



France Road Trip Planner



Senlis - Lille | Toulouse - La Rochelle | Toulon - Monte Carlo | Orleans - Nantes | Le Mans - Paris

Discovering France through a self-drive holiday allows travellers to explore the diverse country's landscapes, traditions, and attractions. From the iconic landmarks of Paris to the charming towns of the countryside, there's something for every traveller to discover. Whether you wish to explore enchanting hilltop villages, wander through the bustling southern French markets, or breathe in the fragrant scents of the Mediterranean, every region of France offers its own distinct culture and atmosphere. With DriveAway, you can embark on your unique self-driven tour of France, unlocking the freedom to explore this captivating nation at your own pace.

Contents 01

Northern France Unveiled 02

Vines & Villages: Toulouse to La Rochelle 08

Coastal Charm: A French Riviera Road Trip 12

Loire Valley Countryside Classic 18

The Le Mans to Paris Grand Tour 24

Frequently Asked Questions 25

France Driving Tips 30

France Driving Distances 31







*Tour de Tunes
Playlist*

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Northern France Unveiled



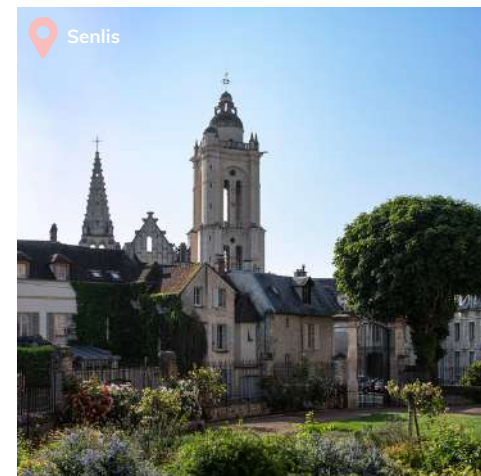
Day 1: Senlis to Chantilly

Distance: 10km
Approx. 17 minutes



Just a short drive from [Charles de Gaulle Airport](#), your first destination awaits – the Gallo-Roman town of Senlis. This historic town, once favoured by early French monarchs for its proximity to the dense and picturesque Chantilly Forest (now a prime hiking spot), offers a wealth of attractions. Visit the town's [Gothic Cathedral](#) and stroll along its charming cobblestone pathways. Discover the [Art and Archaeology Museum](#), which houses original works by the renowned French artist Seraphine. Seraphine, celebrated for her naïve style, was immortalised in the 2008 film named after her.

Continue your journey by driving through the [Chantilly Forest](#), eventually arriving at the heart of Chantilly town itself; you'll be greeted by a surprising and stunning array of sandstone villas and châteaux, adding another layer of enchantment to your French road trip experience.



Things to do in Chantilly:

- Equestrian Show
- Château de Chantilly
- Chantilly Forest
- Chaalis Abbey



Places to Stay in Chantilly

Budget Option:
[Hotel Kyriad Chantilly](#)



Best Value:
[Hotel Le Chantilly](#)



Family:
[La Chasse Royale](#)



Motorhomes:
[Camping le Pré des Moines](#)



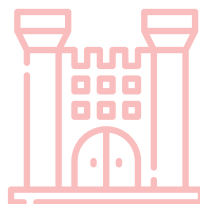
Senlis > Chantilly > Amiens > Arras > Lille

Day 2: Chantilly to Amiens

Distance: 111km
Approx. 1 hour 20 minutes

In the heart of Chantilly lies an unmissable gem: the [Château de Chantilly](#). This breathtaking Château offers a rich blend of history and culture with its impressive collection of Renaissance paintings, intricate gardens, and the most extensive stables in Europe. Witnessing an [equestrian show](#) within the stables is an often-enjoyed treat here, made even more memorable by indulging in a delightful meal at [La Capitainerie restaurant](#).

Continuing your journey, head northbound towards the elegant city of Amiens. Spend the morning in the [Gothic Cathedral of Amiens](#), one of the largest in Europe and a listed UNESCO World Heritage site, then head over for lunch in the [Quai Saint-Leu district](#) with its bustling restaurants on the banks of the canals. Here, you'll also find the exquisite [Les Hortillonages](#) floating gardens and plenty of antique shops in Amiens to browse.



Things to do in Amiens:

- Gothic Cathedral of Amiens
- Saint-Leu Quarter
- Les Hortillonages
- Amiens Zoo



Places to Stay in Amiens

Budget Option:

[Auberge de Jeunesse HI Amiens](#)



Best Value:

[The Hotel Le Prieuré](#)



Family:

[The Gem](#)



Motorhomes:

[Camping des Cygnes](#)



Day 3: Amiens to Arras

Distance: 65km
Approx. 1 hour 10 minutes

A brief drive brings you to the heart of wartime remembrances in and around Naours. Immerse yourself in the truly unique and moving experience the commemorative [Sir John Monash Centre](#) offers, honouring the Australian war hero. Right alongside, you'll find the Australian National Memorial, followed by the opportunity to visit the [Franco-Australian Museum](#). You can extend your exploration by venturing onward to the [Australian Memorial Park](#).

Continuing northbound brings us to the French town of Arras, where a stroll through its tranquil laneways is the best way to discover its charm. Don't miss the opportunity to savour a refreshing drink in Place des Héros, the main square at the base of the UNESCO-listed Belfry. Secure an exclusive tour to explore the renowned [Wellington Tunnels](#) by booking through the Tourist Office, which is available by reservation only. These tunnels immerse you in the history of the Great War, offering insights into the Battle of Arras and the tragic events that unfolded within their depths.



Things to do in Arras:

- Bullecourt Museum
- Vignacourt Museum
- Wellington Tunnels
- Heroes Square



Places to Stay in Arras

Budget Option:

[Hotel Kyriad Direct Arras](#)



Best Value:

[Mercure Arras Centre Gare Hotel](#)



Family:

[Holiday Inn Express Arras](#)



Motorhomes:

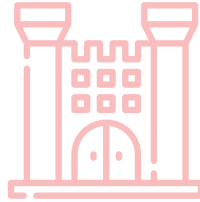
[Aire Camping Arras - Vallée de la Scarpe](#)



Day 4: Arras to Lille

Distance: 55km

Approx. 1 hour



La Grand Place Square

While travelling northbound towards Lille, pause and explore the sights of [Fromelles](#), a site of immense historical significance. One of Australia's most significant losses during World War I occurred here. In 2008, the remains of 250 unidentified soldiers were exhumed, marking the beginning of a substantial DNA identification effort aimed at reclaiming their identities and paying tribute to their bravery and sacrifice. From Fromelles, it's just a 25-minute drive to Lille, the capital of northern France and a vibrant, modern, and culturally diverse city.

Things to do in Lille:

- Grand Place du Theatre
- Belfry Tower
- Place Charles de Gaulle
- Notre Dame de la Treille Cathedral



Explore the [Grand Place du Theatre](#) to immerse yourself in Lille's main attractions. Here, you'll find the magnificent neoclassical Opera House. Make sure not to overlook the opportunity to ascend the [Belfry Tower](#), offering a breathtaking 360-degree panoramic view from the summit of this UNESCO Heritage-listed landmark. From there, stroll to [Place Charles de Gaulle](#), the central square of [Vieux Lille](#), also known as the "old town." Allow yourself to be drawn by curiosity into the hidden courtyards, intriguing shops, and charming cafes that dot the area. Be sure to include visits to [Notre Dame de la Treille Cathedral](#) and the [Palais des Beaux-Arts](#) on your itinerary, as these are essential destinations to fully experience the rich historical ambience that characterises this northern city.



Lille

Places to Stay in Lille

Budget Option:

[The People Hostel](#)



Best Value:

[Best Western Urban Hotel](#)



Family:

[Mercure Lille Centre Grand-Place Hotel](#)



Motorhomes:

[The Alouettes](#)



Belfry Tower



Vines & Villages: Toulouse to La Rochelle



Toulouse ➤ Nérac ➤ Bordeaux ➤ La Rochelle

Day 1: Toulouse to Nérac

Distance: 140km
Approx. 1 hour 40 minutes



Our journey commences in [Toulouse](#), the vibrant heart of the Midi-Pyrénées region and the fourth-largest city in France. Toulouse beckons with its rich history and dynamic energy and is known as La Ville Rose due to the pink terracotta bricks used in many buildings around the city. The Garonne River divides the city into two halves, offering numerous riverside parks ideal for picnics. Alternatively, you can explore the [Jardin des Plantes](#), home to botanical gardens where ducks and wildlife roam freely. Discover the impressive [Capitole de Toulouse](#) in the lively Place Charles de Gaulle Square, with bustling markets and talented performers. Immerse yourself in a complimentary tour of this iconic structure, admiring its extraordinary facade and enchanting interior, rich with history.

Travelling northwest, we will arrive at Nérac, a charming town gracefully situated along the banks of the Baïse River. Nérac is filled with history and charm and boasts numerous historic landmarks to admire. If you plan to be in Nérac on a Saturday, don't miss one of the region's best farmers' markets, a haven for food lovers. Indulge in local produce and delicious pastries and explore the many market stalls. Explore the Château de Nérac, which features an impressive gallery and a wing of the original castle. End the day by taking a stroll along the banks of the Baïse River or relaxing on a traditional boat to enjoy the scenery.



Things to do in Nérac:

- Nérac Farmers Market
- Château de Nérac
- Lud'O Parc
- The Garenne Park



Places to Stay in Nérac

Budget Option:

[Les Terrasses du
Petit Nérac](#)



Best Value:

[Hotel Henri VI](#)



Family:

[Moulin de Bapaumes](#)



Motorhomes:

[Camping Le Mouliat](#)



Day 2: Nérac to Bordeaux

Distance: 130km
Approx. 1 hour 50 minutes



Continuing northwest, we reach **Bordeaux**, a dream destination for food and wine enthusiasts. Filled with fantastic culinary adventures and overflowing with delicious wines, you'll depart with a satisfied palate. Additionally, the city showcases remarkable architecture; its blend of neoclassical, gothic, Roman, and Renaissance styles harmonise seamlessly, contributing to the captivating cityscape before you. Bordeaux has earned its place on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage list, and you can see why by exploring the **Saint-Seurin Basilica of Bordeaux** or strolling along the charming **Sainte-Catherine** street in the pedestrian centre. Delight yourself in the sidewalk cafes, pastry shops, bars, and lively markets and stalls.

Begin your day with a leisurely walk through the grand park, La Garenne. Once a royal hunting ground, this park features many grand fountains and statues. If you're visiting during the summer, check out **Lud'O Parc**, a water theme park inspired by ancient Roman ruins, featuring plenty of slides and water jets to help you cool down and enjoy. If you're a wine lover, visit **Château du Frandot**. This family-run vineyard just outside of Nérac offers wine tours and tastings

Things to do in Bordeaux:

- The Basilica of Saint Severinus
- Bordeaux Wine School
- Place de la Bourse
- Bordeaux Wine Museum



Places to Stay in Bordeaux

Budget Option:
Central Hostel



Best Value:
Staycity Aparthotel Bordeaux City Centre



Family:
Best Western Grand Hotel Francais



Motorhomes:
Camping de Bordeaux Lac



Day 3: Bordeaux to La Rochelle

Distance: 190km
Approx. 2 hours 10 minutes



With nearly 6,000 wineries dotting the Bordeaux region, it is a paradise for wine enthusiasts. Bordeaux is famous for its red wine, which accounts for almost 90% of its total production. Merlot reigns as the most dominant grape variety, closely trailed by Cabernet Sauvignon. Numerous activities centred on wine await in this region; you can explore the **Bordeaux Wine Museum** or participate in a lesson at the **Bordeaux Wine School**. Remember to stop at **Chateau Mouton Rothschild** to explore their wine-themed museum and wander through the vineyards. Another vineyard worth considering is The Château La Croizille, nestled on the hills of the Saint Emilion plateau. Explore various tour options, including visits, tastings, and dining experiences.



Travelling northbound, we arrive at La Rochelle, famous for its coastal charm and delicious seafood. Take time to discover the **La Rochelle Aquarium**, that stands as one of Europe's most significant and remarkable. Boasting over 12,000 marine creatures, it guarantees an enchanting experience for all visitors. Embark on a leisurely walk along the historic Vieux Port, where various dining and shopping opportunities await. Take advantage of indulging in La Rochelle's specialty: seafood. While classics like scallops and clams are a must-try, the true stars of La Rochelle are its delicious oysters and mussels.



Things to do in La Rochelle:

- La Rochelle Aquarium
- Vieux Port
- Vieux Marché de La Rochelle
- Musée Le Bunker de La Rochelle



Places to Stay in La Rochelle

Budget Option:
Accostage Hotel



Best Value:
Le Saint-Nicolas Hotel La Rochelle



Family:
Appart'Hotel Odalys L'Archeipel



Motorhomes:
Camping Le Soleil La Rochelle





Coastal Charm: A French Riviera Road Trip

Day 1:

Toulon to Saint-Tropez

Distance: 70km

Approx. 1 hour 20 minutes



Visitors to the French Riviera are guaranteed an unforgettable experience. This enchanting region boasts stunning beaches, acclaimed Michelin-starred restaurants, and a wealth of art and cultural attractions, promising an extraordinary journey.

The drive begins in Toulon, a significant hub renowned for its French naval heritage, thriving fishing industry, and admired winemaking history. Visit the [Musée de la Marine](#) to explore exhibits showcasing French maritime history spanning over 400 years. Proceed westbound on the D559A towards [Saint-Tropez](#) and enjoy the blend of rustic French beauty and breathtaking coastal views. Drive along the D93 towards [Pampelonne Beach](#), the iconic filming location of "And God Created Woman" starring Brigitte Bardot. Its pristine sandy shores and crystal-clear waters offer the ultimate retreat for relaxation.



Things to do in Saint-Tropez:

- Pampelonne Beach
- Place des Lices Market
- La Citadelle
- Saint-Tropez Harbour



Places to Stay in Saint-Tropez

Budget Option:

[Hotel Saint-Tropez](#)
[Les Palmiers](#)



Best Value:

[Sowell Hotels Saint-Tropez](#)



Family:

[Villa Cosy Hotel & Spa](#)



Motorhomes:

[Les Mures](#)



Toulon ➤ Saint-Tropez ➤ Cannes ➤ Nice ➤ Monte Carlo

Day 2: Saint-Tropez to Cannes

Distance: 80km
Approx. 2 hours



Follow the D559A route to keep the drive close to the coastline. You'll find plenty of beaches in the area, such as [Nartelle](#), Frejus, and [Esclamandes](#). Take a break along the journey in Saint-Raphael, a seaside resort town significantly connected to the Allied landing during World War II. Nature enthusiasts will enjoy exploring the [Jardin Bonaparte](#) and Massif de l'Esterel, which provide charming walking trails and picturesque green landscapes. Indulge in the local specialty of Saint-Raphael: seafood. Treat yourself to Bouillabaisse, a traditional fish stew, at one of the town's many outstanding restaurants.

Continuing our coastal journey leads us to our next destination - Cannes, renowned for its prestigious film festival. This city is a luxurious haven for jet-setters from around the globe, boasting glamorous beaches and upscale shopping experiences.

Dive into history by exploring the ancient castle walls of the [Museum de la Castre](#), where you can discover a captivating array of Mediterranean antiquities and pre-Columbian primitive art. Conclude the day by unwinding at a cozy wine bar downtown, where you can soak in the city lights and observe the vibrant energy of its people.

Things to do in Cannes:

- Museum de la Castre
- La Croisette
- Palace of Festivals and Congresses of Cannes
- Marché Forville



Places to Stay in Cannes

Budget Option:
[Chanteclair](#)



Best Value:
[Hotel le Mistral](#)



Family:
[Novotel Suites Cannes Centre](#)



Motorhomes:
[Camping Les Cigales](#)



Day 3: Cannes to Nice

Distance: 35km
Approx. 40 minutes

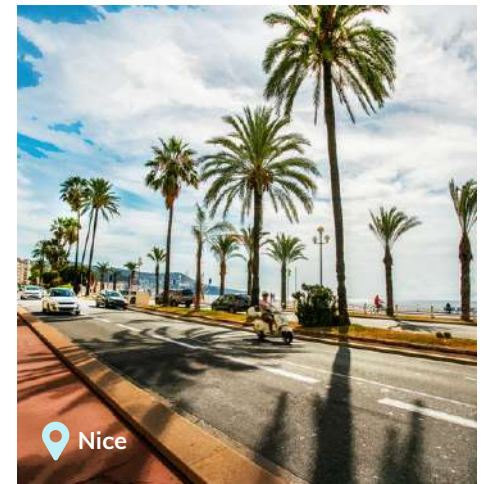
As you make your way towards Nice, take the D6007 and take a short detour to Antibes. Be sure to explore the [Picasso Museum](#), which is close to the residence where the renowned artist lived post-WWII. The museum now features a captivating array of modern and contemporary artworks. Antibes is also famous for its bustling markets, such as [La Marche Provençal](#), known for its delightful selection of fresh produce.

Things to do in Nice:

- Matisse Museum
- Voilier Beach
- Castle Hill of Nice
- Old Town Nice



[Nice](#) is the heart of the French Riviera. Begin your discovery by delving into the region's rich artistic heritage at the [Matisse Museum](#), dedicated to the famous French artist. Stroll towards the Cathedral Saint-Nicolas, a beautiful Russian cathedral that graces the landscape of Nice. Afterwards, venture into the enchanting historic old town, a part of Nice with a medieval village influence. Navigate the maze of narrow streets between old buildings with red-tile roofs, small restaurants and open markets. Take some time to discover Gambetta, a neighbourhood that hosts two exceptional museums, the [Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nice](#) and [The Villa Massena Museum](#).



Places to Stay in Nice

Budget Option:
[Ozz Hostel](#)



Best Value:
[Hotel Albert 1er](#)



Family:
[Le Negresco](#)



Motorhomes:
[Camping Les Pinédès](#)



Day 4: Nice to Monte Carlo

Distance: 25km
Approx. 50 minutes

Follow the coastal road, Route D6007, as you journey towards your final destination, Monte Carlo. On route, take a detour to the picturesque medieval village of [Eze](#). This enchanting village retains its timeless beauty and charm, offering stunning sea views and remaining unspoiled by the crowds of mass tourism. Continue on the route to reach Monaco, a premier destination for the affluent and host to the impressive [Oceanographic Museum](#). Housed in a magnificent building, this museum focuses on marine life preservation, from stunning aquariums to the shark lagoon and Turtle Island.

Things to do in Monte Carlo:

- Oceanographic Museum
- Monte Carlo Casino
- Prince's Palace of Monaco
- Princess Grace Japanese Garden



In the evening, visit the [Monte Carlo Casino](#) to admire its magnificent architecture and soak in the ambience. Wrap up your day of luxury with a stroll around Monaco Harbour, immersing yourself in its lavish atmosphere.

Places to Stay in Monte Carlo

Budget Option:

[Hotel Le Forum](#)



Best Value:

[Port Palace Hotel](#)



Family:

[Novotel Monte Carlo](#)



Motorhomes:

[Camping de la Laune](#)



Oceanographic Museum





Day 1: Orléans to Amboise

Distance: 105km
Approx. 1 hour 20 minutes



You can admire various gardens in the park featuring plants, artworks, and animals. A highlight of the park is the [Butterfly Greenhouse](#), a dedicated space for exotic butterflies.

We then embark on a scenic road trip to the charming town of Amboise. Driving through the picturesque French countryside, you'll pass through quaint villages, rolling vineyards, and historic châteaux.



We begin our journey in Orléans, one of France's oldest and most authentic cities. Nestled on the banks of the Loire River, this traditional city offers various cultural and historical landmarks, including magnificent architecture and multiple museums and parks to explore, setting the tone for our adventure through the World Heritage classed [Loire Valley](#). Begin your Orleans exploration with a visit to the stunning [Sainte-Croix Cathedral](#). This architectural gem, with its rich history and beautiful details, is a sight to behold and a must-see for any traveller. Art enthusiasts must stop at the [Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Orléans](#); established in 1797, it stands as one of France's oldest museums, showcasing a collection of over 700 artworks exhibited permanently. Take a detour to visit the stunning [Parc Floral de la Source](#), a beautiful 35-hectare French garden just 15 minutes outside of Orléans with plenty to explore.

Things to do in Amboise:

- Hot-Air Balloon Sunrise Ride
- The Château du Clos Luce
- Château Royal d'Amboise
- Caves Ambacia



Places to Stay in Amboise

Budget Option:
[ibis budget Amboise](#)

Best Value:
[Logis Hotel la Breche](#)

Family:
[Hotel Le Clos d'Amboise](#)

Motorhomes:
[Camping La Mignardiere](#)



Orléans ➤ Amboise ➤ Tours ➤ Angers ➤ Nantes

Day 2: Amboise to Tours

Distance: 26km
Approx. 35 minutes



Cathedral Saint-Gatien

Amboise is an ideal tourist spot, a delightful mix of history, culture, and nature. A visit to the historical [Clos Lucé](#) is a must; it was Leonardo da Vinci's final home. It has since been transformed into a museum dedicated to his life and works for visitors to admire in a place that sparks creativity and wonder. Another must-see attraction is the [Château Royal d'Amboise](#). This royal residence provides a fascinating glimpse into France's regal history. Visitors can wander through its grand rooms, admire the gardens, and take in the scenic views of the Loire Valley. Be sure to take a moment to savour the region's flavours. Amboise boasts a variety of traditional French dishes, fresh seafood, and outstanding pastries.

Things to do in Tours:

- Saint-Gatien Cathedral
- Place Plumereau
- Jardin botanique de Tours
- Musée des Beaux-Arts de Tours



Our journey takes us to the enchanting city of Tours, the largest city in the Loire Valley. This picturesque city is renowned for its charming half-timbered French houses and the awe-inspiring Saint-Gatien Cathedral. Tours is also a culinary paradise. Prepare your taste buds for a treat through an array of delicious delicacies this vibrant city offers, including Rillettes de Tours and Nougat de Tours. Later in the afternoon, take a stroll or guided walk through the Old Town Vieux Tours. Here, you can admire the picturesque streets and experience the lively atmosphere of Place Plumereau with its many cafes and restaurants.



Tours

Places to Stay in Tours

Budget Option:
[The People - Tours](#)



Best Value:
[The Heraudiere Bed and Breakfast](#)



Family:
[Le Garden Hotel](#)



Motorhomes:
[Camping Tours Val de Loire](#)



Day 3: Tours to Angers

Distance: 130km
Approx. 1 hour 35 minutes

Kick off your morning in the charming city with a visit to the Jardin Botanique de Tours. This stunning botanical garden is perfect for a mid-morning stroll, a leisurely picnic lunch, or to recharge amid nature's beauty. A visit to the [Musée des Beaux-Arts](#) is a must, an esteemed art museum dating back to 1795. Immerse yourself in the diverse collections featuring masterpieces that span centuries and styles. Admire works ranging from Renaissance to contemporary art, and discover the rich cultural heritage of this renowned museum.

Things to do in Angers:

- Chateau d'Angers
- Terra Botanica
- Apocalypse Tapestry
- Saint-Maurice Cathedral



Port of Angers

We set off for the charming town of Angers. As you journey through the scenic Loire Valley, you'll be treated to breathtaking landscapes and quaint villages. Angers is known for its impressive [Château d'Angers](#), vibrant arts scene, and delicious local wines. A must-see in Angers is visiting the [Apocalypse Tapestry](#), a historical marvel dating back to 1375. After a day of driving and exploring, unwind at one of the many authentic restaurants in the heart of Angers. Treat yourself after dinner to a local delicacy, the mouth-watering 'Crème d'Anjou' - a delightful mixture of crème fraîche and whipped egg whites. The excitement doesn't end there; depending on the season, you can savour versions made with strawberries, plums, or apples.



Angers

Places to Stay in Angers

Budget Option:
[Ethic Etapes Lac de Maine](#)



Best Value:
[Hotel de Champagne](#)



Family:
[Les Suites Angevines](#)



Motorhomes:
[Camping du Lac de Maine](#)



Day 4: Angers to Nantes

Distance: 95km

Approx. 1 hour 10 minutes



The final stop in our road trip through the Loire Valley welcomes us to Nantes, a vibrant city in western France. With its rich history and stunning architecture, Nantes is also a hub of modern innovation. It offers a unique blend of medieval charm and cutting-edge technology that will excite and inspire you. Nantes offers many activities and sights to explore, including the Château des Ducs de Bretagne and Les Machines de L'Île; this unique project features giant mechanical creatures, including a massive walking elephant, a marine-themed carousel, and an incredible mechanical spider.

Start your morning adventure by exploring the magnificent [Château d'Angers](#), one of France's best-preserved castles. After soaking in history and charm, just a few minutes down the road, you'll find the captivating [Cathédrale Saint-Maurice d'Angers](#), where you'll be delighted by its stunning architecture and rich heritage. On your way to our final stop, visit [Terra Botanica](#), a unique theme park dedicated to the world of plants, offering a blend of education and entertainment.



Things to do in Nantes:

- Les Machine de L'île
- Château des Ducs de Bretagne
- Jardin des Plantes
- Passage Pommeraye



Places to Stay in Nantes

Budget Option:

[Le Lieu Dit](#)



Best Value:

[Hotel Voltaire Opera
Nantes Centre](#)



Family:

[Aparthotel Adagio
Access Nantes Viarme](#)



Motorhomes:

[Camping de Nantes](#)



📍 Jardin des Plantes



The Le Mans to Paris Grand Tour

Day 1:

Le Mans to Chartres

Distance: 130km

Approx. 1 hour 30 minutes



Chartres is a gem of a city in France. It promises a delightful blend of breathtaking landscapes, captivating historical sites, and a charming, small-town ambience to enchant any traveller. Take the afternoon to wander through the cobbled streets of Chartres' Old Town, where you will find lovely cafes to choose from while admiring the city's medieval past. Unwind by the Eure River, which provides picturesque views and a perfect spot for relaxing and soaking in the city's natural beauty.

Le Mans, France, is a captivating destination that blends history, culture, and motorsport excitement. In the heart of the Pays de la Loire region, Le Mans is renowned for its world-famous 24 Hours of Le Mans race. However, this charming city has much more to offer beyond the racetrack. Be sure to visit and admire the [Cathédrale St-Julien](#), an impressive Gothic cathedral that dominates the skyline. A visit to Le Mans wouldn't be complete without visiting the [24 Hours of Le Mans Museum](#), showcasing iconic cars, memorabilia, and interactive exhibits.

Things to do in Chartres:

- Chartres Cathedral
- Maison Picassiette
- Parc des Bords de L'Eure
- Old Chartres Fortifications



Places to Stay in Chartres

Budget Option:

[ibis budget Chartres](#)



Best Value:

[Hotel Jehan de Beauce - Teritoria](#)



Family:

[Hotel des Poemes de Chartres](#)



Motorhomes:

[Camping de Chartres](#)



Le Mans ➤ Chartres ➤ Versailles ➤ Paris

Arc de Triomphe



Day 2: Chartres to Versailles

Distance: 90km

Approx. 1 hour 20 minutes

Start your morning by visiting the breathtaking [Chartres Cathedral](#). This Gothic-inspired UNESCO World Heritage-listed masterpiece will leave you in awe of its soaring spires and intricate stained-glass windows. Another must-do in Chartres is visiting the enchanting [Maison Picassiette](#), a hidden gem and a testament to creativity and dedication. The entire house, including the rooms and gardens, has been covered with vibrant mosaics made from broken glass, pottery, and ceramics.

Just a short drive from Chartres lies the wealthy city of Versailles, promising a destination of history, grandeur and elegance. Set out to glimpse the lavish lifestyles of French royalty and the stunning beauty of French Baroque architecture. You cannot miss out on visiting the crown jewel of Versailles: the [Palace of Versailles](#).



From its extravagant halls to manicured gardens, the Palace is an iconic symbol of absolute monarchy and French artistry. Another wonder to admire is the [Gardens of Versailles](#), which spans over 800 hectares and is a masterpiece of landscape design.



Things to do in Versailles:

- Palace of Versailles
- Gardens of Versailles
- Place du Marché Notre Dame
- Hall of Mirrors



Places to Stay in Versailles

Budget Option:
[Hotel d'Angleterre](#)



Best Value:
[Hotel Le Bout du Parc](#)



Family:
[Le Logis Versailles](#)



Motorhomes:
[Camping Huttopia Versailles](#)



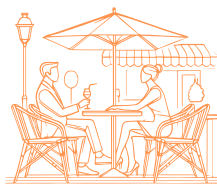
Day 3: Versailles to Paris

Distance: 25km
Approx. 1 hour

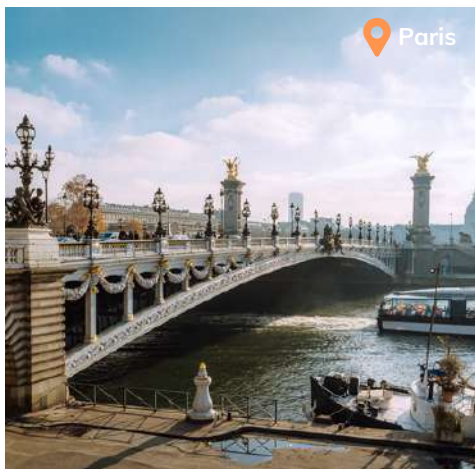
Before setting off to our final road trip stop, visit the [Place du Marché Notre-Dame](#), located in the heart of Versailles. This vibrant and bustling market square offers an authentic taste of local French life. The standout is the local produce, which includes various seasonal fruits and vegetables, homemade pastries, and bread.

Things to do in Paris:

- Eiffel Tower
- Louvre Museum
- Arc de Triomphe
- Notre-Dame Cathedral



Paris, the City of Light, is the pinnacle of any grand tour through France. Renowned for its iconic landmarks, world-class museums, exquisite cuisine, and charming neighbourhoods, Paris offers the perfect blend of culture, history, and romance. There are countless sights to admire and must-do lists to check off in Paris. Make sure to visit the [Eiffel Tower](#), the [Louvre Museum](#), [Notre-Dame Cathedral](#), [Arc de Triomphe](#), and the Champs-Élysées, to name a few. End your road trip in Paris with a sunset stroll along the Seine, savouring the city's enchanting ambience. Paris will leave you with memories to cherish and a longing to return.



Places to Stay in Paris

Budget Option:

[St Christopher's Inn Gare du Nord](#)



Best Value:

[Hotel Europe Saint-Severin](#)



Family:

[Citadines Saint-Germain-des-Près Paris Apart Hotel](#)



Motorhomes:

[Camping de Paris](#)



Louvre Museum



Tips

Driving in France



[driveaway.com.au/driving-tips-france/](https://www.driveaway.com.au/driving-tips-france/)



- Driving in France is on the **right-hand** side of the road.
- Seatbelts are **mandatory** at all times, by all.
- The use of a mobile phone while driving is **prohibited**, along with the use of radar detection devices.
- Bus lanes are reserved **exclusively** for taxis, buses and bicycles.
- Dipped headlights are to be used at **poor daylight visibility**.
- Drivers are to carry a valid driver's license, registration, and insurance documents **at all times** while driving.
- Speeding is taken **very seriously** in France, with many speed cameras in operation nationwide and hidden mobile police radars. Speed Limits can change, so keeping an eye on changing speed limits is essential. Below are the speed limits in France unless posted otherwise:
 - **Low Visibility** (less than 50m): 50km/h
 - **Urban Roads** (built-up areas): 50km/h
 - **Rural Roads** (outside towns): 90km/h and 80km/h when raining
 - **Dual Carriageways**: 110km/h and 100km/h when raining
 - **Motorways**: 110-130km/h

Vehicles that are towing caravans or trailers must travel at a slower speed.

Signs in France are commonly found in the country's local language; however, English is also used on city roads and state highways. The signs are straightforward to understand as the vast majority of them are posted with symbols:

- **Warning Signs**: generally triangular with a red border, white background or yellow and a symbol in the middle.
- **Prohibitory Signs**: are signs that motorists must follow. These signs vary in shape; you will find them in blue with a white symbol in the middle and white with a red border.
- **Information Signs**: indicated with a blue or green background and white text providing motorists with information.

- The legal **blood alcohol content** (BAC) in France is 0.05g/1L. Police are out on the roads with the authority to pull over drivers for checks; the safest way is never to drink and drive.

- Highway tolls are applicable on most **Autoroutes** marked with 'A'. Tolls are determined by distance travelled, and payments are accepted in cash and with most major credit cards.

- Road Signs in France adopt the standardisation of the Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals, which many European countries now utilise, but with slight variance.



France Driving Distances

From	To	Approx Distance	Approx Travel Time
Paris	Calais	300km	3 hr 20 min
Toulouse	Montpellier	240km	2 hr 40 min
Avignon	Marseille	105km	1 hr 20 min
Montpellier	Lyon	305km	3 hr 30 min

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions



<https://www.driveaway.com.au/faqs/>

Do I require an International Driving Permit (IDP)?

Yes. An International Driving Permit (IDP) is required to drive in France. If you drive in France without an IDP, you risk being fined. To ensure your safety and avoid penalties, you must obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP) to be presented along with a valid Australian/New Zealand License. To obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP), contact your local motoring association, and for further information, visit the [Australian Embassy France](#) or [New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade](#).

Do I require a full, unrestricted driver's license to drive in France?

Yes. A full, unrestricted, valid driver's licence is required for a minimum of 1 year. Australian and New Zealand driver's licence holders require an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Can I travel to other European Countries with my car and return it to France/another European Country?

Yes, you can travel to other European countries from France and arrange one-way rentals across Europe. Please keep in mind that certain restrictions and fees will apply. The fees are for insurance outside of France and are a mandatory charge. Please always request travel outside of France at the time of booking with one of our friendly reservations members or online team. Travel must be requested and confirmed before vehicle collection.

Can I choose an automatic or manual transmission vehicle in France?

DriveAway provides a selection of both automatic and manual transmission vehicles for hire in France. Manual cars are more dominant in France, and renting a manual transmission is more cost-effective than renting an automatic transmission vehicle.

Is there a minimum or maximum age limit for driving within France?

The minimum age is generally 21, but this can vary between car hire companies and locations. Maximum age limits apply in some locations, and a young/senior driver surcharge may apply. Please check the terms and conditions when making an enquiry or booking.

Is there specific equipment required for driving in France in winter?

Winter driving in the mountains of France - particularly the French Alpine regions and the Pyrénées - can involve snow and ice conditions. As well as preparing for a mountain or ski trip, it is worth remembering that a vehicle will also be affected by the cold and snow and should be well-prepared. For further information, head to our website here:

<https://www.driveaway.com.au/winter-driving/#france>



