

FranceGuide

FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELER



Itineraries
Synagogues
Museums and Memorials
Kosher Restaurants

France, a unique rendez-vous

Maison
de
la FRANCE
franceguide.com



It's been a little over a year since French Jews Georges Benoliel and Gilles Amsellem created what the New York Jewish scene had been lacking and longing for: "HAVALIGHT"!

Havalight along with their main sponsor, The Jewish Week, have gone from private screenings to exclusive cocktails & parties, concerts, chocolate tasting. In less than 2 years, Havalight has developed an incomparable reputation for planning the most extraordinary Jewish member's only events in town, the most beautiful venues and with an upscale international flair.

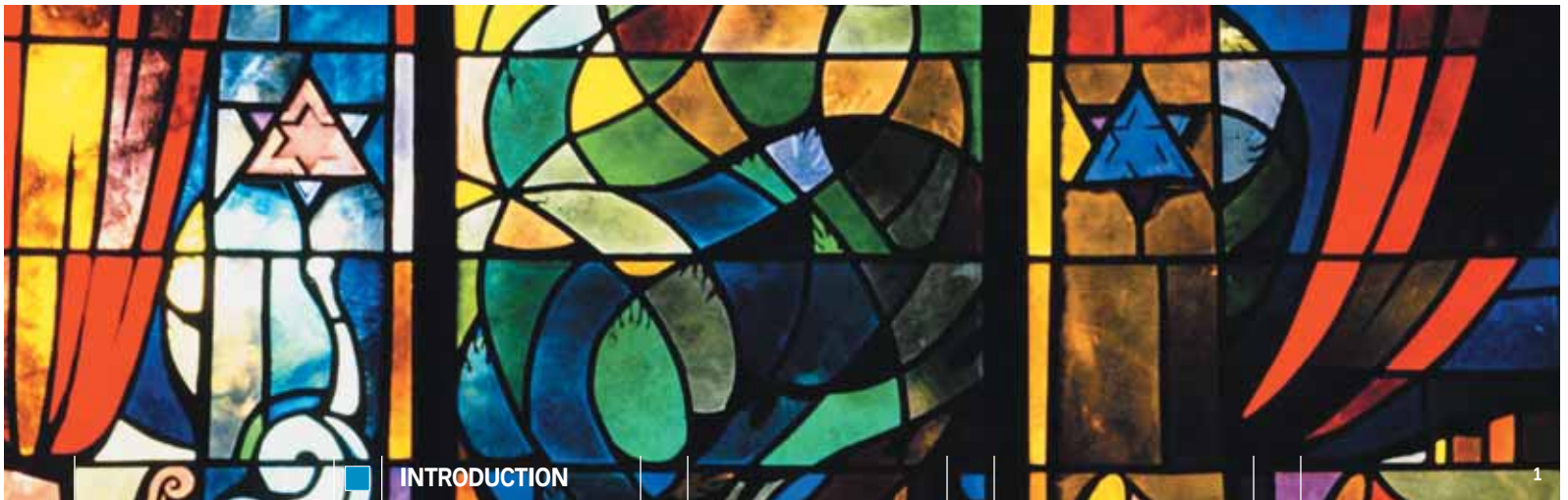
There is something new and exotic, yet refined, and familiar about HavaLight that brings you somewhere unexpected. But the most fascinating thing is that you can be sure to find amazing friends in this great island of Manhattan, if you fit the profile, that's just fabulous. You can join the best upscale, exclusive and international organization whose main focus is bringing together European and American professionals and hippest Jewish crowd in the NY Metro area.

Havalight has opened its doors to its members, becoming the home for more than 3500 young successful professionals, including Jewish people from around the globe with a simple motto - "Quality over Quantity" - and a tight screening process.

www.havalight.com or you can email us info@havalight.com

HAVALIGHT





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Written and compiled by journalist Toni L. Kamins, author of *The Complete Jewish Guide to France* (St. Martin's Press).

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A WARM WELCOME!

France is a country with a magnificent cultural, historical and natural heritage. These charms are the reason why France is the most visited tourist destination in the world. But even in the warm glow of these charms, we must not lose sight of France's greatest treasure: its diversity. Yes, France meets expectations about its natural beauty, its culinary magic, and its *art de vivre*, but it is also full of surprises as a function of its diversity. For centuries France has warmly welcomed people from all around the world, benefited from the lasting love these people have shown, and requited that love with a uniquely French passion.

The Jewish community of France is the third largest in the world. Jewish history in France stretches back more than 2,000 years. Despite the shameful tragedies that have befallen the Jewish community, France has always returned to and solidified its commitment to its Jewish citizens. France shares an unshakable bond with them—and with people of all convictions—that has endured for generations, a bond that has made France a special and welcoming country.

We sincerely hope that it will take little effort to convince Jewish travelers from around the world that France is a destination worth visiting. Little effort because the ties that unite us go far beyond tourism. So, like Benjamin of Tudela, the 12th-century Jewish explorer whose writings tell us about the Jewish communities of his time, come to France and chronicle the French Jewish world of today. Admire the synagogues and monuments, and enjoy the Jewish-style and kosher cuisine of *Tsarfat*, the Hebrew word for "France" so evocative of a beauty to be treasured. Understand why the Jews of France are, as the proverb says, *heureux comme Dieu en France* ("as happy as God in France").

It is therefore with great pride that we share in offering to you this guide destined for all people enthusiastic about the diversity of France, and particularly passionate about France's great Jewish heritage. ■

הנהגת ישראל



Mr. Léon Bertrand,
French Minister of Tourism



Mr. Joseph Sitruk,
Grand Rabbi of France



Torahs in the Ark of the Rashi synagogue in Troyes (Champagne-Ardenne)

USEFUL WEBSITES

Bibliothèque Nationale de France
www.bnf.fr

Caen Memorial
www.memorial-caen.fr

Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France
www.crif.org

Conservatoire Historique du Camp de Drancy
www.camp-de-drancy.asso.fr

Consistoire de Paris
www.consistoire.org

Contemporary Jewish Documentation Center
www.memorialdelashoah.org

European Council of Jewish Communities
www.ecjc.org

European Day of Jewish Culture
www.jewishheritage.org

French Jewish Community Portal
www.col.fr

Jewish Monument of Rouen
www.cpi.fr/mj

Judaism in Alsace and Lorraine
<http://judaisme.sdv.fr>

Medem Yiddish Library and House of Yiddish Culture, Paris
www.yiddishweb.com

Musée-Mémorial des Enfants d'Izieu
www.izieu.alma.fr

Museum of Jewish Art and History
www.mahj.org

Synagogue de la Victoire Paris's Great Synagogue
www.lavictoire.org

HISTORY

Jewish history in France begins nearly two millennia ago, after the Romans conquered the area now known as Paris. We have hints, although not much physical proof that small Jewish settlements existed in Metz, Poitiers, and Avignon. But for solid evidence we must move ahead to the 5th century and the tiny Jewish communities in Brittany, Clermont-Ferrand, Narbonne, Agde, Valence, and Orléans.

For centuries since then, France has been an important center of European Jewish life and scholarship, fostered, in part, by enforced segregation. The cities of Troyes, Narbonne, Perpignan, and Paris were known throughout both the Jewish and Christian worlds for their rabbis and interpreters of the Torah and the Talmud, and for writers and composers of Jewish literature and liturgy. Among those scholars was a man who is still considered one of the greatest of all time—Rabbi Solomon ben Isaac (1040-1105), known to Jewish history by the acronym RASHI.

In addition to giving the Jewish world some of its greatest scholars, France and its Jewish community have given the whole world many renowned figures in the arts, literature, industry, and politics, among them Sarah Bernhardt, André Citroën, Jacques Derrida, Darius Milhaud, Léon Blum, Jacques Offenbach, Camille Pissarro, and Marcel Proust.

JEWISH CIVIL RIGHTS

The history of the Jewish community in France has been a turbulent one. Although, in the earliest years of European Christianity, there was harmony between the Jewish minority and the Christian majority, over the centuries religious differences turned into virulent anti-Jewish hatred and resulted in social and religious ostracism and horrific bloodshed.

However, at end of the 18th century, liberalizing forces were in the air. The French Revolution of 1789 forever changed the lives of all French people, including the Jews of France.

The first important changes came in the form of civil rights for Jews, an idea vigorously supported by a number of French Christians, among them Abbé Henri Grégoire (1750-1831), a fighter for religious freedom who also opposed special privileges for the clergy and the nobility. When rights were finally granted to Jews in the early 19th century, after long enforced absences from the capital, Jews were once again able to live in Paris as well as other major cities. No longer just Jews in France, Jews became Frenchmen.

With the establishment of Jewish civil rights, and in order to facilitate Jewish integration into the larger French society, Napoléon Bonaparte convened an Assembly of Jewish Notables on July 26, 1806. Its purpose was to ascertain the compatibility of Jewish law and French civil law. Once Napoleon was satisfied, in 1808, he assembled a group of rabbis and laymen to codify Jewish civil rights; this Consistoire Central des Juifs de France is still the governing body for France's Jewish community.

Toni L. Kamins is a freelance writer and former editor. She has covered an array of subjects for publications such as *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Daily News*, *New York Magazine*, the *Village Voice*, the *Jerusalem Post*, and the *Forward*. She is the author of *The Complete Jewish Guide to France* and *The Complete Jewish Guide to Britain and Ireland* (St. Martin's Press, 2001). In 2005, Toni Kamins was awarded the Gold Medal of Tourism from the French Government. In addition, she acts as a communications consultant, writer, and project manager for non-profit and international organizations. www.tonikamins.com

By the middle of the 19th century, Jews were almost completely integrated into French life. However, the political upheavals wrought by France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War (1870) had far reaching consequences for both France and her Jewish citizens, especially during the rise of the French Third Republic, which saw an increase in anti-Semitism as a political device to divert attention away from societal demands for reform.

In 1894, the fate of one French Jew, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, falsely accused of treason based on forged evidence, would almost tear the nation apart. But, while it was Frenchmen who framed Dreyfus, it was also Frenchmen who fought long and hard, and at great personal sacrifice, to see justice done and Dreyfus' name cleared—among them Georges Clemenceau, Emile Zola, Lucien Herr, and Léon Blum, who in 1936 would become France's first Jewish prime minister.

WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT

All of France suffered during the German occupation in World War II and many were killed, Jew and non-Jew alike, but of a pre-war population of some 300,000 Jews only about 180,000 survived.

It took decades for France to come to grips with the fact that some of its citizens collaborated with the German occupation, and until recently the subject was completely taboo. Unofficially, though, it was a subject of literature and film: Marcel Ophüls' *Le Chagrin et la Pitié* (*The Sorrow and the Pity*) and *Hôtel Terminus*, the latter a film about Klaus Barbie, known as the butcher of Lyon; Alain Resnais's film *Nuit et Brouillard* (*Night and Fog*), which was banned by the government until references to French collusion in the deportation of Jews were deleted; and the 1976 film *Chantons sous l'Occupation* (*Singing Under the Occupation*) by André Halimi, about the role of France's entertainers during the war.

Finally, in 1995, just after his election, President Jacques Chirac spoke at the newly established memorial to the victims of the 1942 Velodrome d'Hiver roundup in Paris. At the site from which thousands of Jews were sent to their deaths in concentration camps, President Chirac publicly acknowledged what France and some of her citizens had done to other French citizens during World War II.

With over 600,000 people, the Jewish community in France today is the third largest in the world.



Jewish communities are found all over the map.

TO BE A JEW IN FRANCE IS

“...MY DAILY, NATURAL STATE, ENRICHED BY FRUITFUL CONTACT WITH TWO WORLDS OF THOUGHT.”

MR. THÉO KLEIN, LAWYER, HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF JEWISH INSTITUTIONS IN FRANCE

ANTI-JEWISH VIOLENCE TODAY

Anti-Jewish violence continues to be a concern in France and throughout Europe.

Since the current series of incidents began in April 2002, anti-Jewish violence in France has risen and fallen. Despite fears that this violence represented a return to government-tolerated anti-Jewish behavior, this has proven not to be the case. The French government takes anti-Jewish attacks very seriously and is doing everything to prevent problems from occurring and is responding to problems that do occur quickly.

The government of France, in cooperation with local Jewish communities, applies special security measures to protect Jewish institutions. Information on these measures can be found at www.ambafrance-us.org and www.consulfrance-newyork.org.

As you travel, use common sense. Exercise the same caution you would anywhere. And please be patient and comply with the requests of security personnel.



The Seine in Paris

Ecclesia, Notre-Dame de Paris



© Valérie Billon



© Valérie Billon

Synagoga, Notre-Dame de Paris

PARIS

PARIS TOURIST OFFICE 25, rue des Pyramides, 1st arrondissement, tel. 08.92.68.30.00, www.parisinfo.com

Jews have been living in Paris intermittently since the region was conquered by Rome in the first century B.C. Jewish communities in those early centuries could be found in what is now the 5th *arrondissement*, in an area just south of Notre-Dame near where the Church of St-Julien-le-Pauvre now stands. Some evidence suggests that a synagogue once stood on the same site.

In the 10th and 11th centuries, a small Jewish community settled on Rue de la Harpe between Rue de la Huchette and Rue St-Séverin, and later on a street called Rue de la Vieille Juiverie (Old Jewry Street) that lay between the present Rue St-Séverin and Rue Monsieur-le-Prince. There was a Jewish cemetery at the corner of Blvd. St-Michel and Rue Monsieur-le-Prince, and, nearby, a synagogue. Another Jewish cemetery was located on the tiny Rue Pierre-Sarazin just off Blvd. St-Michel.

In the 12th century, Spaniard Benjamin of Tudela traveled throughout the known world chronicling its Jewish communities. When he came to Paris, he called it Ha-ir Hagedolah (Hebrew for *that great city*). The Jewish community, which was then living on the Ile de la Cité, must have welcomed him to the Jewish quarter—an area that lay between Rue de la Cité (then called Rue des Juifs), Quai de la Corse, and Rue de Lutèce. Place Louis-Lépine, where the Marché aux Fleurs now stands, was the site of the community's synagogue.

Another late-12th-century Jewish community could be found nearby on the Right Bank streets Rue de Moussy, Rue du Renard, Rue St-Merri, Rue de la Tacherie, and also on the Petit Pont (in those days, Paris' bridges were covered with houses). Indeed, at the time, Jews lived on many other streets. By the 13th century, the community had moved to the Marais (now the third and fourth *arrondissements*), where it remained until its expulsion from France in 1306.

While Paris has been a place of Jewish prosperity, scholarship, and greatness, it has also seen a lot of Jewish tears. For centuries the Jewish community lived in France only at the sufferance of the king, and expulsions were common. Nevertheless, during the periods between expulsions, the rabbis of Paris were renowned throughout the Jewish world, and the city was home to a number of noted Jewish scholars.

During the 15th and 16th centuries Paris had no organized Jewish community, and it was not until the early 18th century that a few Jews petitioned for permission to conduct business in Paris. A handful of kosher inns opened at that time and this eventually led to the dedication of the first official synagogue in 1788. Construction of the first Great Synagogue was begun in 1819, a building replaced in 1874 by the new (and present) Great Synagogue on Rue de la Victoire.

France was the first European country to grant civil rights to Jews around the time of the French Revolution. When Jews began to return to Paris following emancipation in the early 19th century, they settled again in the Marais. Today, visitors will find Jews—numbering about 375,000, or 8 percent of the total Paris population—gathered in communities throughout Paris and its environs, but the largest Jewish neighborhoods are in the 4th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 19th, and 20th *arrondissements*.

NEIGHBORHOODS – 4TH ARRONDISSEMENT

Paris' most famous Jewish neighborhood is in the Marais and is known as the *Pletzl*—Yiddish for *little place*. This area (Métro: St-Paul) has been home to Jews since the 13th century. Today, although gentrification has made the Marais one of the city's most fashionable quarters, it is still heavily Jewish. Up and down Rue des Rosiers between Rue Malher and Rue des Hospitalières-St-Gervais, as well as on the neighboring streets, visitors will find Jewish restaurants, bookshops, boulangeries and charcuteries, along with synagogues and *shatiebels* (small prayer rooms—*oratoires* in French).

WALKING TOUR

START ON THE ILE DE LA CITÉ (MÉTRO: CITÉ) AT THE PLACE DU PARVIS, THE SQUARE IN FRONT OF NOTRE-DAME AND THE LOCATION FROM WHICH ALL DISTANCES IN FRANCE ARE MEASURED.

NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS

Notre-Dame de Paris is one of the most famous sights in Paris and certainly one of the most spectacular. Surprisingly, this symbol of French Catholicism also holds some interest for Jews.

On either side of the central portal, in tall niches, are two female figures: Ecclesia and Synagoga. On the left as you face the portal, Ecclesia, wearing a crown, represents the Roman Catholic Church; on the right is Synagoga, with a bowed head, shattered staff, the broken tablets of the Ten Commandments at her feet, and a serpent around her eyes. She represents Judaism. Variations of these two figures are common in church architecture throughout Europe.

WALK EAST ALONGSIDE THE CHURCH, DOWN RUE DU CLOÎTRE-NOTRE-DAME TO QUAI DE L'ARCHEVÊCHÉ AND THE SQUARE DE L'ÎLE DE FRANCE.

MÉMORIAL DE LA DÉPORTATION (DEPORTATION MEMORIAL)

At the far end of the square is a small memorial to the unknown World War II deportee. Inside are the names of the German death camps where 200,000 French men, women, and children, Jews and Christians alike, were put to death. The French words above the door speak volumes: *Pardonne mais n'oublie pas* ("Forgive, but do not forget").

EXIT THE SQUARE, TURN RIGHT, AND CROSS THE PONT ST-LOUIS TO THE ÎLE ST-LOUIS. BEAR LEFT DOWN RUE JEAN-DU-BELLAY AND CROSS THE PONT LOUIS-PHILIPPE TO THE RIGHT BANK. TURN RIGHT ON RUE DE L'HÔTEL-DE-VILLE AND THEN TURN LEFT ON RUE GEOFFROY-L'ASNIER.

MÉMORIAL DE LA SHOAH

This memorial dedicated to the nearly six million Jewish lives lost during the Holocaust opened its doors in 2005 at a site already occupied by the Memorial of the Unknown Jewish Martyr. Two major additions to the site are Le Mur des Noms, a wall bearing the names of 76,000 Jews deported from France between 1942 and 1944, and Le Mur des Justes, a wall bearing the names of 2,700 French people who helped save Jews during WWII. Open daily, except Saturday, 10 A.M. - 6 P.M.; Thursday 10 A.M. - 10 P.M. Free guided tour (in French and in English) with an historian every Sunday at 3 P.M. 17, rue Geoffroy-l'Asnier, tel. 01.42.77.44.72, www.memorialdelashoah.org

LEAVING THE MEMORIAL, TURN LEFT ON RUE GEOFFROY-L'ASNIER. TAKE THE NEXT RIGHT ON RUE FRANÇOIS-MIRON. THIS STREET MEETS RUE DE RIVOLI AT THE ST-PAUL MÉTRO STATION. TO THE NORTH ACROSS RUE DE RIVOLI FROM THE STATION IS THE RUE PAVÉE.

THE PLETZL

Jews have lived here since the early 20th century, but this was a Jewish neighborhood in the Middle Ages too. Known as *La Juiverie* (the Jewry) in the 13th century, it was a thriving community, complete with synagogues, cemeteries, and food manufacturers. Some of the street names from that early period survive.

Until the late 17th century, this district was full of grand mansions and beautiful vistas. However, in the 1680s the French court moved from the Louvre (then a royal palace) to Versailles, and the rich and powerful, following suit, left the Marais. The exodus of the moneyed classes signaled the decline of the neighborhood.

When the 19th century brought industrialization to Western European cities, the mansions of the Marais were converted into

small apartments and workshops. Conditions deteriorated as hovels cropped up in courtyards, in front of houses, and even on rooftops. The once-glitzy Marais had become a fetid slum. Many of the residents were Jews, the descendants of those who had been expelled from France in the 12th century by King Philippe-Auguste.

But urban history has interesting twists and turns. The Marais is now one of Paris' trendiest quarters, populated by successful artists, media types, and celebrities. Still, commemorative plaques on buildings serve as reminders of darker times, particularly those of World War II, when individuals and families were deported and never returned.

WALK NORTH ON RUE PAVÉE.

AGUDATH HA KEHILOT

Agudath Ha Kehilot, an orthodox synagogue, is the largest in the Pletzel. Opened in 1914, it was designed by Hector Guimard, the Art Nouveau architect famous for the green archways of the Paris Métro. Guimard's American wife was Jewish, so with the rise of Nazism they left France for the United States. On Yom Kippur 1940, the Germans dynamited the synagogue. It has since been restored and is now a national monument. Services are held daily and on all Jewish holidays. 10, rue Pavée, tel. 01.48.87.21.54

CONTINUE ALONG RUE PAVÉE AND TURN LEFT ON RUE DES ROSIERS, A NARROW, ANCIENT STREET LINED WITH KOSHER AND JEWISH-STYLE RESTAURANTS, JEWISH BOOKSHOPS, SMALL SYNAGOGUES, PRAYER ROOMS, AND KOSHER BOULANGERIES AND CHARCUTERIES. TURN LEFT ON RUE FERDINAND DUVAL (CALLED RUE DES JUIFS UNTIL 1900).

HÔTEL DES JUIFS

The rear of the courtyard of number 20, rue Ferdinand Duval (the door may be locked) contains a 16th-century *hôtel particulier* (private house) known as the Hôtel des Juifs. Now owned by an artist, it is a remnant of the 18th-century Jewish community composed of Jews from eastern France and Germany.

RETURN TO RUE DES ROSIERS, TURN LEFT, AND CONTINUE TO RUE DES ECOUFFES (STREET OF KITES—A BIRD OF PREY IN THE SAME FAMILY AS THE VULTURE AND AN ARCHAIC, DERISIVE TERM FOR PAWNBROKER), LOCATION OF A NUMBER OF ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUES. NOTICE THE POSTERS OF THE DECEASED LUBAVITCHER RABBI, MENACHEM MENDEL SCHNEERSON, WHOSE FOLLOWERS LIVE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. CONTINUE DOWN RUE DES ROSIERS TO RUE DES HOSPITALIÈRES-ST-GERVAIS. TURN RIGHT.

MEMORIAL

On the wall of the Jewish boys school at 6, rue des Hospitalières-St-Gervais is a plaque commemorating the teachers and 165 students deported to Auschwitz via the transit camp at Drancy (outside Paris). Despite the headmaster's efforts to prevent their deportation and save their lives, none of them survived.

CONTINUE WALKING NORTH ON RUE DES HOSPITALIÈRES-ST-GERVAIS AND TURN LEFT WHEN IT ENDS AT RUE DES FRANCS BOURGEOIS. ONE BLOCK AFTER THIS STREET BECOMES RUE

4TH ARR.

BOOKSTORES

Bazar Suzanne
14, rue Ferdinand Duval,
tel. 01.48.87.34.84,
www.bazar-suzanne.com

Bibliophane

26, rue des Rosiers,
tel. 01.48.87.82.20,
www.bibliophane.com

Chir Hadach

1, rue des Hospitalières-St-Gervais,
tel. 01.42.72.38.00.
English and Yiddish spoken.

Diasporama

20, rue des Rosiers,
tel. 01.42.78.30.50,
www.diasporama.com

KOSHER RESTAURANTS

Essen Bench
8, rue Pavée
Dairy, panini, desserts

Contini

81, avenue de Wagram,
tel. 01.48.04.78.32.
Tea salon

Musée d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme
Café on ground floor.



Deportation Memorial

© Valérie Billon

9TH ARR.

BOOKSTORES

Beth Hassofer

52, rue Richer, tel. 01.55.33.16.33

La Foire du Livre37, rue Richer, tel. 01.47.70.38.53,
www.lafoiredulivre.com**Librairie Colbo**3, rue Richer, tel. 01.47.70.21.81,
www.colbo.fr**Librairie Ohr Moshe**26, rue de Trévisé,
tel. 01.45.23.27.21

KOSHER RESTAURANTS

Casa Rina8, rue du Faubourg-Montmartre,
tel. 01.45.23.02.22.
Italian, dairy**Chez Jonathan**24, rue du Faubourg-
Montmartre, tel. 01.48.24.03.93.
Meat and fish**Dizengoff Café**

27, rue Richer, tel. 01.47.70.81.97

RAMBUTEAU, TURN RIGHT ON RUE DU TEMPLE (NOT RUE VIEILLE DU TEMPLE).

MUSÉE D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE DU JUDAÏSME (MUSEUM OF JEWISH ART AND HISTORY)

Located in the magnificent 17th-century Hôtel de St-Aignan, this museum is dedicated to the celebration of Jewish life through its collections, exhibits, resource library, and workshops. Open Monday-Friday 11 A.M. - 6 P.M., Sunday 10 A.M. - 6 P.M. 71, rue du Temple (Métro: Rambuteau), tel. 01.53.01.86.60, www.mahj.org

NEIGHBORHOODS – 9TH ARRONDISSEMENT

Just off the Grands Boulevards, around the intersection of Rue du Faubourg-Montmartre, Rue Cadet, and Rue Richer (Métro: Cadet) is another Jewish neighborhood. Although this neighborhood does not possess the history of the Marais, it is no less Jewish. Visitors should not be put off by what seem like shabby building façades. Behind the heavy outer doors are quaint courtyards leading to lovely apartments, particularly on the side streets.

This area developed as a Jewish neighborhood in the middle of the 19th century when Jews from Eastern Europe began to arrive. Today these streets are lined with Jewish shops and restaurants and a dozen synagogues. Though most of the restaurants serve Israeli or

North African food, there is the occasional French and even kosher Chinese and kosher Tex-Mex. Nearby are a number of notable synagogues and the offices of the Association Consistoriale Israélite de Paris. 17 and 19, rue St-Georges, tel. 01.40.82.26.26, www.consistoire.org

SYNAGOGUES

Built in 1877, the **Synagogue Buffault** is typical of synagogues built throughout France at the time: arched doorways crowned by a rose window; and inside, a *Bimah* (raised area from which services are conducted), rather than at the front. Wooden pews and chandeliers also distinguish the interior. Services are held daily and on all Jewish holidays. 28, rue Buffault, tel. 01.45.26.80.87

The **Synagogue de la Victoire** is also known as the Great Synagogue or the Rothschild synagogue. Around the corner from the offices of the Consistoire, the neo-Romanesque building was dedicated in 1874. Its interior is impressive with yellow, blue, and red circular stained glass windows and a grand sanctuary with 87-foot ceilings. The Bimah is flanked by seating reserved for the chief rabbis of Paris and France. Daily services, as well as on Jewish holidays. 44, rue de la Victoire, tel. 01.40.82.26.26, www.lavictoire.org

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

PLACE DES MARTYRS JUIFS DU VÉLODROME D'HIVER

In the 15th arrondissement, not far from the Bir-Hakeim Bridge, between Quai Branly and Quai de Grenelle (Métro: Bir-Hakeim) is the Place des Martyrs Juifs du Vélodrome d'Hiver, dedicated in 1994. The huge Vél d'Hiv was an indoor cycling stadium, and from 1942 until its demolition in 1958, one of the most infamous places in Paris. Early in the morning of July 16, 1942, the French police, acting under orders from the German Gestapo removed over 13,000 Jews to the Vélodrome. Kept under horrendous conditions for days, they were then shipped to the transit camp at Drancy and onward to Auschwitz.

DRANCY CONCENTRATION CAMP MEMORIAL

Métro: Bobigny/Pablo Picasso. The memorial is at the Cité de la Muette.

Three miles northeast of Paris in the town of Drancy, a brutal and deplorable transit camp for Jews was in operation in an unfinished complex of apartment buildings between 1941 and 1944. An outdoor monument was dedicated in 1976 and includes a boxcar used to transport Jews to Auschwitz from Drancy.

www.camp-de-drancy.asso.fr ■

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Late night opening every Thursday until 9 pm.
Tel.: 01 42 82 36 40 - galeriesslafayette.com





WESTERN FRANCE

Château des Ducs de Bretagne. Nantes (Western Loire)

WESTERN FRANCE

BRITTANY

Jews have lived in Brittany since the 5th century, but the population was always small. In the 18th century, Jewish traders from Bordeaux, Alsace, and Lorraine settled here, but were expelled in 1780. After the Revolution and the liberalization of Jewish life, Jews again settled in Brittany.

RENNES

TOURIST OFFICE 11, rue St-Yves, 35000 Rennes, tel. 02.99.67.11.11, www.tourisme-rennes.com

SYNAGOGUE

Association Culturelle Israélite 32, rue de la Marbaudais, 35700 Rennes, tel. 02.99.63.57.18

LOIRE VALLEY

Jewish history here goes back to Roman times, and cities such as Orléans and Tours were once great centers of Jewish scholarship.

ORLÉANS

TOURIST OFFICE 2, place de l'Etape, 45000 Orléans, tel. 02.38.24.05.05, www.tourisme-orleans.com

This was an important Jewish center during the Middle Ages.

SYNAGOGUE

14, rue Robert-de-Courtenay, tel. 02.38.62.16.62

PITHIVIERS

TOURIST OFFICE 1 Mail Ouest, 45300 Pithiviers, tel. 02.38.30.50.02, www.ville-pithiviers.fr

MEMORIAL

Monument aux Israélites Square Max Jacob. Close to the railroad tracks, and near the present Parc Municipal des Sports, is the site of one of two camps used in World War II to imprison foreign Jews and members of the French resistance. The other is Beaune-la-

Rolande, 18 km southeast of Pithiviers. Some 16,000 Jews were deported from Pithiviers and Beaune-la-Rolande. Pithiviers was liberated on August 9, 1944, after which the camp was razed and the land sold. The memorial was dedicated in 1957.

TOURS

TOURIST OFFICE 78-82, rue Bernard Palissy, 37000, tel. 02.47.70.37.37, www.ligeris.com

Evidence of Jewish life in Tours goes back to the late 6th century. In the Middle Ages, Jews lived in an area near the Rue de la Caserne where they had a synagogue and leased cemetery land from the archbishop. They were required to bury their own dead as well as the dead from the Jewish communities of nearby towns and villages.

SYNAGOGUE AND COMMUNITY CENTER

Synagogue 37, rue Parmentier, tel. 02.47.05.56.95

Community Center 6, rue Chalmel, tel. 02.47.05.59.07

TO BE A JEW IN FRANCE IS

“...ABOVE ALL AN EXTRAORDINARY BLESSING, PROVIDENCE NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED.”

MR. DANIEL FARHI
RABBI OF THE LIBERAL
JEWISH MOVEMENT
OF FRANCE



TO BE A JEW IN FRANCE IS

“...GOOD FORTUNE AND A RESPONSIBILITY; A TOUGH BLESSING.”

(DECEMBER 2000)
MR. ADY STEG
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNIVERSAL ISRAELITE
ALLIANCE

NORMANDY

CAEN

TOURIST OFFICE Place St-Pierre, 14000 Caen, tel. 02.31.27.14.14,
www.tourisme.caen.fr

MUSEUM

The Caen Peace Memorial Esplanade General Eisenhower,
tel. 02.31.06.06.44, (Note the last six digits of the telephone number
– 06-06-44 [June 6, 1944] D-Day.) www.memorial-caen.fr

SYNAGOGUE

46, avenue de la Libération, 14000 Caen, tel. 02.31.43.60.54

ROUEN

TOURIST OFFICE 25, place de la Cathédrale, 76000 Rouen, tel. 02.32.08.32.40,
www.rouentourisme.com

MONUMENT

In August 1976, excavations in and around the Palais de Justice yielded an unexpected treasure: a structure (perhaps a yeshiva, or a synagogue, or the residence of a rich Jew) dating back to the 12th or 13th century, making it the oldest preserved Jewish monument in Western Europe. Rouen's Palais de Justice is on the northern boundary of what was the Rue des Juifs. French records from the 15th century describe a Jewish school on the spot.

www.cpi.fr/mj/e_monj.htm

SYNAGOGUE

55, rue des Bons-Enfants, 76008 Rouen, tel. 02.35.71.01.44

WESTERN LOIRE

LE MANS

TOURIST OFFICE Hotel des Ursulines, rue de l'Etoile, 72000 Le Mans,
tel. 02.43.28.17.22 www.lemanstourisme.com

SYNAGOGUE

Contains a deportation memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. 4-6, blvd. Paixhans, tel. 02.43.86.00.96

NANTES

TOURIST OFFICE Place du Commerce, 44000 Nantes, tel. 02.40.20.60.00
www.nantes-tourisme.com

The Jewish community traces its history to the middle of the 13th century and the Rue des Juifs. Portuguese *Conversos*, Jews who had converted outwardly to Christianity but who practiced Judaism in secret, settled here in the mid-16th century.

SYNAGOGUE

Built in 1870. Visits by appointment. 5, impasse Copernic,
tel. 02.40.47.48.16 or 02.40.46.42.05 ■

The Caen Peace Memorial (Normandy)



© CRT Normandie

The old quarter of le Mans (Western Loire)



© CRT Pays de la Loire/D.Morton



St-Cirq Lapopie (Lot)

SOUTHWESTERN FRANCE

AQUITAINE

BORDEAUX

TOURIST OFFICE 12, cours du 30 juillet, 33000 Bordeaux, tel. 05.56.00.66.00, www.bordeaux-tourisme.com

Access to Jewish monuments can be obtained by calling the Secretariat of the Bordeaux Consistoire, tel. 05.56.91.79.39.

Bordeaux is home to Aquitaine's oldest and largest Jewish community, where evidence of Jewish settlement dates back to the 4th century.

Toward the end of the 15th century, Conversos or *Marranos* (Jews forced to convert to Christianity but who practiced Judaism in secret) fleeing the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal began to settle in Bordeaux under a grant from King Henry II. In the relative safety of their new homeland, the Jews gradually practiced their faith more openly and even established a Jewish section of the parish cemetery. In addition, Jews from Provence began to settle in Bordeaux and by 1753, though practicing Judaism in public was still against the law, the Jews of Bordeaux gathered for prayer in seven private locations.

By the beginning of the 18th century, Bordeaux was home to 1,422 Jews of Portuguese origin and 348 Jews from Provence. In 1734, 1740, and 1748, expulsion orders were issued, but each time the community found a way to have the orders postponed.

The community of Bordeaux played a significant role in the establishment of civil rights for Jews in France just before the 1789 Revolution. They sent two delegates, Abraham Furtado and S. Lopes-Dubec, to meet Chrétien de Malesherbes, a chief minister to the king.

During the 19th century, Jews were active in the municipal, commercial, and intellectual affairs of Bordeaux. Also at that time, two of Bordeaux's great wineries were established by Jews: Baron Nathaniel de Rothschild, of the English branch of the family, founded Château Mouton-Rothschild in the Médoc in 1853, and his cousin Baron James founded Château Lafite-Rothschild in 1867. Bordeaux's Grande Synagogue was consecrated in 1882.

Early in World War II, in May and June 1940, thousands of Jews fleeing the German occupation of northern France came to Bordeaux. Unfortunately, the Franco-German armistice on June 21, 1940, placed Bordeaux in the occupied zone and two-thirds of its Jews were deported. The Grande Synagogue was used as a detention center for Jews awaiting deportation.

Although French fascists vandalized the Grande Synagogue in January 1944, Bordeaux's few Jewish survivors of the war rebuilt it and by 1960 the Jewish population was up to 3,000. By 1970 that figure had nearly doubled.

Chocolate lovers can thank the Jews of Aquitaine for introducing chocolate to France.

SYNAGOGUE

Bordeaux's first large synagogue—the **Grande Synagogue**—replaced one built in 1810 and destroyed by fire in 1873. The current building, with a huge 1,500-seat capacity and columns made of Carrara marble, is the largest synagogue in France. The **Consistoire Israélite** shares the building. 213, rue Ste-Catherine, tel. 05.56.91.79.39

GHETTO

Not much remains of the Jewish district, but remnants can be seen on the Rue Cheverus just off the Rue Ste-Catherine pedestrian mall (once known as Arrua Judega). Turn left onto Rue de la Porte-Dijeaux to go to the city gate once known as Jews' Gate.

CEMETERIES

Pauline and Hans Herzl, children of Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern political Zionism, are buried in a 17th-century cemetery at 176, cour de l'Yser.

Another private Jewish cemetery, established in 1725, is at 74, cour de la Marne.

BORDEAUX

KOSHER CHARCUTERIE

Le Mazal Tov

137, cours Victor Hugo, tel. 05.56.52.37.03. Meat

Moses, as featured on the façade of the Musée d'Aquitaine in Bordeaux



© Agence Photographie Aquitaine/
Richard Zéboulon

TOULOUSE

KOSHER RESTAURANTS

Les 12 Tribus—Espace du Judaïsme 2, place Riquet, tel. 05.62.73.56.56

Les 7 Epis
3, blvd. des Minimes,
tel/fax. 05.61.11.43.11

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“...TO FEEL
WHOLEHEARTEDLY
JEWISH WHILE
RESPECTING
THE LAWS OF
YOUR COUNTRY
OF CITIZENSHIP.”

MR. PAUL BENGUIGUI
PRESIDENT OF THE
JEWISH COMMUNITY
OF NIMES

STREET NAMES

Bordeaux has many streets named for noted Jews: Rue David-Gradis, a shipping magnate; Rue (Abraham) Furtado, treasurer of Bordeaux and chairman of Napoléon's Assembly of Jewish Notables; and Avenue Georges-Mandel, Minister of the Interior, who was assassinated in 1944. Several streets are named for Léon Blum, France's first Jewish prime minister.

PAU

TOURIST OFFICE Place Royale, 64000 Pau, tel. 05.59.27.85.80, www.pau.fr

SYNAGOGUE

Built in 1850. 8, rue des Trois-Frères-Bernadac, tel. 05.59.62.37.85

CONCENTRATION CAMP

Thirty kilometers west of Pau, in Gurs, is the site of one of France's largest concentration camps. Some 800 Jews died here during the winter of 1940. In July 1942, following an inspection by one of Adolph Eichmann's deputies, the Gurs inmates were moved to Drancy outside Paris and then sent to death camps. The camp cemetery contains the graves of 1,200 Jews.

AGEN

TOURIST OFFICE 107, blvd. Carnot, 47000 Agen, tel. 05.53.47.36.09, www.ot-agen.org

The remnant of the ancient ghetto, circa 1342, is on Rue des Juifs.

MUSEUM AND COMMUNITY CENTER

The Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation is in the same building as the synagogue and the Jewish Community Center. Museum open daily, except Sunday and Monday, 2:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. 40, rue Montesquieu, tel. 05.53.66.04.26

BAYONNE

TOURIST OFFICE Place des Basques, 64100 Bayonne, tel. 05.59.46.01.46, www.bayonne-tourisme.com

The Jewish community here, established in the mid-17th century, was destroyed during World War II.

SYNAGOGUE

Built in 1837. 35, rue Maubec, tel. 05.59.55.03.95

NEAR BAYONNE

CEMETERIES

Some of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in France are located in villages about 30 kilometers east of Bayonne. For access, inquire at the Consistoire de Bayonne, tel. 05.59.55.03.95.

Bidache Established in 1690

Payrehorade Established in 1628 and re-established in 1737, found on Rue des Chapons

Labastide-Clairence 16th century

MIDI PYRÉNÉES

TOULOUSE

TOURIST OFFICE Donjon du Capitole, 31000 Toulouse, tel. 05.61.11.02.22, www.ot-toulouse.fr

Centuries ago Toulouse had a thriving Jewish community, but numerous expulsions resulted in its demise. Today, thanks to the immigration of Jews from North Africa, Toulouse once again has a vibrant Jewish community—the third largest in France.

SYNAGOGUES AND COMMUNITY CENTERS

Chaare Emeth 35, rue Rembrandt, tel. 05.61.40.03.88

Ozar HaTorah 33, rue Jules-Dalou, tel. 05.61.26.43.54

Community Center—Espace du Judaïsme Hekhal David
2, place Riquet, tel. 05.62.73.46.46

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON

This region has a long and distinguished Jewish history, especially in Béziers, Montpellier, Narbonne, and Perpignan.

The 1306 order that expelled the Jews from France brought them to Provence, Catalonia (in Spain), Roussillon, and Perpignan. Then, at the end of the 14th century, with the French annexation of Languedoc, more Jews were expelled and moved to Provence. Jews did not settle again in Languedoc until the end of the 18th century.

The Roussillon region was home to numerous Jewish scholars who were distinguished in religious studies as well in the secular intellectual realm. Perpignan, where nothing of the medieval community remains, was a Tosaphist (Talmudic study) center. Jewish physicians were well known and served towns all over the region. Many studied at the University of Montpellier's world-renowned medical school in the 14th century.



BÉZIERS

TOURIST OFFICE 29, ave. St-Saëns, 34500 Béziers, tel. 04.67.76.84.00, www.beziers-tourisme.fr

Know as *la Petite Jérusalem* (Little Jerusalem) during the Middle Ages, Béziers was a center of Jewish learning and the home to many Jewish scholars, poets, and liturgists. Two notable scholars were Abraham ibn Ezra (1089-1164), who wrote Torah commentaries and structural works on the Hebrew language, and Benjamin of Tudela, the 12th-century traveler who chronicled the Jewish world of his day.

SYNAGOGUE AND COMMUNITY CENTER

Association Culturelle Israélite 19, place Pierre-Sépard, tel/fax. 04.67.28.75.98

PÉZENAS

TOURIST OFFICE Place Gambetta, 34120 Pézenas, tel. 04.67.98.36.40, www.paysdepezenas.net

Located below the walls of the castle, the 14th-century ghetto is still mostly intact between the Faugères and Baise gates. Entry is through a low archway that leads to Rue de la Juiverie and goes up to Rue Litanie, also known as the *careyra de las litanias*. Stones from the ancient synagogue can be seen in the cloister of the St-Nazaire Cathedral. To visit the ghetto, ask at the Pézenas tourist office. Ask also at the tourist office for visits to the Jewish cemetery located just outside Pézenas.

MONTPELLIER

TOURIST OFFICE Esplanade Comédie, 34000 Montpellier, tel. 04.67.60.60.60, www.ot-montpellier.fr

In the Middle Ages Montpellier had a significant Jewish community and was home to several yeshivas. The city's medieval Jewish quarter was located around the present Rue de la Barralerie.

ANCIENT JEWISH QUARTER

The medieval Jewish quarter was located around the present Rue de la Barralerie. Under the city walls at 1, rue de la Barralerie (the entrance to the medieval Jewish quarter) is a restored 13th-century mikvah (ritual bath). A series of vaulted rooms, staircase, disrobing room, and the bath are open to visitors. Contact the tourist office.

SYNAGOGUE AND COMMUNITY CENTER

Grande Synagogue Ben Zakai 7, rue Général Lafon, tel. 04.67.92.92.07
Centre communautaire et culturel juif 500, blvd. d'Antigone, tel. 04.67.15.08.76

KOSHER WINERY

The **Fortant** winery near Montpellier produces a line of kosher wines. Open year-round for visits, tastings, and purchases. Contact Les Vins Skalli, 278, ave. du Maréchal-Juin, 34200 Sète, tel. 04.67.46.70.09, www.vinskalli.com

NÎMES

TOURIST OFFICE 6, rue Auguste, 30000 Nîmes, tel. 04.66.58.38.00, www.ot-nimes.fr

Jews have come and gone from Nîmes probably since as far back as the seventh century, although the earliest evidence of an established community is from the 10th century, when Nîmes had a synagogue. In the 11th century, Mont Duplan, one of the hills within the city walls, was called *Poium Judaicum* and was the site of a Jewish cemetery.

SYNAGOGUE

Built in 1793, it also contains a mikvah and a matzo bakery. 40, rue Roussy, tel. 04.66.29.51.81

COMMUNITY CENTER AND KOSHER RESTAURANT

5, rue d'Angoulême, tel. 04.66.76.27.64 ■



Entrance of the 14th-century ghetto in Pézenas (Languedoc-Roussillon)

© Office de tourisme Pézenas Val-D'Hérault

The central façade of the Bordeaux Synagogue, the largest in France (Aquitaine)



The interior of the synagogue of Nîmes (Languedoc-Roussillon)



© Claude Grumbach



Château de Lapalisse (Auvergne)

CENTRAL FRANCE

AUVERGNE

CLERMONT-FERRAND

TOURIST OFFICE Place de la Victoire, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand, tel. 04.73.98.65.00, www.clermont-fd.com and www.ot-clermont-ferrand.fr

SYNAGOGUE

The 19th-century building, the interior of which is not well maintained, can be visited on Friday evening, Saturday morning and Sunday morning by appointment. 6, rue Blatin, tel. 04.73.93.36.59

CEMETERY

There is a medieval Jewish cemetery in the town of Ennezat, 20 km northeast of Clermont-Ferrand. To schedule a visit, call the Clermont-Ferrand Jewish community center, tel. 04.73.93.36.59.

LIMOUSIN

During World War II, the Limousin region's *département* of La Creuse was the first place in France to establish safe homes for Jewish children rescued in Germany and hidden by the Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE), which also created the Garel Network that evacuated many children to the United States. *The Children of Chabannes*, a film produced and directed by Lisa Gossels, daughter of one of the children hidden at the Château de Chabannes, recounts the story (www.childrenofchabannes.org). Many of the safe homes still exist, especially in La Creuse and in the *département* of Haute-Vienne.

ST. PIERRE DE FURSAC

LA CREUSE DEPARTMENTAL TOURIST BOARD 43, place Bonnyaud, 23005 Guéret, tel. 05.55.51.93.23, www.cg23.fr and www.tourisme-creuse.com

Château de Chabannes Now a private home near the village of Dun-le-Palestel (30 km northwest of Guéret), the chateau took in some 400 children between 1939 and 1944. Commemorative plaque. ■

© Alsatian Judaism website (www.sdv.fr/judaisme)

Close-up section of a Mizra'h, a decorative drawing in a Diaspora Jew's home placed on the eastern wall, the direction in which one prays

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 **EASTERN FRANCE**

13

Alsace

EASTERN FRANCE

ALSACE

France's enchanting region of hills, rolling fields, and forests that borders Germany has a rich Jewish heritage. There is no other region in the country where visitors can see so many 18th- and 19th-century synagogues, or a Jewish community with such a rural history.

One hundred seventy-six synagogues were built in Alsace between 1791 and 1914; nearly every town and village had one. But although the 18th and 19th centuries are well represented, very little remains of medieval Jewish architecture due to a ban on synagogue construction from the 14th through 18th centuries. Today many surviving synagogues are closed or are no longer used as religious centers.

Similar in manner and custom to Jews from Eastern and Central Europe, Alsatian Jews nevertheless developed some characteristics that were their own: a synagogue liturgy called *Minhag Elzos* and a dialect, called Judeo-Alsatian, akin to Yiddish.

Tourist offices throughout the region offer guided Jewish Heritage tours. Contact the Bas-Rhin tourist office for more information and to receive the free *Discovering Alsatian Judaism* brochure. 9, rue du Dôme, BP 53, 67061 Strasbourg Cedex, tel. 03.88.15.45.88, www.tourisme67.com or <http://judaisme.sdv.fr/index2.htm>

STRASBOURG

TOURIST OFFICE 17, place de la Cathédrale, 67082 Strasbourg Cedex, tel. 03.88.52.28.28. www.ot-strasbourg.fr

The Jewish community of Strasbourg, which made a comeback from the devastation of occupation in World War II, retains its predominantly Alsatian character. Many of the city's 17,000 Jews can be found living in the area around the main synagogue—a charming and fashionable neighborhood near the Parc des Contades.

SYNAGOGUES

Synagogue de la Paix Built in 1958 to replace the synagogue that was destroyed by the Nazis, the building's impressive interior contains a circular sanctuary nestled beneath a Star of David. Ashkenazi services are held in the Synagogue de la Paix, while those in the

Sephardic tradition are held in the Synagogue Rambam, at the same address. 1a, rue du Grand-Rabbin-René-Hirschler, tel. 03.88.14.46.50

MUSEUMS

Musée de l'Oeuvre Notre-Dame Adjacent to the Cathedral, the Museum of Notre-Dame chronicles the development of arts in Strasbourg and the Upper Rhine from the 11th through 17th centuries. The museum courtyard exhibits Jewish tombstones from the 12th through 14th centuries. Open Tuesday to Sunday 10 A.M. - 6 P.M. 3, Place du Château, tel. 03.88.52.50.00, www.musees-strasbourg.org

Musée Alsacien Across the river in the Alsatian Museum is an exhibit of Alsatian Jewish ritual objects and a model shtiebel (prayer room). Open daily (except Tuesdays) 12 P.M. - 6 P.M. Open Sunday, public holidays and daily in January, February, March, July and August 10 A.M. - 6 P.M. 23-25, Quai St-Nicholas, tel. 03.88.52.50.01, www.musees-strasbourg.org

OLD JEWISH QUARTER

Strasbourg's old Jewish quarter, on Rue des Juifs (one of the city's oldest streets), includes the site of a 12th-century synagogue (number 30), the site of a Jewish bakery (number 17), and a 13th-century mikvah (ritual bath) at 20, rue des Charpentiers (the corner of Rue des Juifs). Number 15, constructed in 1290, is the only remaining building from this period that was inhabited by Jews. The mikvah is open only for group tours. Reservations can be made at the tourist office.

DRIVING TOUR

An excellent way to take in many of eastern France's historic Jewish sites is to travel by car. Roads are well marked and, with a good map—such as Michelin #242—visiting the region in two or three days is easy.

FROM STRASBOURG, HEAD NORTH ON ROUTE DE BISCHWILLER/D468 TO BISCHHEIM (4 KILOMETERS).

Strasbourg's Synagogue de la Paix



© ADT Bas-Rhin

STRASBOURG

RESTAURANTS

Autre Part

60, blvd. Clemenceau, tel. 03.88.37.10.02. Dairy

King

28, rue Sellénick, tel. 03.88.52.17.71. Meat

BOOKSTORES

Librairie du Cédrat

19, rue du Maréchal Foch, tel. 03.88.36.38.39

Librairie du Cédrat

15, rue de Bitche, tel. 03.88.37.32.37



The interior of the synagogue of Pfaffenhoffen (Alsace)

BISCHHEIM

Jewish settlement began in this village after Jews were expelled from Colmar in 1512. Until the French Revolution, Bischheim had one of the most important Jewish communities in France.

MUSEUM

The Mikvah A ritual bath is on display in this house dedicated to the memory of David Sintzheim (1745-1812), one of France's first chief rabbis. The upper room contains a depiction of Jewish life in Bischheim. Sept 1 to June 30: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 2 P.M. - 6 P.M.; Saturday: 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. and 2 P.M. - 6 P.M. July and August: Tuesday: 4 P.M. - 7 P.M., Wednesday: 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. and 2 P.M. - 6 P.M., Friday: 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. and Saturday: 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. Call the museum to arrange visits outside the normal opening hours. Cour des Boecklin, 17, rue Nationale, tel. 03.88.81.49.47

FROM BISCHHEIM, CONTINUE NORTH ON D468 TO D37 (1 KM). FOLLOW D37 NORTH TO D48 AT KURTZENHOUSE (16 KM). TURN LEFT ON D48 TO HAGUENAU (9 KM).

HAGUENAU

TOURIST OFFICE Place de la Gare, 67500 Haguenau, tel. 03.88.93.70.00, www.ville-haguenau.fr

Haguenau's Jewish community, which dates to the 13th century, is one of the oldest in Alsace.

SYNAGOGUE

The historic synagogue was built in 1821, and like most in the region, was damaged by the Nazis during World War II and later restored. 3, rue du Grand-Rabbin-Joseph-Bloch.

CEMETERY

The cemetery was established in the 16th century, but the oldest tombstone is from 1654. Rue de l'Ivraie; information is available at the tourist office.

MUSEUM

The **Musée Historique** has a collection of Jewish objects. October to June: open daily (except Tuesday) 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. and 3 P.M. - 5.30 P.M. July to September: open daily 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. (except Monday and Tuesday mornings) and 2 P.M. - 6 P.M. 9, rue du Maréchal Foch, tel. 03.88.93.79.22

FROM HAGUENAU, TAKE D919 WEST TO PFAFFENHOFFEN (14 KM).

PFAFFENHOFFEN

TOURIST OFFICE du Pays de Hanau 68, rue Général Goureau, 67340 Ingwiller, tel. 03.88.89.23.45. www.tourisme.pays-de-hanau.com

SYNAGOGUE/MUSEUM

This recently restored synagogue, now a national monument, was built in 1791. In addition to the matzo oven, a mikvah, and Ark of the



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Covenant, permanent and temporary exhibits trace the history of the Jewish community. A synagogue this old is rare in Alsace. Contact the Musée de l'Image Populaire next door to arrange visits, tel. 03.88.07.80.05. Passage du Schneeberg.

FROM PFAFFENHOFFEN, CONTINUE WEST ON D919 TO D324 (5 KM). BEAR LEFT ON D324/D24 TO BOUXWILLER (7 KM).

BOUXWILLER

MUSEUM

The **Musée Judéo-Alsacien** is installed on several levels of a synagogue typical of small-town Alsace. Permanent and temporary exhibits detail rural Jewish life in Alsace through the centuries, including how holidays, weddings, and rituals circumcisions were celebrated. Open March 20 to September 15, Tuesday to Friday, 2 P.M. - 5 P.M.; Sunday and public holidays, 2 P.M. - 6 P.M. Closed from April 19 to May 4. 62 a Grand' Rue, tel. 03.88.70.97.17

FROM BOUXWILLER, HEAD SOUTHWEST ON D6 TO N404 (12 KM). TURN SOUTH ON N404 TO N4 (5 KM). CONTINUE SOUTH ON N4 TO MARMOUTIER (3 KM).

MARMOUTIER

TOURIST OFFICE 1, rue du Général Leclerc, 67441 Marmoutier. tel. 03.88.71.46.84. <http://www.paysdemarmoutier.com>

MUSEUM

The **Musée d'Arts et Traditions Populaires de Marmoutier** is housed in a 16th-century, half-timbered building and includes a collection of Jewish objects from rural Alsace, a 16th-century mikvah, and a hidden room used as a synagogue when they were illegal in Alsace. Open May 1 to September 30, Sundays and holidays, 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. and 2 P.M. - 6 P.M. Contact the tourist office for group visits during the week. 6, rue du Général Leclerc, tel : 03.88.71.46.84

FROM MARMOUTIER, CONTINUE SOUTH ON N4 TO WASSELONNE (8 KM).

WASSELONNE

TOURIST OFFICE 22, place du Général Leclerc, 67310 Wasselonne, tel. 03.88.59.12.00, www.suisse-alsace.com

UNLEAVENED BREAD PRODUCER

Ets René Neymann Visits by appointment. 46, rue du 23 novembre, tel. 03.88.87.03.57, www.neymann.com

FROM WASSELONNE, CONTINUE SOUTH ON N4 TO D422 (3 KM). TURN RIGHT ON D422 TO OBERNAI (22 KM).

OBERNAI

TOURIST OFFICE Place du Beffroi, 67210 Obernai, tel. 03.88.95.64.13, www.obernai.fr

A pleasant walk around this quaint old town—to take in the juxtaposition of German architecture with the French language—reveals how the forces of history have played such a pivotal role in the region.

SYNAGOGUE

The neo-Romanesque synagogue was dedicated in 1876 and rededicated in 1948. For visits contact Denis Geissmann. tel. 03.88.95.15.45. 9, rue de Sélestat

FROM OBERNAI, HEAD WEST ON D426 TO OTTROT (4 KM). CONTINUE WEST ON ROUTE DE KLINGENTHAL AND THEN ROUTE DU MONT STE-ODILE TO D214 (4 KM). BEAR RIGHT ON D214 TO D130 (9 KM). TURN RIGHT ON D130 TO LE STRUTHOF (8.5 KM).

LE STRUTHOF

CONCENTRATION CAMP

From May 1941 until August 31, 1944, Le Struthof was used as a forced-labor camp mainly for political prisoners. More than 25,000 inmates were held here and made to work in large quarries nearby. Many thousands were executed on the command of Josef Kramer (known as the Beast of Belsen), including some Jewish prisoners upon whom experiments involving infectious diseases were performed. The camp was liberated on November 23, 1944. A cemetery, barracks, the front gate, and some isolated buildings are all that remain, along with a **Memorial to the Deported** dedicated by President Charles de Gaulle in 1960. Open daily, March 1 to December 24. March, April and September 16 to December 24: 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. May to September 15: 9 A.M. - 6 P.M. <http://judaisme.sdv.fr/histoire/shh/struthof.htm> For more information contact the Direction Interdépartementale des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre, Service de Strasbourg. Cité Administrative, 67084 Strasbourg. tel. 03.88.76.78.99.

RETURN TO OBERNAI. HEAD SOUTH ON D422 TO GOXWILLER (4 KM).

GOXWILLER

KOSHER WINERY

Christophe Koenig Winery Learn how kosher wine is made. Free tours, but there is a charge for tasting. Book in advance. 35, rue Principale. tel. 03.88.95.51.93

TO BE A JEW IN FRANCE IS

“...TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN A BETTER TOMORROW AND KNOW HOW TO MAKE ALLOWANCES, THAT FROM THE WORST SOMETIMES ARISES THE BEST.”

MS. RACHEL LEBAZE
SAFRA BANK, PARIS



Kosher wines from La Cave de Sigolsheim (Alsace)

A wood-etched drawing of Rashi from Troyes (Champagne-Ardenne)



© Office de tourisme de Troyes/D. Le Neve



© Marie de Dijon

The interior of the synagogue of Dijon (Burgundy)

TO BE A JEW IN FRANCE IS

“...TO LOOK BACK AT ONE'S HISTORY SO AS NOT TO FORGET IT.”

MR. DAN ISRAEL
JOURNALIST,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
OF TOHU-BOHU,
JOURNAL OF THE
FRENCH UNION
OF JEWISH STUDENTS

FROM GOXWILLER, CONTINUE SOUTH ON N422 TO N83 (15 KM). TURN RIGHT (SOUTH) ON N83 TO D4 (20 KM). TURN RIGHT ON D4 TO SIGOLSHEIM (6 KM).

SIGOLSHEIM

KOSHER WINERY

La Cave de Sigolsheim Kosher Alsatian wines available for tasting and purchase. Visits daily: Week: 9 A.M. - 12 P.M. and 1:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. Weekends and bank holidays: 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. and 2 P.M. - 6 P.M. Advance booking required for groups. 11, rue St-Jacques. tel. 03.89.78.10.10, www.vinsigolsheim.com

RETURN TO N83 (6 KM) AND TURN RIGHT (SOUTH) TO COLMAR (5 KM).

COLMAR

TOURIST OFFICE 4, rue des Unterlinden, 68000 Colmar, tel. 03.89.20.68.92, www.ot-colmar.fr

Part of Germany until 1681, Colmar has a Jewish community that probably dates to the mid-13th century. The medieval community, which owned a synagogue, mikvah, and a cemetery, settled between the present Rue Chauffour and Rue Berthe-Molly (then named Rue des Juifs).

SYNAGOGUE

Consistoire Israélite du Haut-Rhin Originally built in 1840, this neo-Romanesque synagogue typical of France during the period, was destroyed by the Nazis during World War II and then restored by the local community in 1959. 3, rue de la Cigogne, tel. 03.89.41.38.29

MUSEUM

Within the **Musée Bartholdi**, the Katz Room contains a fine collection of Jewish ritual objects and synagogue furnishings. The museum is located in the house of Auguste Bartholdi, the sculptor of the Statue of Liberty. Open daily, except Tuesday and some holidays, 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. and 2 P.M. - 6 P.M. 30, rue des Marchands, tel. 03.89.41.90.60. <http://www.musee-bartholdi.com>

FROM COLMAR, TURN SOUTH ON N83 TO SOULTZ-HAUT-RHIN (28 KM).

SOULTZ

TOURIST OFFICE 14, place de la République, 68360 Soultz, tel. 03.89.76.83.60, www.florival.net

MUSEUM

The **Musée du Bucheneck** includes a collection of Jewish objects from rural Alsace in the Moïse Ginsburger Room. Open daily, except Tuesday, May 2 to October 30: 2 P.M. - 6 P.M. Rue Kagenack, tel. 03.89.76.02.22

BURGUNDY

DIJON

TOURIST OFFICE 34, rue des Forges, 21000 Dijon, tel. 03.80.44.11.44, www.dijon-tourism.com

The Jewish community here dates back to the end of the 12th century, when the Jewish quarter consisted of Rue de la Petite Juiverie (site of the medieval synagogue, now Rue Piron), Rue de la Grande-Juiverie (now Rue Charrue), and the Rue des Juifs (now Rue Buffon). The cemetery was located on what is now Rue Berlier, having been destroyed after the Jews were expelled from France in 1306. A new community was established after the French Revolution.

MUSEUM

Musée Archéologique de Dijon The Dijon Archeology Museum holds an important collection of 12th- and 13th-century Jewish tombstones and tombstone fragments. Open May 15 to September 30, daily, except Tuesday, 8:55 A.M. - 6 P.M.; October 1 to May 14, daily, except Monday and Tuesday, 9 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and 1:35 P.M. - 6 P.M. 5, rue du Docteur-Maret, tel. 03.80.30.88.54

SYNAGOGUE

Dedicated in 1879. During the occupation the Germans used the synagogue as a warehouse. The lovely 19th-century edifice was spared from destruction during World War II, but the original pews were lost. 5, rue de la Synagogue, tel. 03.80.66.46.47

CHAMPAGNE-ARDENNE

Champagne was once site of a number of centers of Jewish scholarship—most notably in Troyes, Rashi's birthplace. During the Middle Ages, Jews were prominent in viticulture and agriculture.

REIMS

TOURIST OFFICE 2, rue Guillaume de Machault, 51100 Reims, tel. 03.26.77.45.00, www.reims-tourisme.com

Historians are uncertain as to the location of Reims's medieval synagogue, but it is believed to have been at 18, rue des Elus, a street whose name has changed over the centuries from the Vicus Judaeorum to the Rue de Gieu (a form of *Juif*) to the Rue des Elus.

Jews from Alsace and Lorraine established a community in Reims in 1870. However, in 1941, on the eve of World War II, the 200 families who lived here were all deported by the Germans on a single day.

SYNAGOGUE

Built in 1871, this synagogue contains a memorial plaque to those who were deported. 49, rue Clovis, tel. 03.26.47.68.47

WAR MEMORIAL

An urn contains the ashes of concentration camp victims. Blvd. Général-Leclerc

TROYES

TOURIST OFFICE Rue Mignard, 10000 Troyes, tel. 03.25.73.36.88, www.tourisme-troyes.com

One of history's greatest Torah and Talmud commentators, Rabbi Solomon ben Isaac, known by the acronym Rashi (1040-1105), was born, lived, and taught here. (During the First Crusade, Rashi was forced to flee anti-Jewish riots. He returned to Worms, Germany, where he had first studied. He remained there until his death.)

Rashi's grandson, the noted Jewish scholar known as Rabbenu Tam (1100-1171) also taught in Troyes and attracted students from all over Europe. Historians believe that the St-Frobert quarter was the Jewish quarter. Nothing remains of the medieval Jewish community that, although very small in size, made a huge contribution to Judaism.

SYNAGOGUE

Located in an historic section of town, this synagogue is a replica of one from Rashi's time. Begun in 1982, it was dedicated in 1987. 5, rue Brunneval, tel. 03.25.73.53.01

LIBRARY

Institut Universitaire Rachi 2, rue Brunneval, tel. 03.25.73.22.98

LORRAINE

Jewish settlement in this former Duchy is believed to go back to the fourth century. In the mid-15th century, Duke John II granted Jews the right to live in cities such as Nancy, Lunéville, and Sarreguemines, but only 20 years later his successor, Duke René II, appropriated their property and expelled them.

Life improved somewhat when Lorraine became part of France in 1766. On the eve of the French Revolution, about 500 Jewish families lived in the region.

Following Jewish emancipation, the vast majority of Lorraine's Jews (nearly 11,000 by 1808) lived in and around Nancy. They established synagogues, schools, and community organizations. In 1871, after France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War in 1871, Jewish refugees from Alsace and the parts of Lorraine annexed by Germany moved to French Lorraine. The Treaty of Versailles (1919), which returned Alsace and Lorraine to France, resulted in an increase in the Jewish populations through immigration from Eastern Europe. World War II took a great toll on Lorraine's Jews.

NANCY

TOURIST OFFICE Place Stanislas, 54000 Nancy, tel. 03.83.35.22.41, www.ot-nancy.fr

SYNAGOGUES

The **main synagogue**, built in 1788, was restored and enlarged in 1841. It is one of the oldest in both Alsace and Lorraine, and listed as a French historical monument. During World War II, the Germans used it as a supply depot. 17, blvd. Joffre, tel. 03.83.32.10.67. The **Cercle Juif Masorti de Nancy** is a Conservative congregation. 9, rue Blondlot.

MUSEUM

Musée Lorrain The Lorraine Museum has the second-most-important collection in France of Torahs, prayer books, and other Jewish objects. Open daily, except Tuesday and public holidays, 10 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and 2 P.M. - 6 P.M. 64, Grand' Rue, tel. 03.83.32.18.74

The induction of Rabbi Charles Friedemann (center, without glasses) to the present-day Bischheim synagogue located at 9, place de la Synagogue

LUNÉVILLE

TOURIST OFFICE Château, 54300 Lunéville, tel. 03.83.74.06.55, www.luneville.fr

SYNAGOGUE

This historic synagogue, completed in 1786 and enlarged in 1860, was the first in France to have the authorization of the king. It was saved from Nazi destruction by American troops. For visits contact Mr. Jean-Yves Sebban, tel. 03.83.74.17.52. 5, rue Castara

VERDUN

TOURIST OFFICE Place de la Nation, 55100 Verdun, tel. 03.29.84.18.85, www.verdun-tourisme.com

Jews have lived here since the ninth century and it was also a center for the Tosaphists (rabbinical scholars who wrote commentaries and analyses of the Torah and Talmud). Most notable among these were the followers of Rabbenu Tam.

SYNAGOGUE

Built in 1805 on the site of a Dominican monastery, the synagogue was destroyed during the Franco-German war in October 1870, but reconstructed in 1872. Its Moorish architectural style reflects 10th-, 11th-, and 12th-century Byzantine influences. In World War II, the Nazis gutted the synagogue and used it as a mess hall. It was restored with the aid of Jewish members of the American army and placed on the register of historic monuments in 1984. Impasse des Jacobins, tel. 03.29.84.39.15

MEMORIAL

At Fort Douaumont, a memorial commemorates French and foreign Jews who died for France during World War I. It was dedicated in June 1938, the 22nd anniversary of the horrific battle of Verdun.

METZ

TOURIST OFFICE 2, place d'Armes, 57000 Metz, tel. 03.87.55.53.76, www.tourisme.mairie-metz.fr

In the Middle Ages, the Vicus Judaeorum was the Jewish quarter. Metz was home to France's first state-sanctioned rabbinical seminary (Ecole Centrale Rabinique), which was relocated to Paris in 1859.

SYNAGOGUE

French historic monument. 39, rue du Rabbin-Elie-Bloch, tel. 03.87.75.04.44 ■



The historic synagogue of Metz (Lorraine)

© Marie de Metz/Christian Legay—Marc Royer



**"THE ONE WHO
MEDITATES UPON
WORDS OF TORAH,
CONSTANTLY
FINDS NEW
MEANINGS IN
THEM."**

**(RASHI'S COMMENTARY
ON SONG OF SONGS, 5:16)**



© Thémor Klein/Alsation Judaism website
www.sdv.fr/judaisme

SOUTHERN FRANCE

CÔTE D'AZUR

The Côte d'Azur lacks the Jewish historic sites found in other parts of France. Nonetheless, there is a strong modern-day Jewish presence here. Nice has the largest Jewish population, and sizable communities can be found in Antibes–Juan-les-Pins and Cannes.

Communauté Juive Massorti Maayane Or Conservative congregation.

16, rue Verdi, tel. 04.93.88.25.20

Union Libérale Israélite de France Reform congregation.

24, rue de France, tel. 04.93.82.26.15

CANNES

KOSHER RESTAURANTS

Le Tovel

3, rue du Docteur Gérard Monod, tel. 04.93.39.36.25.
Meat

Pizza Dick

7 bis, rue de Mimont, tel. 04.92.59.10.82. Dairy

Supermarché La Emouna

37, rue de Mimont, tel. 04.93.68.53.02.
Kosher supermarket

ANTIBES–JUAN-LES-PINS

TOURIST OFFICE 11, place du Général de Gaulle, 06600 Antibes, tel. 04.97.33.11.11, www.antibesjuanlespins.com

SYNAGOGUE

30, chemin des Sables, tel. 04.93.61.59.34

CANNES

TOURIST OFFICE Palais des Festivals, Esplanade Georges Pompidou, 06400 Cannes, tel. 04.92.99.84.22, www.cannes.fr

SYNAGOGUE AND COMMUNITY CENTER

Association Culturelle Israélite 20, blvd. d'Alsace, tel. 04.93.38.47.18

NICE

TOURIST OFFICE 5, promenade des Anglais, 06000 Nice, tel. 08.92.70.74.07, www.nicetourisme.com

Nice has the largest Jewish community—with some 30,000 members—on the Côte d'Azur. France's chief rabbi, Joseph Sitruk, grew up here.

MUSEUM

Musée National Message Biblique Marc Chagall This national museum houses one of the finest and most important collections of Chagall's works, including stained glass, tapestries, sculptures, sketches and engravings. Open daily, except Monday and some holidays, 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. Avenue du Docteur Menard, tel. 04.93.53.87.20, www.musee-chagall.fr

SYNAGOGUES

Grande Synagogue and **Association Culturelle Israélite de Nice** The stained glass windows are particularly lovely. 7, rue Gustave-Deloye/1, rue Voltaire, tel. 04.93.92.11.38

PROVENCE

Some of the oldest Jewish sites in France are in Provence, where Jewish culture has thrived since the early Middle Ages. The Talmud was interpreted with uncommon skill, and Jews from all over Europe sought out Provençal scholars on matters of Jewish law. When Provence came under Catalan rule in the 12th century, the literature, science, poetry, and philosophy of the Jews and non-Jews of Catalonia enriched the Jewish culture.

DRIVING TOUR

This tour through the *Arba Kehilot* (four holy communities)—Avignon, Carpentras, Cavaillon (and L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue)—can be easily completed in a day. Use Michelin map #245. Roads are well marked.

The Vaucluse region, known historically as the Comtat Venaissin, has always been a relatively safe haven for Jews. Ceded to the Vatican in 1274, it remained in the Vatican's hands until 1791, when it reverted to France. Jews in the Comtat spoke a Judeo-Provençal dialect and developed their own liturgy, Comtatdin. Under the protection of the Avignon Popes, the Jewish community flourished. Jews were permitted to live in Avignon, Carpentras, Cavaillon, and L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, known at the time as the *Arba Kehilot*. With the exception of L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, these cities still contain fine vestiges of their old Jewish quarters.

To receive the free brochure *The Road to Jewish Heritage in the South of France*, contact the Vaucluse Department Tourist Office, B.P. 147, 84008 Avignon Cedex, tel. 04.90.80.47.00, www.provenceguide.com.

START YOUR DRIVE IN AVIGNON.

NICE

KOSHER RESTAURANTS

Le Danton Snack

13, rue Andrioli, tel. 04.93.44.11.94. Asian

Leviathan

1, avenue Georges Clemenceau, tel. 04.93.87.22.64. Pizza, fish

Lechem Chamaim

22, rue Rossini

Supermarché K'gel

18, rue Dante, tel. 04.93.86.33.01.
Kosher supermarket



AVIGNON

TOURIST OFFICE 41, cours Jean-Jaurès, 84000 Avignon, tel. 04.32.74.32.74, www.ot-avignon.fr

ANCIENT GHETTO

The Jewish community in Avignon has roots as far back as the first century after the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem (70 AD). However, there are no records of the community before the 12th century. The first Jewish quarter, or *carrière*, faced the Pope's Palace on Rue de la Vieille Juiverie. By the early 13th century, the *carrière* was on Rue Jacob and Place Jerusalem, where the present-day synagogue stands. This tiny area, barely 100 square yards, was home to over 1,000 people. There were many restrictions on Jewish life within the *carrière*. Walls surrounded it and three gates kept Jews from leaving without permission. Even when permission was granted the Roman Catholic Church collected tolls.

SYNAGOGUE

Built in 1846, the current synagogue replaced one much older that burned down. Place Jerusalem, tel. 04.90.85.21.24

FROM AVIGNON, HEAD NORTHEAST FOR 25 KM TO CARPENTRAS. IN AVIGNON, USE D225 ALONG THE SOUTHERN BANK OF THE RHÔNE RIVER TO GET TO D942 (8 KM), A STRAIGHT SHOT TO CARPENTRAS (17 KM). AT CARPENTRAS, FOLLOW SIGNS TO THE CENTER OF TOWN. STREET PARKING IS DIFFICULT, SO USE THE MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS.

CARPENTRAS

TOURIST OFFICE Place Aristide Briand, 84200 Carpentras, tel. 04.90.63.00.78, www.carpentras-ventoux.com

SYNAGOGUE

Built during 1741-1743, the structure contains parts of a 14th-century synagogue from the same site. A French historic landmark, the present synagogue was partially restored in 1930, 1953, and 1959. Because of an old regulation forbidding exterior decoration, the synagogue is plain, but it conceals an ornate Rococo sanctuary similar to Italian

synagogues of the same period. The raised Bimah, at the opposite end of the room from the Ark, is also characteristic of this style. In the 18th century, the women sat in the basement, not in the mezzanine. A small window allowed them to hear services, and there was an official known as the *rabbi* of women. The basement also contains remnants of a matzo oven and mikvah. Place Maurice Charretier, tel. 04.90.63.39.97

CEMETERY

The medieval Jewish cemetery was destroyed in 1322, and the grave markers were used to build the town's ramparts. The present-day cemetery was established in 1367, but as papal edict forbade tombstones in Jewish cemeteries, the earliest stones are from the 18th century. Arrange visits through the synagogue.

FROM CARPENTRAS, TURN SOUTH ON D938 FOR THE 31-KILOMETER TRIP VIA L'ISLE-SUR-LA-SORGUE TO CAVAILLON, TYPICAL OF SMALL TOWNS IN PROVENCE—SLEEPY AND COLORFUL. THE SURROUNDING REGION IS OF COURSE NOTED FOR ITS MELONS.

CAVAILLON

TOURIST OFFICE Place François-Tourel, 84300 Cavaillon, tel. 04.90.71.32.01, www.cavaillon-luberon.com

The old Jewish quarter is on Rue Hébraïque, just off the main street and behind the tourist office.

SYNAGOGUE

Above a passageway between Rue Hébraïque and Rue Chabran, the restored synagogue overlooks the old *carrière*. Smaller than the one in Carpentras, but no less elaborate, the synagogue, now a national historic monument, is no longer in use.

MUSEUM

Musée Judéo-Comtadin The museum in the synagogue's basement (at street level), but separate from the synagogue, once housed a matzo bakery. Today, displays depict the community's history and contain Torah scrolls, ritual objects, and historical documents.



© C. Tajchner

A French Jewish boy on the day of his Bar Mitzvah

TO BE A JEW IN FRANCE IS

“...IS TO FEEL JEWISH IN ONE'S SOUL, AND TO BELONG TO A COMPLEX BUT UNIFIED COMMUNITY.”

JULIE ALPERN
STUDENT



The interior of the synagogue of Cavaillon (Provence)



© OT Cavaillon/José Nicolas

Some of the children of Izieu in the summer of 1943



© Maison d'Izieu

Though small, the exhibit is a fascinating look at French Jewish life in the town and in the region. 6, rue de Chabran, tel. 04.90.76.00.34

IF TIME PERMITS, CONTINUE YOUR DRIVE INTO THE BOUCHES-DU-RHÔNE AND ALPILLES FOR VISITS TO ST-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE AND ARLES. FROM CAVAILLON, TURN SOUTHWEST D99 FOR THE EASY TRIP TO ST-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE (19 KM).

ST-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

TOURIST OFFICE Place Jean-Jaurès, 13210 St-Remy-de-Provence, tel. 04.90.92.05.22, www.saintremy-de-provence.com

CEMETERY

The Jewish cemetery dates back to the Middle Ages, with tombstones from before 1400. Open once a year, during the Journées du Patrimoine (Heritage Days), usually the first or second weekend in September, when there are guided visits. Located next to the Plateau des Antiques.

FROM ST-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE, TAKE D5 SOUTH TO MAUSSANES-ALPILLES (11 KM) AND TURN RIGHT ON D117 STRAIGHT TO ARLES (19 KM).

ARLES

TOURIST OFFICE Blvd. des Lices, 13200 Arles, tel. 04.90.18.41.20, www.tourisme.ville-arles.fr

During the Middle Ages, the Jewish community lived along Rue de la Juiverie, now called Rue du Docteur Fanton. The Jews were expelled from the entire region in 1495; the Jewish quarter was destroyed and the district incorporated into the city.

MUSEUM

The **Musée Arlatan** contains Jewish ritual and historical objects from Provence. Open daily (except Monday in October through June), 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and 2 P.M. - 6 P.M. 29, rue de la République, tel. 04.90.93.58.11

MARSEILLE

TOURIST OFFICE 4, La Canebière, 13001 Marseille, tel. 04.91.13.89.00, www.marseille-tourisme.com

France's second largest Jewish community lives in France's second largest city, Marseille, which Jews have called home since the sixth century, when an already existing community provided refuge to Jews fleeing forced conversions in Clermont-Ferrand. The Jews of Marseille were scholars, merchants, laborers, coral craftsmen, and brokers. Benjamin of Tudela, the 12th-century traveler who chronicled the Jewish world of the time, provides a description of scholars, philosophers, and psalmists who lived among the Marseille Jews. The present community dates back to 1760.

SYNAGOGUES

Grande Synagogue Breteuil Not far from Marseille's Old Port is the Grande Synagogue. Constructed in 1864, it also contains the offices of the **Consistoire de Marseille** and other Jewish organizations. The interior is typical of French synagogues constructed in the early and mid-19th century following Jewish emancipation. 117, rue de Breteuil, tel. 04.91.37.49.64

Union Libérale Israélite de France 21, rue Martiny, tel. 04.91.71.97.46

Centre Communautaire Edmond Fleg 4, impasse Dragon, tel. 04.91.37.42.01

ORGANIZATION

Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France From February 2007: 4, impasse Dragon, tel. 04.91.57.03.35, www.crif.org

LIBRARY

Bibliothèque Juive de Marseille Not open to the public. Call for information. 18, blvd Michelet, tel. 04.91.71.85.41

RHÔNE-ALPS

LYON

TOURIST OFFICE Place Bellecour, 2nd arr., 69000 Lyon, tel. 04.72.77.69.69, www.lyon-france.com

During World War II, Lyon was a free city. As a result, all Jewish life in France was centralized there and the city was able to provide safe refuge to a number of Jews.

JEWISH QUARTER

Rue Juiverie is just behind the Church of St-Paul and is a remnant of an old Jewish quarter that once contained a synagogue, cemetery, and other community institutions. Today, nothing but the street name remains.

SYNAGOGUES

Grande Synagogue and Consistoire de Lyon Located on the left bank of the Saône River, facing the Eglise de St-Georges, the synagogue has been designated an official historic monument. Built in 1864. 13, quai Tilsitt, 2nd arr., tel. 04.78.37.13.43

Another nearby synagogue was built in 1919. 47, rue Montesquieu

MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS

Centre d'Histoire de la Résistance et de la Déportation Open Wednesday to Sunday, 9 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. 14, avenue Berthelot, 7th arr., tel. 04.72.73.33.54

Monument to Victims of Nazi Barbarism Place Bellecour, 2nd arr.

Mémorial Musée des Enfants Juifs d'Izieu About 45 miles east of Lyon is the village of Izieu. On April 6, 1944, Klaus Barbie's henchmen arrested 44 children and 7 adults who were in hiding. Most were sent to the gas chambers in Auschwitz. Two teenagers and the director of the house were shot in Estonia. Of the 51 Jews only one woman survived. Open daily, 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. Tel. 04.79.87.21.05, www.izieu.alma.fr ■

MARSEILLE

KOSHER RESTAURANTS

Davi's Café

7, rue Rouget de l'Isle. Meat

Emma Lisa

1, avenue St-Jean, tel. 04.91.90.77.72. Meat

Erets

205, rue de Rome. Meat

Le Kikar

35, rue St-Suffren, tel. 04.91.81.13.68. Dairy

Le Sheraton

17, rue de Village, tel. 04.96.12.40.38. Meat

LYON

RESTAURANTS

Henry Lippmann

4, rue Tony Tollet, tel. 04.78.42.49.82. Meat

Jo Délice

44, rue Rachais, tel. 04.78.69.22.98. Pastries

Le Fortuna

68, rue de la Charité. Meat

BOOKSTORE

Decitre

29, place Bellecour, tel. 04.26.68.00.04

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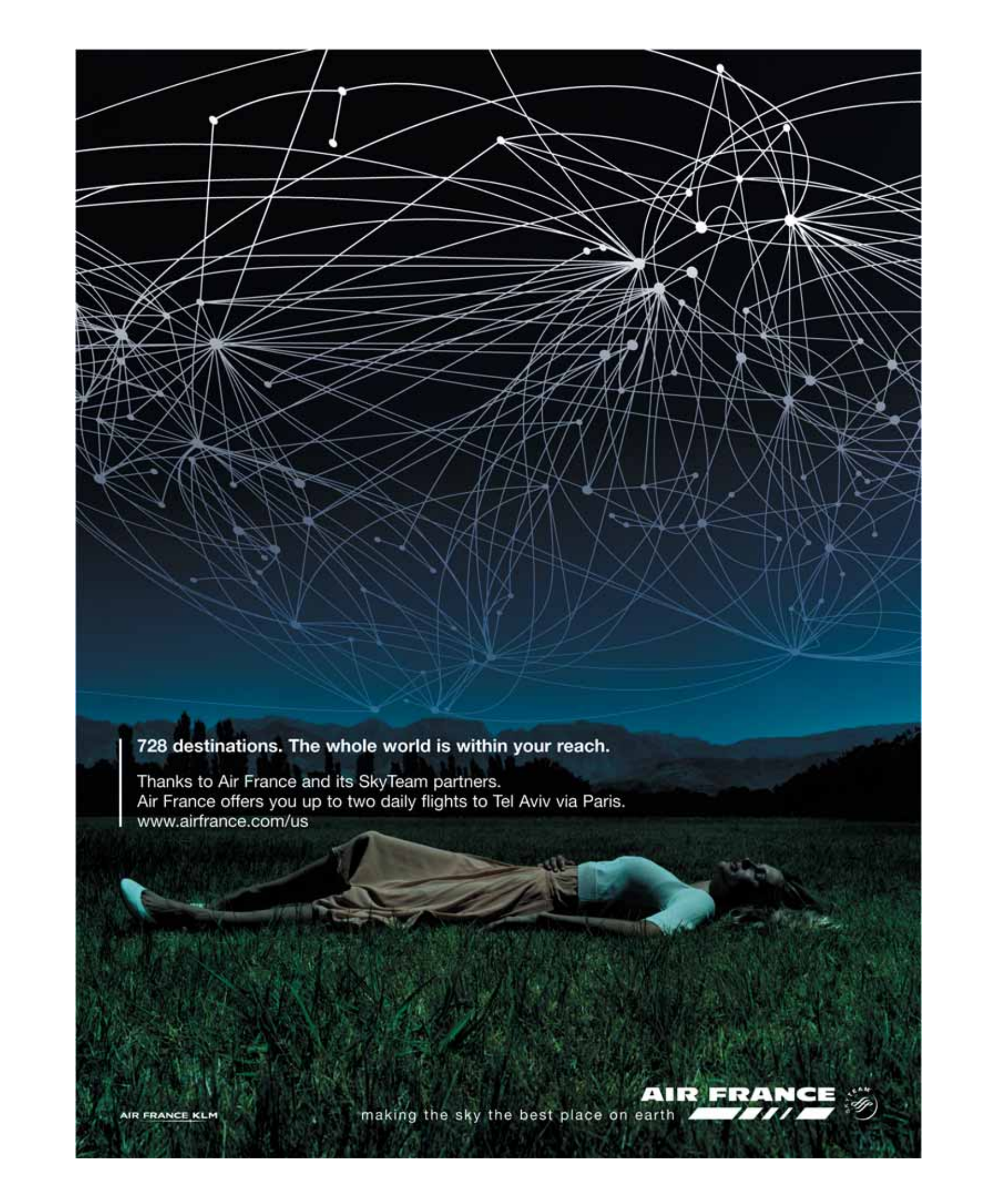
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A woman in a light blue top and brown skirt lies on her back in a grassy field at night. The sky above is dark blue and filled with a complex network of white lines and dots, representing flight paths and destinations. The lines radiate from various points, creating a sense of global connectivity. The background shows a silhouette of a forest and hills under a twilight sky.

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