a fairly rare mix. In addition to the church, Place Saint Nizier is a lovely place to hangout and watch the business of the Saint Nizier flower sellers.

Continuing forward onto Rue Paul Chenavard, you will arrive at the northwestern corner of Place des Terreaux, the second largest square in Lyon. Here at Place Terreaux you are surrounded by an abundance of things to see and do, all situated in and around the central square area. Place Terreaux is also the place to be for café culture and terraced restaurants, so you may decide to view the interests of the square-coffee in hand – from one of the squares many eateries or cafés.

From the powerful Bartholdi Fountain-almost in the centre of Place Terreaux-look straight ahead and you can see Palais Saint-Pierre, which houses the Musée des Beaux Arts and to the left of the museum, the Hôtel de Ville. Both of these grand building are used as projection canvases for a spectacular light show that takes place during the Fête de la Lumières (December 8th).

Behind Hôtel de Ville, the Opéra de Lyon is served by the area of Place Louis Pradel. This large restaurant and bar lined square opens out onto the Rhône and is a great place to see all kinds of activities including street performing, BMXing and skateboarding. Basically anything active goes down well at Place Louis Pradel!

Place Terreaux to Croix-Rousse
Exit Place Terreaux, onto Rue Romarin (from the south-eastern corner of Place Terreaux) and prepare to go up the slopes of the ‘working hill’, Croix-Rousse!

Walk up Rue Romarin, pass atelier de Soie (silk makers) and then take the first left onto Rue Saint Polycarpe. Here, find your first opportunity to experience the Croix-Rousse Traboules. Buildings number 7, 9 and 16 on Rue Saint Polycarpe all offer single passage traboules, which lead to internal courts and Florentine galleries (if the doors are unlocked!).

Continue forward on Rue Saint Ploycarpe, pass through the lovely Place Forez, and join Rue de l’Abbe Rozier. You will now see the grand structure of the multi-denominational Saint Polycarpe church, which dates back to the 17th century. Take a left in front of the church and walk forward on Rue René Leynaud. Continue forward on Rue René Leynaud until you reach the unmissable Passage Thiaffait on your right.

Take the Thiaffait Passage (home to Croix Rousse’s up and coming designers) up to Rue Burdeau. Exit the Thiaffait Passage onto Rue Burdeaux, go straight ahead, and join Rue Pouteau, followed by a quick left turn onto Rue des Tables Claudiennes.

Time for another Croix-Rousse Traboule experience! This time you will pass through multiple passages. Enter the first traboule at number 55 Rue des Tables Claudiennes. Go down the covered passageway and enter into a court. Now, take the stairs up to the first floor and exit at 20 Rue Imbert Colomés. Now, cross the street to number 29 Rue Imbert Colomés and enter your second traboule. Follow this traboule until it spits you out at number 9 Place Colbert.

From Place Colbert, take a right and go down Montée Saint Sebastian until you reach Jardin Villemazan. The Villemanzy Park is one of the prime view point areas in the Croix-Rousse, so have your camera at the ready for the vista across the river Rhône and beyond. Now, cross behind the restaurant Maison Villemazan and turn left onto Rue des Fantastique, heading back up the hill. Enjoy the fantastic’ view along this road until you reach Rue Delorme on the left. Enter Place Belleview (another prime viewpoint) via Rue Delorme.

In Place Belleview you can see the monument of the poet Sully Prudhomme and Fort St-Laurent, which unfortunately is not open to the public. From Place Belleview, go over the mount to join the end of Boulevard de la Croix-Rousse. Here you will find the curious Gros Caillou (a big rock!), situated at the end of the boulevard. From the end of the boulevard, you are not far from the Galerie Vrais Rêves (gallery true dreams) and the Maison des Canuts (house of the silk workers).

Leaving the end of Boulevard de la Croix-Rousse, go past the École Maternelle Le Gros Caillou and join Rue de Belfort. With the Ecole Maternelle Le Gros Caillou of your left, walk straight ahead on Rue de Belfort, and then take the first left onto Rue Dumenge. At number 6 you will find Galerie Vrais Rêves.

From Galerie Vrais Rêves, continue forward on Rue Dumenge, take a left onto Rue du Mail, followed by a right onto Rue d’Ivy. At number 10 Rue d’Ivy you will find Maison des Canuts. Here you can visit the silk shop and view the antique looms of the Croix-Rousse silk workers. You can also
Lyons Snapshot continued

take a guided tour, which normally starts at 3.30pm.

From Maison des Canuts, you have a couple of choices which depend on the day and time. Close by at Place des Commandants (right out of Maison des Canuts and then left onto Rue de Berluf). Go straight until you reach the Commandants square, you will find one of Croix-Rousse's most popular food markets, but the market is only open on Thursdays between 6am and 12.30pm. Also, the lovely Jardin Rosa Mir is close by, but the garden only open to the public on Saturday afternoons between 3pm and 6pm.

To go to Jardin Rosa Mir, exit Maison des Canuts to the left, follow Rue d'Ivy and then take a right onto Grand Rue de la Croix-Rousse. Jardin Rosa Mir is located at number 83 on Grand Rue de la Croix-Rousse, opposite the Theatre de la Croix-Rousse. The entrance to the garden is not marked very well from the street and the number does not appear on the outside of the building, so keep your eyes peeled for a very small sign which points the way to the garden entrance.

Exit the garden, take a left back onto Grand Rue de la Croix-Rousse and follow this long road until you reach Boulevard de la Croix-Rousse. You are now in the area which holds the Marché de la Croix-Rousse. The market takes place along the main stretch of the boulevard every day (excluding Monday), from 6am until 1.30pm. From the junction of Grand Rue de la Croix-Rousse and Boulevard de la Croix-Rousse, take a left and follow the length of the market street until you reach Rue des Chartreux, on the left side.

Turn left onto Rue des Chartreux and then take the second right turn on to Rue Pierre Dupont. Here you will find the impressive Église Saint Bruno. Don't be tempted to view this church just from the outside as the interior offers something quite special! From Église Saint Bruno, go back down Rue Pierre Dupont, take a right back onto Rue des Chartreux and continue down the hill. At the end of Rue des Chartreux, join Montée des Carmélites and continue forward onto Rue Lucien Sportisse.

On Rue Lucien Sportisse you will find the Amphithéâtre des Trois Gaules. Heading away from the amphitheatre, take the Montée de l’Amphi theatre (stairs opposite the amphitheatre) down until you reach Place Sathonay. This lovely and lively square is the perfect spot to finish your tour of the Croix-Rousse. You can take a rest here to experience Croix-Rousse's café culture and village atmosphere at its most vibrant. For access back to Place Terreaux, exit Place Sathonay onto Rue du Sergent Blandan, followed by a right onto Rue Terme. Follow Rue Terme until the end, then take a left to Place des Terreaux.

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Travel Tips

Getting There:

By Air: Lyon-Saint Exupery International Airport (LYS) (+33 4 722 72 21/ http://www.lyon.aeroport.fr) is located 25 km east of Lyon and provides direct service and connections to domestic and international destinations from the following airlines:


SATOBUS (+33 4 7268 7217) offers connections several times a day to and from the airport and the main cities of Rhône-Alpes including Lyon.

High-Train Station (+33 4 7222 7790/http://www.lyonairport.com) is located near Lyon-Saint Exupery Airport terminals. The high-speed trains provide service to and from the airport and cities around much of France. Reservations are required.

Taxis, all metered, are available at the Lyon-Saint Exupery Airport. Fares depend on the amount of passengers, luggage, tolls and snowy or icy roads. Typically, a trip to Lyon-Gare is around EUR36 during the day from 7a-7p and EUR 50 at night from 7p-7a.


By Bus: Eurolines (+33 4 7256 9530/http://www.eurolines.com) offers transportation throughout continental Europe and has a stop in Lyon.

By Car: A large motorway network (A6, A7, A42, A43, A47, etc.) provides

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Lyon Snapshot continued

direct links from major cities around France to Lyon.

Getting Around in the City

TCL underground( +33 0 820 42 7000/ http://www.tcl.fr) provides transportation via four underground lines, two cable cars, four tramway routes and more than 100 bus routes around Lyon and most of its suburbs. Tickets can be purchased at city kiosks, train stations, vending machines and from bus drivers.

Cyclopolitain( http://www.cyclopolitain.com) is a fun and inexpensive way of getting around Lyon- by electric tricycles with drivers called Cyclonautes, who will take you anywhere you want in the city for EUR1 per person. Cyclopolitain tricycles operate from March to Christmas Eve, M-Sa from 11a-7p.

Lyon Espace Affaires( +33 4 7839 2611) provides taxi service in the city. Tourist Taxis( http://www.lyon.taxis-touristiques.com) allows visitors to see Lyon with the help of specially trained drivers providing commentary and guiding the way.

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Fun Facts

The facts about:

Lyon Country: France

Lyon by the Numbers:
Population: 445,452
Elevation: 659 feet
Average Annual Precipitation: 30.5 inches
Average January Temperature: 38 degrees F
Average July Temperature: 71 degrees F

Quick Facts:
Major Industries: tourism, silk, textiles, chemicals, machinery, printing

Electricity: 220 volts, 50Hz, round two-pin plugs
Time Zone: UTC/GMT+1
Country Dialing Code: 33
Area Code: 4

Did You Know?:
Known as the"Silk Capital of the World," Lyon is a hot spot for textile and fashion designers to set up their workshops and boutiques.

Orientation:
Lyon is France's third-largest city and is located in the eastern-central part of the country. Lyon lies 431 km (261 miles) southeast of Paris and 311 km (193 miles) north of Marseille.

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