



La Lorraine

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The sun always rises in the East



• | **Triumphal arch on Place Stanislas, Nancy.**





gold & light

Lorraine! It is often seen as austere yet, in French, the first syllable of its name contains the word "gold", a precious metal whose reflections, richness and magic light up Place Stanislas in Nancy, the "chiaroscuro" works of the Lorraine artist, Georges de La Tour, St. Stephen's Cathedral in Metz and the daffodils on the banks of the lake in Gérardmer. Its colour and generous nature instil life into its beers and sweeten its confectionary. Gold has a taste in this area (the taste of a wonderful fruit called the mirabelle plum) and the locals are undoubtedly the most skilful "goldsmiths" when it comes to making use of it.

• | **Place Stanislas, Nancy**
Close-up of wrought ironwork on the huge gates designed by Jean Lamour.



- 1 | **A “Nancy Bergamot”**
A golden sweet, made of sugar and bergamot.
- 2, 5 | **Place Stanislas, Nancy**
Restored in 2005, this square is now a Unesco World Heritage site – and a never-ending enchantment by day and night alike.
- 3 | **Lorraine beer**
- 4 | **Jaumont stone**
Golden yellow in the sunshine, it gives Metz and its finest historic buildings their dazzling glow.
- 6 | **Daffodils in Gérardmer**
On the hillsides around the lake in Gérardmer, spring brings with it an explosion of yellow blooms. It's like a natural fireworks display in the middle of the day.
- 7 | **Harvesting mirabelle plums**
In the height of summer, it rains mirabelle plums when producers mechanically shake the trees to make the ripe fruit fall onto pieces of canvas below.

Rendez-vous on Place Stanislas

The gold leaf on the world-famous Place Stanislas in Nancy is the signature feature of this dazzling location where the huge wrought ironwork gates designed by Jean Lamour blend harmoniously with Baroque architecture, fountains decorated with figures from myths and legends and a triumphal arch to the glory of King Louis XV. What is it about this square? Its elegance, proportions, atmosphere, pavement cafés or King Stanislaw standing proudly in the middle? Whatever the truth of the matter, the square has a timeless quality that makes each visitor feel like a royal guest.

Bergamot or tastes of the Vosges?

In Lorraine, sugar is spun into gold. Just take a look at its regional confectionary. In the Vosges, sweets are filled with the flavour and scent of pine trees, resin or forest honey.

In Nancy, bergamot from far-off Sicily inspired a mouthwatering, translucent, golden bonbon. Sold in little “collectors’ tins”, these sweets remind us of the fragrances and flavours of our childhood.

A festival of daffodils in the spring

More than 1,500 children crowd the banks of the lake in Gérardmer every two years to pick the six million wild flowers needed to decorate the floats for a very popular festival in which daffodils play the lead role. It’s a springtime festival, a colourful joyous event in an enchanting natural environment.

For the love of beer

Beer is an institution here. That’s undoubtedly why there are so many beer museums, from Stenay to Ville-sur-Illon and Saint-Nicolas-de-Port. Not forgetting the microbreweries, the farm-breweries and the artisanal breweries. The locals may no longer be producing quantity in them but they are definitely cultivating beer as an art form through a wide range of different tastes.

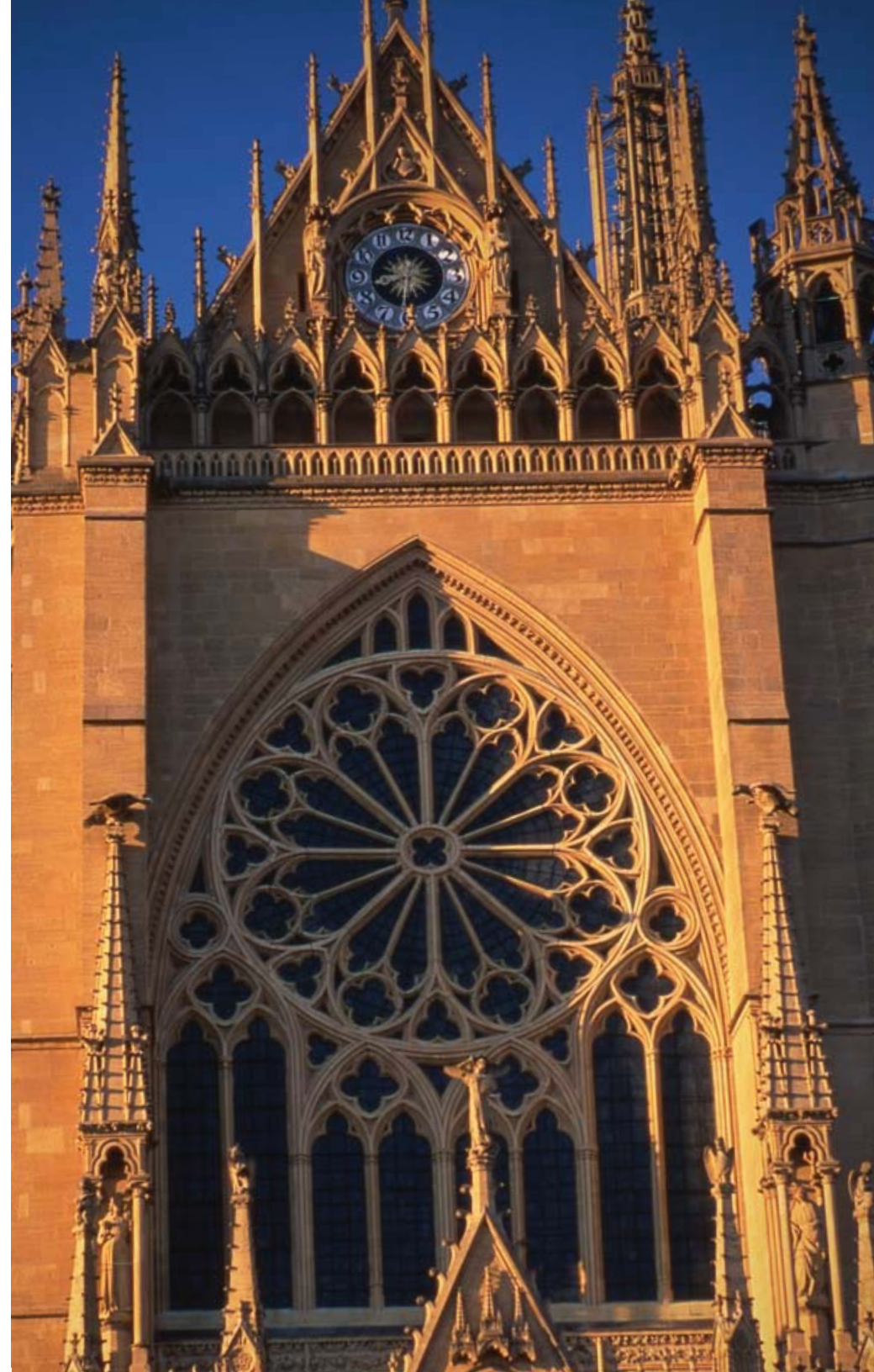
A golden stone for Metz

Jaumont stone has made Metz a town glowing with golden yellow tones. It gives the old town its soul and its charm; it brings a gleam to many of the historic buildings. In fact, the outstanding qualities of this fine-grained limestone ensured that it was used to build the majestic cathedral dedicated to St. Stephen, a Gothic construction with rich carvings whose golden glow rivals the splendour of its stained-glass windows.

The exquisite mirabelle plum

There is a subtle alchemy between mirabelle plums and Lorraine. The trees draw their strength from the low temperatures in an area that has “real” winters and the fruit naturally distils its sugar and flavour by playing on the differences in temperature between night and day. Whether eaten fresh, made into jam, used as an ingredient in cakes or main courses, or distilled to make plum brandy, mirabelle plums are outstanding for their versatility. The golden fruit is more than just a symbol of regional lifestyle; it is the star of major festivals, convivial food fests of which the best-known are the ones in Metz at the end of August.

• | St. Stephen's Cathedral in Metz



fire & matter

The god Vulcan must have come from Lorraine because the region has been working with fire from the dawn of time. The blast furnaces operated by ironworks supervisors still spew out their steel. The kilns in glassworks produce a material in fusion ready to submit to the whims and fancies of leading designers. Potteries jealously maintain their traditions while enamelling is enjoying a comeback in the hands of contemporary designers. From heavy industry to goldsmithing, the alchemy inherent to Lorraine transforms, creates, innovates and, in doing so, astonishes the whole world.

• | **Making a Douglas vase** at the International Art Glass Centre in Meisenthal





fire & matter



Longwy enamel

Longwy enamels are beautiful ceramic items onto which cloisonné enamel decoration is fired. The expertise is quite unique and it is now enjoying a revival, attracting a number of young designers. Their workshops produce contemporary items combining an age-old technique with the stylistic devices of the present day. It's a recipe for unashamed luxury!

Crystal: chandeliers and opulence

Daum, Baccarat and Saint-Louis are the names of crystal works which are so international that one might almost forget they belong first and foremost to Lorraine. From huge chandeliers to tableware, and from furniture to jewellery, crystal transforms everything into a work of art, sparkling with a thousand reflections. The showrooms, museums and workshop tours will give you an in-depth insight into this fascinating, precious and very sensual material.

Metz, the capital of stained glass

Metz is a beautiful "shop window" displaying the history of stained glass. The greatest glass painters were all involved in the main work of art in St. Stephen's Cathedral (6,500 sq. metres of stained glass dating from the 13th to 20th centuries). Herman of Munster (14th century), Valentin Bousch (Renaissance period), Laurent-Charles Maréchal (19th century), Jacques Villon and Marc Chagall from 1960 to 1963 all demonstrated their talents there. Equally worth a look are the stained glass by Maréchal in the churches dedicated to Our Lady and St. Martin and,

from a more recent period, the stained-glass windows by Nicolas Untersteller in St. Teresa's Church and by Jean Cocteau in St. Maximin's.

Glass: a breath of Art Nouveau

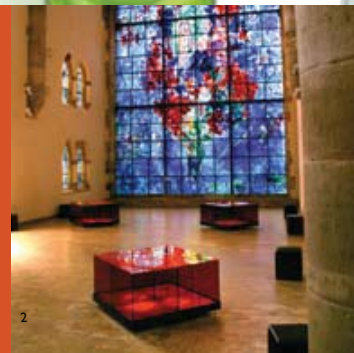
Glass is a traditional, symbolic product in this region. Previously limited to tableware, it underwent an aesthetic and technical revolution at the end of the 19th century. It was to Émile Gallé, a genius of the Art Nouveau style, that we owe this outpouring of creativity. Colours, effects, engraving, and sinuous plant forms combined to create unique pieces that still amaze us today. In the Nancy School Museum (musée de l'École de Nancy) and in Meisenthal at the international art glass centre (Centre International d'Art Verrier), you can see the results of this revival in the glassmaking sector.

Ceramics inspire Lorraine

Niderviller; Lunéville Saint-Clément, Toul, Longwy, Sarreguemines – Lorraine has the highest concentration of leading names in the ceramics sector. Each place has its own style, its niche market, its technique and its reputation. Workshops, many of them open to the public, keep this heritage alive or, in some cases, revive a heritage that was lost.



- 1 | **Made in Meisenthal Exhibition**, International Art Glass Centre, Meisenthal
- 2 | **Stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall in the Chapelle des Cordeliers (Franciscan Chapel)**, Sarrebourg © Adagp, Paris 2010
- 3 | **Enamel from Longwy**
- 4 | **Museum of faïence techniques**, Sarreguemines
- 5 | **"Helium" Christmas baubles**, International Art Glass Centre, Meisenthal





A blast furnace is beautiful at night

U4 in Uckange was closed in 1991 but, since 2007, it has been brought back to life with the dazzling "All Suns", a work by contemporary artist, Claude Lévêque. The Parc du Haut-Fourneau, though, is more than a gigantic work of art; it is place of industrial remembrance, taking us into the bowels, mazes and towers of the gigantic steel monster. And the tour is all the more fascinating because the guides are former workers from the site whose memories breathe new life into Lorraine's "volcanoes", creating an ambiance reminiscent of the days when they were operational.

• | A blast furnace illuminated by Claude Lévêque in Uckange © Adapp, Paris 2010



water

& well-being

Water is a source of amazement here thanks to the grandiose landscapes that it creates and brings life to, much to the delight of walkers, swimmers and fans of other outdoor leisure activities. It carries us along rivers and canals at the reassuring speed of barges. It cares for us, gives us back our fitness, looks after our well-being. Although Vittel and Contrex mineral water can be seen on all good tables throughout Europe, there is nothing like coming back to their sources in Lorraine where they are still imbued with magical power.



Water, a sight to behold

In Lorraine, water is a living entity. It plays with the topography of the Vosges, leads a quiet life on the Lorraine Plateau, twists and turns from hillside to hillside in Meuse and spreads out to form the huge glacial lakes that are so popular for boating. Whether it's green, blue or crystal clear, the water also delights those who are fond of unspoilt nature – not to mention anglers. There are the large lakes in Gérardmer and Madine, but there are also more mysterious places such as the Pierre Percée or Les Corbeaux and amazing pools of salt water, the remains of a lost ocean, in the Saulx district.

Sound and spume in Tendon

At an altitude of almost 600 metres, the Tendon cascade, the longest waterfall in the Vosges, rushes 30 metres down a rock face. A deafening roar and plumes of white spray break the silence and splash into the surrounding forest.

Lorraine cruises

700 kilometres of canals and waterways crisscross the region, giving access to pleasant places to stop for a while on their banks. Verdun, Metz, Toul, Thionville, Nancy, Epinal, Charmes, Sarreguemines and Fontenoy-le-Château are among the ports from which would-be mariners and fresh water sailors can climb aboard their craft.

Well-being in spa towns

Lorraine's mineral and spa waters have created places famous for their health-giving virtues and the spa towns have developed into delightful holiday venues.

Having undergone renovation, Vittel and Contrexéville, of course, as well as Plombières-les-Bains, Bains-les-Bains or Amnéville now provide visitors with a sense of well-being.



- 1 | Lake in Gérardmer
- 2 | Lorraine river cruise
- 3 | Vittel, a shower with essential oils
- 4 | Sparkling waters in Cornimont
- 5 | Villa Pompéi in Amnéville

WOOD & violins

An ocean of greenery, the ideal place for a stroll or a longer walk to discover little corners of heaven and find out about the know-how that existed many years ago or is still very much alive today – this is the woodland Lorraine, neat and tidy, dynamic and full of chlorophyll.

• | A spruce forest in the Sarrebourg area





- 1-2 | **Mirecourt**, violin workshop
- 3 | **La Bresse**, "sledging timber" at the Forest and Granite Festival
- 4 | **Baudignécourt, Collinet sièges**, low fireside chair, Claude Robin Collection

Solid timber in the Vosges

As Lorraine's "green lung" with 48% woodland, the *département* of Vosges has turned its forest into a solid source of income. The timber industry is represented here in all its forms including specialities derived from, and based on, forestry e.g. wood for heating, construction, furniture, paper; toys and even violins.

Essences & senses

Since the days of Charlemagne who liked hunting here, Lorraine's forests have undoubtedly become less dense and less deep. Yet they are still home to game and their 850,000 hectares (one-third of the territory) point towards the highest of French regions. Although beech and oak remain the commonest trees, the Vosges is steeped in a scent of pine resin. Between the forests in Moselle and those in the Vosges du Nord Regional Country Park (Parc Naturel Régional des Vosges du Nord), these vast stretches of greenery are crisscrossed in every direction by footpaths or mountain bike trails suitable for all levels of ability, giving plenty of opportunity to taste the joys of physical effort and the beauty of the scenery.

Designer furniture

Like a Lorraine linen press, traditional furniture was, for many years, an illustration of the expertise of local joiners, woodcarvers and cabinetmakers. With the arrival of the Nancy School and the work of Louis Majorelle, however, it evolved into diverse new forms with equally new and diverse decoration. Today, although many craftsman are upholding this tradition, workshops and factories in the south of Meuse and Vosges around Liffol-le-Grand and Neufchâteau, some of them more than a hundred years old, are successfully investing time and effort in modern design and producing some top-of-the-range furniture.

Wood for violins

Since the 17th century, Mirecourt has been the cradle of French stringed instrument making. Violins and bows, guitars and mandolins from Lorraine have travelled all over the world. There are now countless small workshops in the town, which also has a centre of mechanical music (*maison de la musique mécanique*), a stringed instrument museum and a National College of Stringed Instrument Making.



Land & mines

Coal, iron and salt have taken the people of Lorraine underground and brought them economic wealth. Although the mines are no longer in use, the legends that grew up around them are still alive and well.

The pitheads have become folk museums. Industrial buildings house sound and light shows. The miners are now tourist guides and the galleries contain exhibitions of equipment, expertise and geological oddities.

This is a fabulous journey to the centre of the Earth, something to remember for a long time!

- | **Iron mining folk museum** in Neufchef (top)
- | **Carreau Wendel museum** in Petite Rosselle (bottom)



A journey to the heart of coalmining

All that remains of Lorraine's coal industry is one mine - the Carreau Wendel in Petite-Rosselle, and it's only open to visitors. For their journey through the largest mine in France, they board a small train which carries them to the coal face. There they find out about the underground world with its techniques, machinery and trades. Thanks to 3D effects, they can also experience a day in the life of a miner. Even children have their own entertainment to watch. And when visitors leave the mine, there are no more "black faces" coming back to the surface, just a crowd of very happy people.

The land of "yellow faces"

The area near the three borders was once the Land of Iron with its "yellow faces" named after the colour of the ore being extracted. Today, you can still travel down to the bottom of the mine, but only to visit it. In the museum in Neufchef, you can take a one-kilometre walk through the galleries and see how

techniques changed. In Aumetz, visitors are shown the engine room, forge and production of explosives before climbing to the top of a 35-metre headframe. After these adventures, all that remains is to stop in Sainte-Barbe de Crusnes and light a candle in one of the few churches to be built of iron.

White gold in the Saulx area

The Saulx area is a strange land of lakes, marshes and salt water pools. It gets its name from that most valuable of foodstuffs, salt. Back in the Gallo-Roman times, its salt marshes were famous. Today, Lorraine still extracts one-half of all the salt produced in France from this area. The museum in Marsal (musée départemental du sel) illustrates every facet of the industry through the ages, thanks to a fine collection of operating tools.

- 1 | **Copper mine**, Le Thillot
- 2-3-5 | **Carreau Wendel**, Petite-Rosselle
- 4 | **Salt museum**, Marsal
- 6 | **The Children of Coal**
- 7 | **Iron mining folk museum**, Neufchef



The Children of Coal

Every summer, Carreau Wendel near Forbach brings the story of coal mining back to life through a moving, amazing sound and light show called "Les Enfants du Charbon". It is a superproduction with a costumed cast of 220, giant screens, special effects and fireworks, all set against a real mining background. It gives the Vuillemin pit back its soul and breathes new life into the flame once carried by the "black faces".



winter & gingerbread

When France begins to shiver, Lorraine welcomes General Winter with a great deal of warmth and popular enthusiasm. The magic of the festivities begins here on 6th December; with the arrival of St. Nicholas. Between fairytale Christmas markets, the fragrance of gingerbread and the icy delights of snow and skiing, this season is full of fun and enjoyment and it will stretch out its arms to welcome all those who have kept their childlike soul.



La Bresse: something new in town planning

The resort of La Bresse is being modernised with new more convivial amenities. Yet it has lost none of its mountain, family-oriented character. The buildings have been re-erected in stone and wood and because the resort wants to retain its breathtaking natural environment, the design has been based on the need for sustainable local development. The materials come from the forest, power is provided by water from the mountains and the steam plants are supplied from local sawmills. A snow bus takes people around the resort so there's no need to take the car out. In La Bresse, winter sports have become a healthy, honest (and durable) pleasure!

The Blue Line of the Vosges and White Lorraine

With more than 300 kms of pistes, the ski slopes in the Vosges have winter sports to suit all levels of skill, from absolute beginners to adrenalin junkies. Downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoe outings, snowboarding, kiteskiing and kitesnowboarding ensure that there's something for all tastes in this unspoilt natural environment with its magnificent snowclad summits that so appeal to those of a more contemplative turn of mind. Lovers of adventure can enjoy the unique pleasures of an overnight bivouac in the mountains or a night in an igloo while fathers of a more tranquil disposition can try the many family activities available in a mountain range that has retained its highland soul. There are eight resorts there, all laid out on a human scale. La Bresse, of course! But there's also Gérardmer, the "Pearl of the Vosges", magnificently located in the heart of a valley dotted with lakes and boasting the longest ski run in the Vosges. Or Ventron with its "natural ski slopes + convivial atmosphere", ideal for young and old alike. For further information: www.vosges-lorraine.com

- 1 | **La Bresse**, chalet in the snow
- 2 | **Route des crêtes**, picnic
- 3 | **Gérardmer**, floodlit ski slopes
- 4 | **A typical Vosges inn**
- 5 | **Skiers**
- 6 | **Vosges**, sledding with the family



- 1 | **Saint-Nicolas-de-Port**, a torchlight procession on the Feast of St. Nicholas
- 2 | **A St. Nicholas made of gingerbread**
- 3 | **Mulled wine at the Christmas market**
- 4 | **Plombières-les-Bains**, the Feast of St. Nicholas procession
- 5 | **Christmas goodies!**
- 6 | **Musée Crecchio**, Muzeray
- 7 | **Festival of St. Nicholas**, place Stanislas, Nancy



Christmas, a time for fun

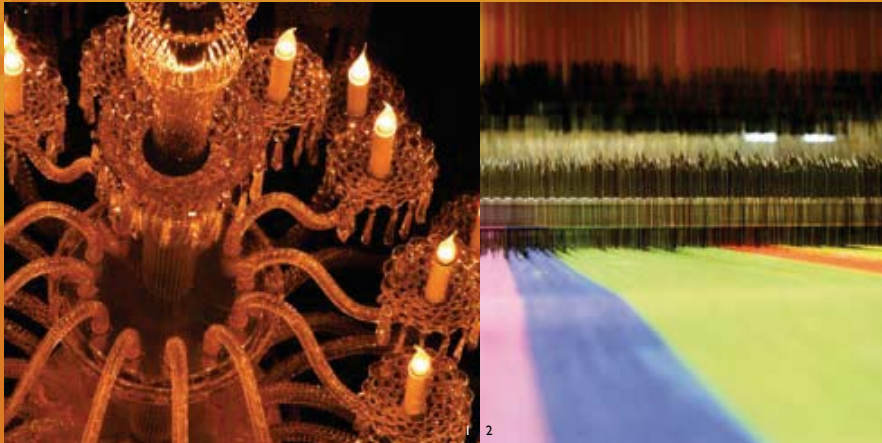
The whole of Lorraine makes the month of December the most magical time of year thanks to the many special events. The Christmas markets in Metz, Nancy, Plombières-les-Bains and Sarreguemines are steeped in the fragrance of mulled wine and gingerbread and are events not to be missed, bringing young and old together with the same general feeling of enthusiasm and excitement. Nativity scenes take over Muzeray, a small village in Northern Meuse, filling its nights with light, and the Musée Crecchio has a very beautiful display of 350 Christmas cribs from all over the world.

Saint Nicolas super star

Prince of the Festive Season, St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children and Lorraine, is the indisputable star of the weeks when fun, happiness and enjoyment fill every city, town and village. On the evening of 5th December, St. Nicholas parades through the streets surrounded by floats and children young and old who know that, overnight, he will place toys and confectionary in their clogs. In cities such as Nancy, the procession marks the start of the festive season and the fun lasts until the weekend with concerts, fireworks displays and original shows. Conviviality, warmth and amazement guaranteed by – St. Nicholas himself!!!



Genius in Lorraine



Lorraine's got talent! There is even genius in a region that turned novelty into an art form, believed before anybody else that images were a powerful medium and designed chandeliers for the finest palaces in the world.

Art Nouveau

Very few towns can boast of having created a school and produced such a following. Yet at the end of the 19th century, Nancy became an incubator for artists working in every sector (Emile Gallé, Louis Majorelle, Antonin Daum etc.) who sought inspiration in Nature and played with materials such as glass, ceramics, iron, textiles, wood etc., changing the techniques to suit their own preferred art form. The Nancy School also inspired architects who left their own naturalistic traces on the urban landscape. This living heritage can be seen on the fronts of private homes, apartments and shops. Step into the cafés and banks. Push open the door to the museum (musée de l'École de Nancy). You'll very quickly appreciate every aspect of an art form that was not restricted to one discipline. It extended to interior decoration, stained glass, furniture, jewellery, lighting, wrought ironwork and even gardens. Like Nature, nothing could stand in the way of this surge of creativity.

- 1 | **A huge crystal chandelier**, Saint-Louis crystal works
- 2 | **Linen from the Vosges**
- 3 | **Art Nouveau**, Eugène Vallin, Masson dining room, Nancy School Museum





Glass and crystal

The work is a show in its own right and is enchanting to watch. From Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche, which boasts the oldest crystal works in France, to the prestigious Baccarat, not forgetting the Daum works so closely linked to the Nancy School, glass blowers and cutters create the magic of glass and fire. Among the places not to be missed are the European centre for research and training in glassmaking (Centre Européen de Recherche et de Formation aux Arts Verriers) in Vannes-le-Châtel and Meisenthal with its visitors' centre (Maison du Verre) and its famous Christmas baubles made by the International Centre, proof that Lorraine has always had fire in its belly!

Faïence

From Lunéville where it was first made in 1724, tin-glazed earthenware brought a taste for a certain industrialised luxury to the whole of Lorraine. Tables all over the world are still laid using products from Longwy, Sarreguemines, Lunéville Saint-Clément or Niderviller, all part of a tradition given a new look by contemporary designers.



- 1 | **Baccarat**, Lumière collection
- 2 | **Faïence from Lunéville**
- 3 | **Daum**, Paradise collection, decorative birds of paradise vase
- 4 | **Saint-Louis**, a crystal glass
- 5 | **International Art Glass Centre**, in Meisenthal, Christmas baubles



- 1 | **Imagerie d'Épinal**, Puss-in-Boots
- 2 | **Linen from the Vosges**
- 3 | **Imagerie d'Épinal**, printing block
- 4 | **Nancy School Museum**, the binding of a book on Japanese art by Camille Martin
- 5 | **Saint-Mihiel**, the Benedictine library
- 6 | **Imagerie d'Épinal**, lithograph
- 7 | **Lace Centre**, Mirecourt



Lace and linen from the Vosges

Fine tables and lifestyle are highlighted by household linen from the Vosges, Gérardmer being the main centre (Linvosges, Le Jacquard Français, Garnier Thiébaud etc.). Its history is displayed in the textile museum (musée du textile) in Ventron and there is some amazing machinery. In Mirecourt, where there is also a museum, lace has been given a new lease of life thanks to enthusiastic youngsters, and the last beading embroideresses in Lunéville are keeping that tradition alive. Another example of fine tableware is cutlery (Baerenthal, Les couverts de Darney).

Épinal, the power of the image

In Épinal, the world of pictures is still as popular as ever and is supported by new illustrators following a tradition that grew up at the end of the 18th century. They provide a sense of lively creativity in the image centre (Cité de l'Image) that has grown up around a museum of 25,000 images and the Pellerin image works where visitors can learn about stencilling techniques.

Lorraine paper

Towns become favourite spots with bookworms during the Summer Book Festival in Metz and the Book Fair on the square in Nancy but the countryside has not been left out. Take a trip to Fontenoy-la-Joute, the "Village of Books", where there are 15 bookshops and 800,000 antique books! The second-hand stock includes rare or unusual items such as the "treasure" books (a large gradual and a missel) in the museum in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges and the works in the superb Benedictine library in Saint-Mihiel. Printed works are an integral part of a region that was the birthplace of engraver Jacques Callot, a master of the art of etching. In Etival-Clairefontaine, the famous papermill still produces school exercise books and in Pont-à-Mousson the paper museum (Musée Au Fil du Papier) contains an amazing collection of lacquered objects made of papier mâché including vases, side tables, clocks etc.

Works of Art

Lorraine is beautiful. Its protectors have been bishops, dukes and monarchs and all of them have always loved it as if it was a kingdom deserving of the finest of everything. Its cathedrals, castles, treasures and historic towns are among the most outstanding in France and all of them serve as reminders of this passionate past.



• Bar-le-Duc, the ducal town with its Renaissance districts

**Saint-Nicolas-de-Port:
Lorraine’s treasure**

The impressive Flamboyant Gothic basilica church is breathtaking for its sheer size. Not only does its nave rise to 30 metres above the ground but, in the transept, it has two slender columns 21.50 metres high, the tallest in France. The West Front is flanked by two towers 85 and 87 metres tall, topped by onion domes. The building is equally remarkable for its treasure, consisting of several priceless items such as the arm-shaped reliquary of St. Nicholas made of silver gilt, gold and silver:

**Franciscan chapels:
one for the Dukes of Lorraine
and the other for Chagall**

There are two Franciscan chapels. In Nancy, the chapel is the final resting-place of the Dukes of Lorraine, built within the ducal palace in the Late Gothic style. It includes an amazing Renaissance trompe-l’oeil cupola and the tombs were modelled on the ones in the Villa Medici. In Sarrebourg, the chapel acts as a frame for Marc Chagall’s extraordinary stained-glass “Peace” window (1974-1978).

**Verdun: a new cathedral
under the rubble**

Verdun’s cathedral, a major work of art combining the Romanesque and Gothic styles and standing proudly above the town, suffered from shelling during the First World War. Restoration work revealed the full splendour of the Lion Portal and the ornate Romanesque decoration in the crypt was completed by a realistic depiction of the Battle of Verdun fought close by.

Toul cathedral - grandiose!

There is something of Notre-Dame de Paris in its monumental portal but it has very much its own style, made up of sumptuous Flamboyant Gothic features on the West Front and the adorable Golden Ball campanile (which is actually made of lead!). St. Stephen’s Cathedral demands respect with its grandiose nave rising to a height of more than 30 metres. Its cloister is one of the largest in France.

Metz cathedral - impressive!

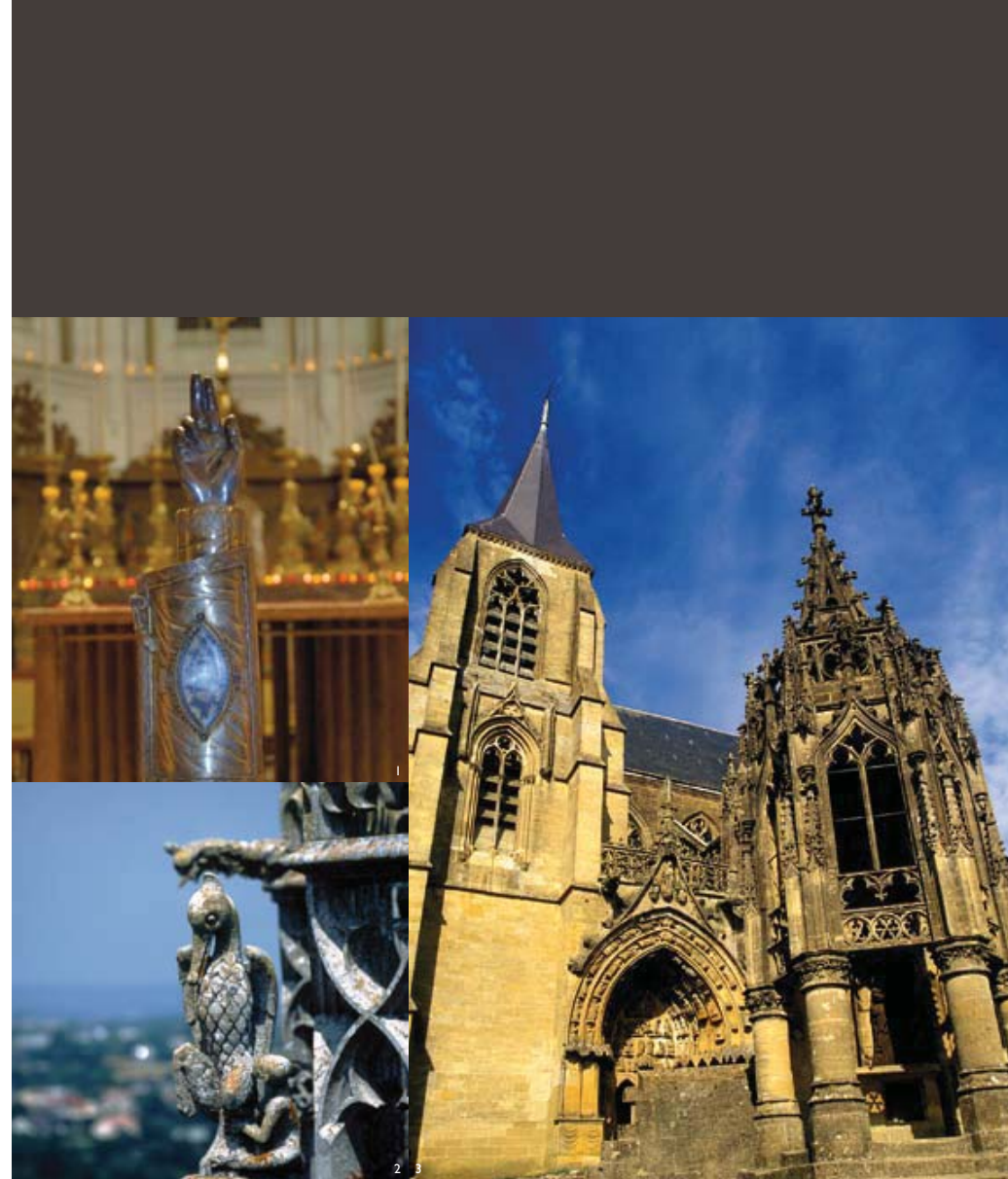
Audacious, solemn, bathed in magnificent golden hues at sunset, St. Stephen’s Cathedral in Metz has an impressive nave with vaulting 42 metres above the ground. In fact, this is the third largest nave in France. The famous Mutte Tower rises to 90 metres and there is an 11-tonne bell at the top, designed to warn the townspeople of impending danger:

**Sillegny, Lorraine’s
“Sistine Chapel”**

The outstanding decoration painted during the first half of the 16th century and restored by Malardot, a man from Metz, from 1845 onwards has brought the church the nickname “Sistine Chapel”. Visitors will see scenes from the life of Christ and stories of the saints. Recent restoration has given them back their piquancy and freshness.

**Avioth, the church
in the fields**

Set in the heart of the countryside, the majestic Gothic outline of Avioth’s basilica church stands high above this isolated spot. So much so, that you might think it had been given over to the spirits and to quiet prayer on a stretch of land famous for miracles and pilgrimages. Built in honour of the Virgin Mary, the “cathedral in the fields” is also famous for the Recevresse, a small construction in front of the South wall on which offerings could be placed.



- 1 | **Arm-shaped reliquary**, one of the treasures of the basilica church in Saint-Nicolas-de-Port
- 2 | **Toul Cathedral**, close-up
- 3 | **La Recevresse at Avioth basilica church**



- 1 | **Avioth**, Basilica Church of our Lady
- 2 | **Château d'Haroué**, the Pillement Tower with its fresh chinoiserie decoration
- 3 | **Saint-Nicolas-de-Port**, basilica church
- 4 | **Bar-le-Duc**, Ligier Richier's Skeleton, St. Stephen's Church
- 5 | **Pont-à-Mousson**, Premonstratensian abbey

Premonstratensian abbey – a cultural centre

Despite the abbey's eventful history, it survived the destructions of the French Revolution and two world wars. The gigantic stone nave is now firmly anchored on the right bank of the River Moselle in Pont-à-Mousson. It has a huge façade topped by a Roman-style frontispiece, an impressive cloister with long walkways surrounding an enclosed garth, three staircases apparently winding up to heaven, amazing for the audacity of their design. The austere, Classical venue consists of a succession of magical locations. It is now used for cultural events, concerts and exhibitions and even provides hotel accommodation in opulent surroundings.

Ligier Richier, Lorraine's Michelangelo

As a pioneer of the Renaissance style in Lorraine, Ligier Richier worked with stone, wood and earthenware, carving out a distinct position for himself in each of these media because of his attention to detail in the faces and the unbelievably fine way in which he "draped" garments. He developed a process of waxing limestone to give it the appearance of marble. The tomb of Philippe de Gueldre in Nancy illustrates the technique very well. One of his best-known works is the "Skeleton" at the top of the tomb containing the heart and entrails of René de Chalon, in Bar-le-Duc. Among his other masterpieces is the "Fainting of the Virgin Mary" and the "Entombment" in Saint-Mihiel as well as the Pietà in Etain.

- 1 | Pange Castle
- 2 | Bar-le-Duc, close-up of a Renaissance house
- 3 | Bar-le-Duc, house fronts
- 4 | Lunéville Castle



Bar-le-Duc, a trip into the Renaissance

The splendour of the Renaissance town can be glimpsed in the elegant yellow stone house fronts with their fine carvings, in the upper town. This historic district, which is amazing for its conservation, admits to some slight, discreet Italianate inspiration. Around Place Saint-Pierre at the heart of the town is a superb set of buildings and private mansions. St. Stephen's Church owns two masterpieces by Ligier Richier: Rue des Ducs, another street lined by splendid mansions, leads to the old covered market which has been here since the 13th century. So it's a trip through time!

Country retreats

Lorraine is dotted with countless "country retreats", a sign of wealth and distinction in the 18th century. Although the castle in Lunéville is considered as a small version of Versailles and symbolises the architecture of the Age of Enlightenment (it was severely damaged by fire but has been the subject of major restoration work), the castle in Haroué, set in a superb formal park, also has a sense of majesty with its 365 windows, 52 chimneys, 12 towers and 4 bridges. The castles in Pange, Fléville, Saint-Sixte and Manom are also well worth a visit.

Through Georges de La Tour's eyes

He made light the essential feature of his paintings and he successfully combined the virtues of Dutch, Italian and French styles. He enjoyed a period of fame before dropping back into obscurity. Then, in the inter-war years, he came out of the shadows and was finally recognised as the absolute master of chiaroscuro painting. Some of his finest works can be seen in the art galleries in Nancy, Épinal and Vic-sur-Seille, the village where he was born.

- | **Georges de La Tour, Woman Catching a Flea**, oil on canvas 1638 © Musée Lorrain, Nancy, P. Mignot.



Rendez-vous in town



With its two capitals, Metz and Nancy, the towns in Lorraine open whole new horizons for “urban-trotters”. Located only 90 minutes from Paris by high-speed train, the two towns are different but they complement each other, and they both have the same lifestyle, elegance and brilliance. From the magnificent Place Stanislas, now fully renovated and given back to pedestrians, to the mosaic of colours in the streets of Metz, anybody with a love of outstanding heritage buildings, unusual places, cultural outings and window shopping will find plenty to keep them busy, on foot, in these cities where human scale is a predominant feature. They have both retained and even developed those delightful places where you feel as if you’re expected (even if you haven’t told anybody you’re coming), restaurants where you can “restore” your flagging energy, specialities that you won’t find anywhere else, traditional friendly festivals etc. Everything, in fact, that gives Eastern France a lifestyle of which “a warm welcome” is an integral part.

- 1 | **Metz** the square in front of St. Stephen's Cathedral
- 2 | **Nancy** Place Stanislas
- 3 | **Musée Lorrain**, Nancy: a portrait of Stanislaw



Modern Metz

Metz is becoming one of the great international centres of contemporary art, competing with Bilbao, New York, Venice, London and Paris thanks to the opening of the brand new “Centre Pompidou-Metz” (May 2010). The building itself is a staggering architectural feat. Its roof, shaped like a gigantic big top or coolie hat, forms a white shade (made of fibreglass and Teflon) covering three exhibition galleries consisting of concrete tubes.

The architects, Shigeru Ban and Jean de Gastines, have created an unusual aesthetic design by combining traditional

and innovative materials while giving using an intelligent ecological approach to the building itself. For example, they have made the best of natural light by creating a roof that diffuses light inside and reflects it back on the outside. It is a living, open space, a place for people of all ages to meet – and be amazed. Metz has built a contemporary cathedral in which today’s artists will display their uncertainties, ideas, work and views.

- | **Work on the Centre Pompidou-Metz**
October 2009 Shigeru Ban Architects Europe
and Jean de Gastines - Metz Métropole - OH Dancy





Place Stanislas sets the tone. It is an 18th-century architectural gem paving the way for the town's other squares resembling fabulous theatre backdrops, often in the Italian style, such as **Place de la Carrière** with its palaces and mansions, **Place d'Alliance**, a more bourgeois square with a Baroque fountain in the middle, the **Louis XV triumphal arch** inspired by the arch of Septimus Severus in Rome etc. With roots under the mediaeval cobblestones, the **Old Town** with its aristocratic mansions, the ducal palace as a symbol of power and the **Craffe Gate** remains a popular young vibrant area. Art Nouveau unfurls through the town like a treasure hunt. This was the town of the movement's birth, and it led to a "school", an entire art movement. The **villa Majorelle**, the **brasserie Flo Excelsior**, the **Chamber of Commerce**, banks, stores, private mansions – there are numerous stops along the way before reaching the **Musée de l'École de Nancy**,

the Nancy School museum. And to complete your view of this style, you should see the Art Gallery (**Musée des Beaux-Arts**) to appreciate the full power of the creativity that was Art Nouveau. Finally, there is the **Musée Lorrain**. But far from being a museum-like town, Nancy has a multitude of trendy venues, creating a permanent effervescence that is worthy of the great European capital cities.

The **yellow** jaumont stone, **pink** sandstone, **green** parks and gardens, and **blue** lakes dotted across the city make Metz a **colourful town**. It is a European town with the elegance of Italy, mediaeval splendours and Germanic styling in its **imperial district**, dominated by the **imposing railway station** commissioned by Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. The town even has the look of a capital with the privilege of a few outstanding buildings such as the sumptuous museum and art gallery (**musées de la Cour d'Or**), Metz' answer to the Louvre filled with richly diverse collections; the impressive **St. Stephen's Cathedral**, one of the tallest Gothic churches in existence; **Sainte-Croix Hill** with its steep slopes and winding streets; the **meanders of the Moselle**, clapping the indolent islands in the arms of the Seille and linking them by small bridges, their quaysides dotted with kiosks and pergolas; the **Arsenal** renovated by Ricardo Bofill and turned into a National Theatre; the **Centre Pompidou-Metz**, a superb example of contemporary architecture etc. With a walk across dazzling squares, past welcoming pavement cafés and along narrow streets, past unusual shops, to the marina in the heart of the town, not to mention plenty of ideas for country outings, Metz is definitely a "fun destination".

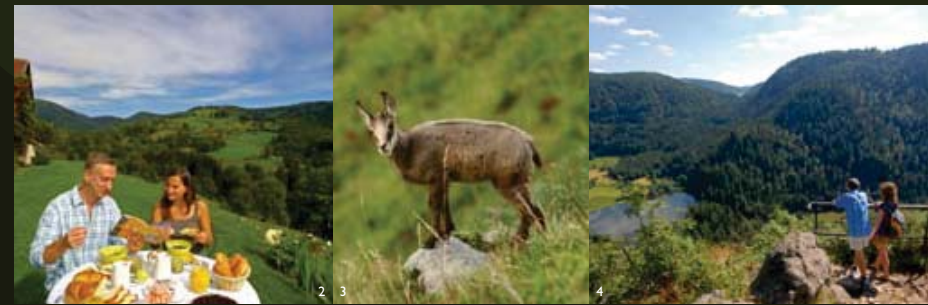
Nancy

Metz



Nature at its best

Massif des Vosges, Hautes Chaumes, Côtes de Meuse, Lorraine plateau – this is an area that is not short of landscape features and diversity, from the lakes dug out by monks to the glacial lakes, from thermal springs to saltwater ponds, from the forests in the plain to the thickets in the mountains. So why not walk, ride or go mountain biking along these extraordinary paths to experience the pleasure that, in Lorraine, brings together those of a contemplative nature and high-level athletes.



One, two, three country parks

Lorraine has been spoiled by Mother Nature. It has three regional country parks containing some outstanding heritage. The Parc Naturel Régional de Lorraine, set up in 1974, covers more than 219,000 hectares in three départements, between the hillsides of Meuse and the lakes. Eight gateway towns form points of departure for walks and cycle rides along the "Green Paths". The Vosges share two regional country parks – the Parc Naturel Régional Vosges du Nord which was elected "Outstanding European tourist destination" in 2009 and the Ballons des Vosges. Unspoilt, untamed nature lies cheek by jowl with countless examples of cultural heritage and human know-how, revealed in their full splendour by unusual discovery trails that take you away from everyday life.

Sainte-Croix: a memorable safari

This park is an ideal place in which to see Europe's native fauna in semi-liberty, living in 120 hectares of forest, lakes and meadows. Dotted along two discovery trails are observation platforms and numerous information panels telling visitors about wolves, bears, stags and certain imported animals or reconstituted species such as the aurochs and the Tarpan horse. Children can get up close and personal with farm animals and "Logigrouille" gives a chance to find out more about the insects and animals in our houses e.g. ants, rats, cockroaches etc. Emphasis is placed on learning, shows and entertainment, with the accent on environmental protection and sustainable development. In fact, these features will form the cornerstone of the park's forthcoming projects.

- 1 | **Berchigranges Gardens**, Granges-sur-Vologne
- 2 | **B&B with a view** of the Vosges
- 3 | **A young chamois** in the Ballons des Vosges regional country park
- 4 | **Roche du diable** (Devil's Rock) overlooking the lake at Longemer



- 1 | **Rhodes** Sainte-Croix wildlife park
- 2 | **Lachaussée Lake**
- 3 | **Madine Lake** Nonsard, Heudicourt
- 4 | **Pierre-Percée Lake** Badonviller
- 5 | **Xonrupt Longemer** campsite
- 6 | **Mirabelle plum trees in flower**
Côtes de Meuse
- 7 | **Orchards in Laqueney**

Lindre: a lakeside habitat for rare birds

This 600-hectare lake is an hour's drive from Nancy and Metz, in a nature reserve and bird sanctuary with almost 250 species to watch on its banks. Educational activities and visitors' trails provide a glimpse of the inhabitants of this unspoilt, tranquil spot in the shade of the vast forests that give it an ambiance filled with a sense of restfulness and peace.

Lac de Madine: deep blue and mirabelle plum trees

This huge 1,100-hectare lake is dotted with secretive little islands and arms of water with dense vegetation, creating delightful little spots for anglers. With its marina and fine sandy beaches, its water sports and its sailing school, this lake is heaven for sailing enthusiasts, and all the family. With greenery, deep blue waters and mirabelle plum trees, it is an ideal destination for a seaside holiday in the country.

Gérardmer: a major lake

Located deep in the mountains, this glacial lake provides plenty of summer activities in the delightful winter sports resort of Gérardmer. The "Pearl of the Vosges" with its 115 hectares of pure fresh water goes over to summer time and the pleasures of water sports as soon as the first warm days arrive – swimming, water sports, pedalos, boat trips etc. Walkers can follow a 6.5 kilometre footpath right round the lake. This is a highly-acclaimed holiday destination with a vast esplanade dotted with amenities, busy by day or night thanks to the hotels, restaurants and landing stages.

The mysteries of the "Pierced Rock"

Pierre-Percée is an untamed mysterious place. It is Lorraine's largest manmade lake and one of the most picturesque. Its irregular outline resembling a maple leaf, the silence along its banks, the vast sky reflected in its calm waters and the hillsides round about carpeted with pines and deciduous trees give it all the charm of one of the large Canadian lakes. There are plenty of activities to choose from too – angling, canoeing, birdwatching etc.

Bitche in the heart of a World Biosphere Reserve

Bitche stands in the middle of the Vosges regional country park which has been given World Biosphere status by UNESCO. Sandstone, water and forests fill this outstanding area dotted with lakes, forest paths, (almost human rocks and defensive buildings (fortresses, Maginot Line) bearing witness to a past marked by conflict.

Extraordinary gardens

In Lorraine, people are good at gardening and they're proud of the fact. For more than 20 years, the "Visitez un jardin en Lorraine" scheme has included more than a hundred gardens of all shapes and sizes. They include the grounds of castles, sculpture gardens, orchards, historic gardens, special-interest gardens, abbey, bishops' and curates' gardens etc. Professionals and amateurs use their creativity to try to outdo each other and delight an ever-increasing number of visitors. The "Jardins sans limites" network includes 26 carefully-selected gardens in Saar, Luxembourg and Moselle. The Ministry of Culture has awarded eight of these gardens "Outstanding Garden" status.



A Taste of Lorraine

Quiche lorraine is undoubtedly the dish that first comes to mind when it comes to describing the region's culinary delights, yet there are plenty of others, some full-flavoured, convivial and filling and others delicate, subtle delights. Although the various beers are good, make sure you leave a bit of room for equally interesting wines or brandies. As to the traditional rum babas, madeleine sponge cakes and macaroons, there is nothing better than coming to the place in which they were created to taste them for the first time or savour them again.



Lorraine's little pleasures Pies, quiches and pâtés from Lorraine

The undoubted queen of savoury tarts is the quiche lorraine, known worldwide despite the fact that it is just a simple way of combining a few ingredients – bacon, crème fraîche and eggs. And that's it! This ancient local recipe was already known in the 16th century. It is a first cousin of pies, originally covered with a pastry lid and filled with savoury or sweet fillings. Well-known smoked meat and pork products are also perfect for this decidedly country fare.

- 1 | **Mirabelle plum soufflé**
- 2 | **Macaroons from Nancy**
- 3 | **Blueberries**
- 4 | **Quiche Lorraine**

Blueberries

Wild blueberries, known in the Vosges as "brimbelles", grow in the forests and on the mountainsides. Cultivated blueberries ("Bluet des Vosges") have been improved by agriculture and are larger than their wild cousins. They can be eaten fresh or as jam, fruit wine, syrup or an accompaniment to savoury dishes.

Macaroons

In Lorraine, there are macaroons and macarons. They come from Boulay or Nancy. Although both are the result of long tradition and a skilful mixture of egg white, sugar and almonds, they each have their own secret, taste and shape. The best thing to do is to try both to fully appreciate the difference.





Rum babas

Legend has it that rum babas owe their existence and name (a play on "Ali Baba") to King Stanislaw, who loved the "Thousand and One Nights" as much as he adored good food. The real story behind this most traditional of traditional cakes is much more prosaic. It comes originally from Russia and Poland and was introduced into France by the Duke of Lorraine in the 18th century. At that time, it was not soaked in rum. At the end of Stanislaw's life, his chief pastrycook, who came from Poland, decided to pour some Hungarian Tokay over the cake. A few years later, the Tokay was replaced by rum then, later still, by rum-flavoured syrup.

Madeleines from Commercy

These cakes get their name from a young cook named Madeleine, who invented them for Stanislaw in 1755 at Commercy Castle. Now they act as ambassadors for the sweetness and gentleness of Lorraine, symbolising its simple refinement with their mild taste of lemon.

Sugared almonds

The famous sugared almonds were first made in Verdun during the Middle Ages. It was an apothecary who first had the idea of preserving almonds by coating them in sugar and honey and then cooking them. The traditional recipe, whose secret is still jealously guarded, fully justifies the old saying that "If it's not from Verdun, it's not a real sugared almond".

Redcurrant jam

The redcurrant jam from Bar-le-Duc is unanimously considered as Lorraine's answer to caviar. It requires patience and delicacy to make because the redcurrants are deseeded by hand using a goose quill. It is a luxurious product, amber or red in colour; best eaten on its own with a spoon.

Pine honey from the Vosges

This honey has had an accredited registration of origin ("AOC") since 1999 and it comes from honeycombs on the branches of pine trees. It tastes very different to floral honey. It is dark in colour; with scents of wood and resin, and it provides pastrycooks with a whole host of mouthwatering possibilities.

Bergamot

This is a food lover's symbol of Nancy. It is a square amber-yellow sweet made from sugar and essential oil of bergamot.

Chitterling

Val d'Ajol chitterling is very well-known and is a registered name. Made from pork ribs and sausage skins that are flavoured then lightly smoked, it is eaten cold with pre-dinner drinks, or in pastry as a turnover or savoury slice. The Chitterling Fair in Val d'Ajol, which has taken place on the third Monday in February since 1831, celebrates this most rustic of specialities in an atmosphere of fun and excitement.

Cheese

Lorraine, France's fourth largest cheesemaking region, boasts a number of outstanding cheeses such as Munster G rom , which is an AOC cheese, Carr  de l'Est, Brou re and Brie de Meaux. In this land of meadows and lush grass, cow's milk is also an ingredient in many other products that require very real skill to make.

Mirabelle plums

Provence has olives; Lorraine has mirabelle plums. This small round plum, yellow in colour, is an emblem of Lorraine, the region where it grows at its best. Lorraine produces approximately 12,000 tonnes a year i.e. 60% to 70% of production worldwide. Lorraine's "gold" will do its very, very best to satisfy food lovers. It is delicious at breakfast time in jam and it expresses its full flavour with any shortcrust or flaky pastry, producing delicious tarts. It can also be included in souffl s and gratins.

Wine

In Lorraine, winegrowing is a serious business. Toul wines, including the famous Gris de Toul, have been AOCs since 1998. The wines of Moselle and C tes de Meuse are always popular for their delicate bouquets. Also worth drinking is Crillon, a rhubarb wine made at Xertigny in the Vosges.

Beer

Lorraine, France's third largest beer producer, is dotted with artisanal breweries, microbreweries and farm breweries. In Stenay, Ville-sur-Ilton and Saint-Nicolas-de-Port, museums pay homage to this noble, historic drink which still enjoys an ongoing tradition, strongly supported by the Brewery College in Nancy.

Brandy

Lorraine and its lush environment produce fragrant liqueurs with dazzling colours including the famous mirabelle plum brandy, the region's most elegant ambassador. Plum, raspberry and rowanberry brandies also add their elegant touches and festive bouquets to the end of meals.

Lorraine Stew

Every region in France has its own recipe for this simple, filling and very rustic stew (or "pot e"), a combination of pork and cabbage. In Lorraine, people add leeks, carrots, potatoes, haricot beans and turnips, with bouquet garni and spices.

Paris-Metz

Created when the high-speed rail link was opened between Paris and Metz, this golden yellow, lemon yellow and raspberry macaroon seems to be as popular at the East European high-speed train (TGV) it was named after, since it's now to be found in more than fifty shops.

High Days and Holidays

Lorraine likes having fun and it uses every divine or picturesque opportunity for festivities. St. Nicholas has pride of place in December. Mirabelle plums fill the streets in Metz. Villerupt promotes Dolce Vita every year with an Italian film festival. Nancy vibrates to the rhythms of Nancy Jazz Pulsations. In fact, Lorraine has a sense of enjoyment that would have pleased Stanislaw.

Mirabelle Festival, Metz

Every year after 15th August, the Mirabelle Festival celebrating the region's most emblematic fruit attracts thousands of visitors to the capital of Lorraine. The high point of the festival is the election of the Mirabelle Queen, a charming ambassador for the city and Lorraine's "yellow gold".

Malbrouck the Unexpected

In August, the sumptuous Château de Malbrouck is the setting for a circus acts and street entertainment festival called "Les Inattendus". The unexpected meeting of old buildings and circus performers leads to the craziest acts and attracts iconoclastic performers from all over the world.

Bar-le-Duc and the RenaissanceS

Early in July, numerous theatre companies, performers and troubadours take over the Renaissance district of Bar-le-Duc. In a delicious mixture of street entertainment and ancient music, the festival welcomes a wide range of shows, some of them funny and some very serious, but all of them innovative.

Open-air opera in Haroué

In September, the Château d'Haroué lends its enchanting backdrop to a famous lyric festival. The park is used for a prestigious programme staged in the open air for a large family audience, many of whom hear opera for the first time here.

Fantastic'arts, Gérardmer

Since 1994, the last week of January has been set aside for the International Horror Film Festival, sending shivers up people's spines for five days. Shorts and full-length films in the competition are shown as pre-releases, along with retrospectives and theme evenings. *Scream*, *Cube* and *Dark Water* were all screened for the first time at the "Cannes" of horror films.

Daffodil Festival, Gérardmer

Millions of wild daffodils surrounded by mosses and lichen from the Vosges mountains can be seen throughout the streets of Gérardmer. They are also used to decorate floats in a procession. This is a joyful spring festival held every two years, in April.

St. Nicholas

On 6th December, the whole of Lorraine celebrates St. Nicholas, its patron saint and the man who, long before Santa Claus, gives children gifts and sweets. This very lively tradition is marked by festivities and pageants in the main towns.

Nancy Jazz Pulsations

This jazz and world music festival was launched in 1973 under the auspices of Ray Charles. It is held every October and is a "must"! More than a hundred bands from all backgrounds playing all types of music are welcomed to the town and the region as a whole.



Italian Film Festival, Villerupt. Since 1976, it has shown the greatest films starring the greatest names of Cinecittà every October.

Cinémarabe, Fameck is a shop window of Arab film culture in the heart of the steelmaking area, held every October. Every year, the festival celebrates one particular country and its film industry.

From Flames... to Light. In June and July, a gigantic historic show with a cast of 300 is staged in memory of those who lived through the hell that was the Battle of Verdun.

Sleepless in Metz. Held in October like the one in Paris, "Nuits Blanches" turns the town into a modern art exhibition for just one night, filled with huge installations, performances and amazing artistic concepts.

Sound & light, Place Stanislas, Nancy. In July and August, enjoy a magical look at the 18th-century architecture shown at its dazzling best thanks to the most sophisticated audiovisual technology available.

Carnival, Remiremont. It's Venice in the

heart of the Vosges at carnival time in March. The surroundings and the old town with its arcades and richly costumed participants make you forget that the "Grand Canal" is actually the River Moselle.

Wind in the Forest. In July, six villages in the forest invite international artists to take a different look at nature and create works displayed along a 45-kilometre footpath through 5,000 hectares of forest.

The People's Theatre, Bussang. Set up in 1895, the Théâtre du Peuple is a wooden building with a stage opening onto the natural environment and coming here is seen as something of a cultural pilgrimage. In July and August, it attracts a large audience of "people in the know" to the rows of seats on the slopes of the Upper Vosges.

Sundays in May in Meuse, Azannes. 400 volunteers bring eighty of Lorraine's traditional 19th-century crafts back to life.

Chitterling Fair, Val d'Ajol. For centuries, this fair has brought people out into the streets and squares of this little town in

February, to enjoy a speciality with an international reputation.

International Wood & Stone Carving Festival, La Bresse. Every May, the Camille-Claudiel Festival attracts twenty or more sculptors to La Bresse to create a work on a given topic, watched by visitors.

Carnival, Sarreguemines. Full of colour and excitement, Lorraine's largest carnival is held over one week before Pancake Tuesday, throughout the town.

Mediaeval Festival, Rodemack. In June, the old town plunges back into its mediaeval past with dancers, jokers, jugglers and troubadours.

Foie Gras Festival, Phalsbourg. Foie gras and local specialities (snails, wine, gingerbread etc.) can be enjoyed on the village square in December.

Image Festival, Epinal. In April, Imagerie d'Epinal characters reveal to the general public techniques that are two hundred years old such as wood engraving, stencilling, drawing on stone etc.

Rues et Cies Festival, Epinal In June, France's oldest street entertainment festival has been attracting clowns, mime artists, dancers and spectators for the past 26 years to share some fun, laughter and music. **Nocturnes, Château de Thillombois** In late summer, Thillombois puts everything into visual effects and fireworks to create a lively entertainment with plenty of singing. **Les Enfants du Charbon** See page 25 **Lorraine's World Air Balloon Meet** See overleaf.

To find out about all the special events in Lorraine, log onto: www.tourism-lorraine.com

- 1 | **Fresnes au Mont** Wind in the Forest festival
- 2 | **Metz** Mirabelle Plum Festival
- 3 | **Bussang** the People's Theatre
- 4 | **Nancy Jazz Pulsations** - CharElie Couture
- 5 | **Bar-le-Duc** Renaissance Festival
- 6 | **Manderen, The Unexpected Festival** Malbrouck Castle

Lorraine's World Air Balloon Meet

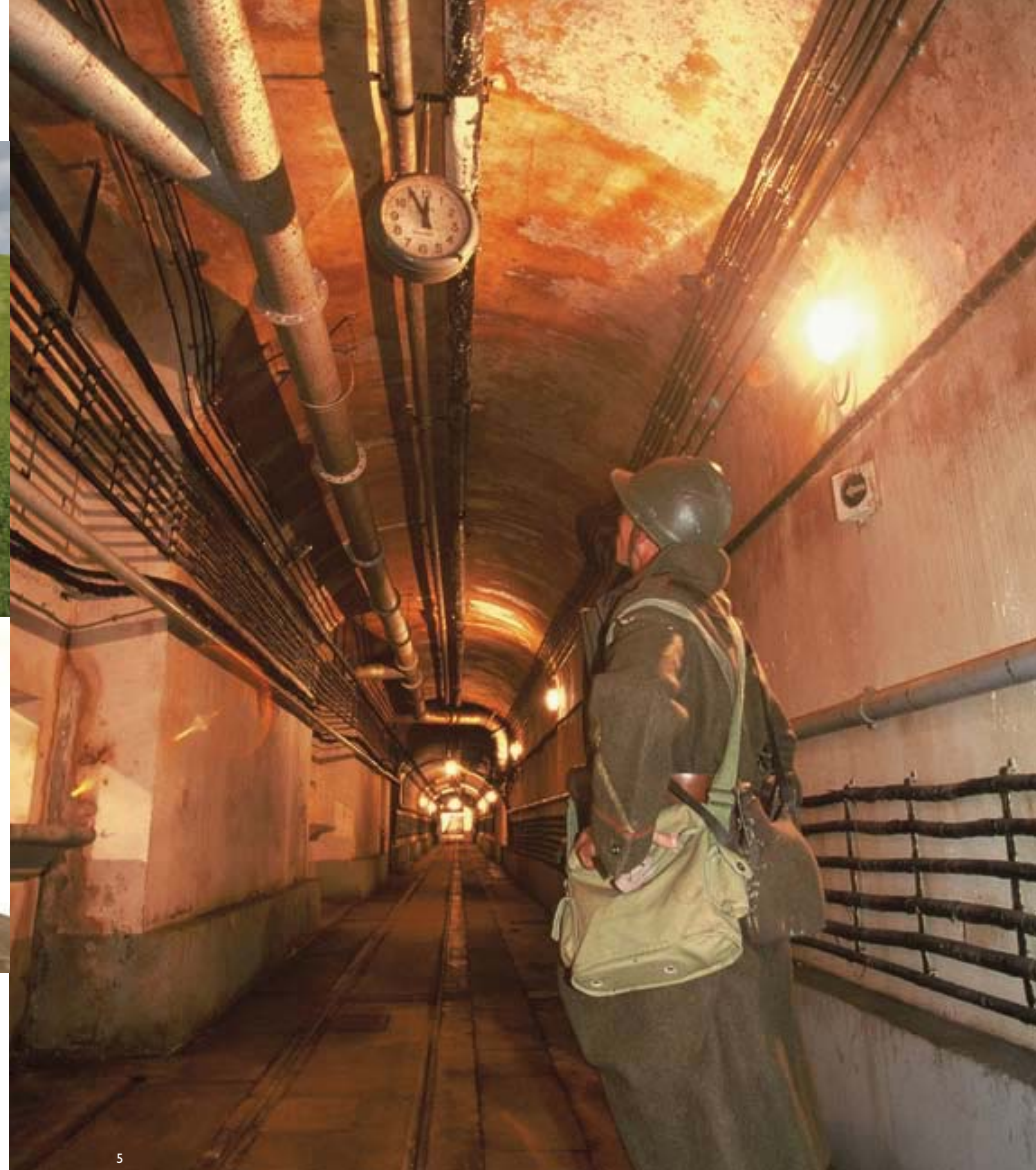
Every two years at the end of July or beginning of August, the skies of Lorraine provide a playground for more than one thousand balloonists who come to show off their expertise on board their hot-air balloons. Chambley Planet'Air, a good half-hour from Metz, is used as the launch pad for this multicoloured event paying homage to the famous pioneer, Pilâtre de Rozier from Metz who, in 1783, was the first person to pilot the hot-air balloon invented by the Montgolfier brothers. The grandiose poetic sight entrances 350,000 visitors each time the festival is held. They come to see the largest international meet of hot-air balloons and, for some of them, make their first balloon flight.

- | **Taking off in the early morning**

Battlefield Tours

Dotted with reminders of Man's military genius, with grandiose fortresses and defensive towers, Lorraine has a darker side, the visible scars left by a period not so long ago. It invites visitors to go on a journey to a time when Europe and history came together, to see places of remembrance and reminders of truly heroic moments.

- | **Ossuary in Douaumont**, the impressive cloister 137 metres long



Verdun, battlefields and remembrance

As an international symbol of the sacrifices made by soldiers in the Great War, the name of Verdun has a deafening echo, the sound of mortar shells and cannon fire during bitter fighting that resulted in 700,000 men dying in 300 days from 21st February to 15th December 1916. Nowadays, the largest sound and light show in Eastern France, “Des flammes... à la lumière” sheds a poignant, moving light on the battle, while the town and surrounding countryside still bear numerous scars that are particularly obvious in the “red zone”. The battlefield covered an area of 15 square kilometres and it includes the ossuary and national necropolis at Douaumont which contains the remains of 130,000 soldiers who laid down their lives for France. Following the Sacred Way, once

the route along which reinforcements were brought up to the Front, is an emotion-filled trip through time amid silent villages that will remain unchanged for all time watched over by the Verdun Memorial inaugurated by Maurice Genevoix. In Verdun’s colossal underground citadel, in Fort Vaux and Fort Douaumont, every stone could tell a story of the bitter resistance and courage of France’s infantry, and the violence of the fighting. This is a land of those who died and made the supreme sacrifice; but it is also a place for remembrance and quiet contemplation. In 1987, the UN awarded Verdun the status of World Capital for Peace. Its World Peace Centre, which is more than just a symbol of our duty to remember the past, stages exhibitions, meetings and debates to encourage people to stop and think about war and its consequences.

- 1 | Milestone on the Sacred Way linking Bar-le-Duc and Verdun
- 2 | Fort Casso in Rohrbach-les-Bitche
- 3-6 | “Des flammes... à la lumière” sound and light show
- 4 | Monument to those who laid down their lives for France, Verdun
- 5 | Simserhof, Siersthal



The finest collection of defensive forts

As a land between two countries, on the borders of France, Lorraine has always been a place in which to test systems of defence. This is why it has such a large number of historic fortifications. A number of military architects specialising in fortifications and citadels built massive stone constructions here, as lookout posts and as protection against invasion. Vauban, Louis XIV's Chief Engineer, was responsible for numerous examples of his military architectural prowess throughout this border region. The impressive citadel in Bitche, with its underground passages full of atmosphere thanks to the cinematographic trail, is one of the famous engineer's finest forts, up there with the very well preserved citadels in Montmédy, Phalsbourg and Toul or the fort in Thionville. Other superb traces remain in Longwy (classified as a Unesco World Heritage site) and in Marsal.

Drawing inspiration from Vauban, Séré de Rivières gave Lorraine a second ring of defences after the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, to protect the new eastern borders. With veritable retrenchments, it has a string of forts between Epinal (Fort Uxegney, which is still intact with its power plant, kitchens, barracks rooms and guns), the Meuse uplands (a curtain of defence with seven main forts and ouvrages), Verdun and the fortified village of Villey-le-Sec.

The Maginot Line is still there, still amazing visitors for its 58 forts, 400 pillboxes and millions of tonnes of concrete! The figures reflect the excessive size of the "Great Wall of France" built in the 1920's and 30's to contain German attacks. Now, certain large gun emplacements or infantry forts, maintained in perfect condition, are open to the public to whom they reveal major historic

events in the story of modern France. This is the case in Fermont in Longuyon. They were never taken and they now house the Maginot Line Museum, where visitors are given some insight into life in a gun emplacement, with its equipment, its underground structure and its armaments.

In Siersthal, the Simserhof with its eight combat positions and 5 kilometres of galleries is another major site, taking the public 27 metres underground on robot-controlled vehicles that include a sound track and special effects! In Veckring, Fort Hackenberg is a colossal construction with 17 combat positions concealed beneath 160 hectares of forest (it is the most impressive fort on the Maginot Line). It also allows visitors to travel into its centre and see its technical innovations from on board a small underground train dating from its period of construction. Fort Casso in Rohrbach-lès-Bitche is much smaller but remarkably well-preserved.

Saint-Avold: the largest American war cemetery

The graves of 10,489 American soldiers who fell during the Second World War are set out in lines in this cemetery which remains a place of "pilgrimage" for many visitors from across the Pond.

- 1 | **Citadel in Montmédy**
- 2 | **Germans' Gate, Metz**



- 1 | Fortified church, Saint-Pierrevillers
- 2 | Flea Tower, Thion
- 3 | Sierck Gate, Rodemack
- 4 | Malbrouck Castle, Manderen
- 5 | Gallo-Roman site in Grand, the mosaic



Castles, churches and defensive gates

The part of Lorraine that was battered by the tidal waves of History still contains some magnificent places. One such is the impressive fortress in Malbrouck, superbly rebuilt and now used for exhibitions, special events and festivals. There are also remarkable defensive gates (Craffe in Nancy, Chaussée in Verdun, Germans' Gate in Metz, Sierck Gate in Rodemack). They were used to regulate the flow of people and goods. Then there are the fortified churches in Saint-Pierrevillers and Scy-Chazelles, which were used as much for worship as for a place of safety by the local people.

Bliesbruck: a European archaeological treasure

The European Archaeology Park in Bliesbruck-Reinheim unearthed a priceless treasure trove that was hidden in the depths of the Blies Valley. It included many valuable

artefacts from the Bronze Age. The principal remains of this historic site are a Celtic necropole housing the reconstruction of the tomb of the Princess of Reinheim (400 B.C.), a Gallo-Roman town with a farm and Roman baths. A well-designed museum rounds off this trip into the days of the Ancient Romans and Gauls.

Grand: a huge Gallo-Roman sanctuary

In the days when most of the known world spoke Latin, Grand lay on the major road between Lyon and Trier. The site, lost on a plateau in the midst of forests, still has some remarkable traces of these years in its glorious past, the most grandiose of all the historic buildings being the impressive 17,000-seater amphitheatre. It was the 8th largest of all the major entertainment centres in the Roman world. More surprising still is Europe's largest mosaic (232 square metres).

On the Blue Line of Vosges

This natural and symbolic line barring the horizon with a bluish tinge given to it by the very special, soft light, is something of a terrace with a number of breathtaking view points. The "hilltop road" (Route des Crêtes) runs across the top of Vosges; its 77 kilometres were always built along the crest of the hills for strategic reasons. Now it is an ideal route from which to see the secret treasures in the ribbon of greenery. It is also a paradise for walkers and those who love the "real" Lorraine. The Hohneck, one of Lorraine's highest peaks at an altitude of 1,363 metres, overlooks the "valley of lakes" and provides a habitat for a few flocks of chamois on its slopes. From this altitude, the sight is breathtaking, stretching into the distance from a vast glacial cwm to a peat bog, and from alpine pastures to mountain inns. Even further away is the Rhine Plain and the Bernese Alps. Talk about vertigo!

Portraits from Lorraine

Joan of Arc saved France, Jules Ferry made schooling free, non-religious and mandatory and Robert Schuman invented Europe. Yes, this region has produced men and women whose genius provided enlightenment for their contemporaries. Let's take a look at this portrait gallery of Lorraine "Greats".

Joan of Arc

Although France has taken Joan of Arc as its national heroine and leading icon, it is in Lorraine that people can get to the facts behind the myths. Walk in her footsteps by visiting two towns connected with her. Domrémy-la-Pucelle has the house in which she was born, preserved and restored. Just 1.5 kilometres from the village the Bois-Chenu basilica church was built on the spot where she heard her "voices". Floodlit every evening, it stands majestically above the Meuse Valley. Vaucouleurs was the starting-point for her epic journey to Chinon where she met King Charles VII, riding horses lent to her by some of the townspeople. The France Gate through which she passed on leaving Lorraine, never to return, keeps this moving memory alive. The Joan of Arc museum contains various pictures of her, done over the passing centuries.



Stanislaw

Stanislaw Leszczyński, who was twice removed from the throne of Poland, became Duke of Lorraine thanks to the goodwill of his nephew, Louis XV. The Good King Stanislaw was an enlightened nobleman who became a great patron of the Arts and a tireless builder. In Lunéville, he reorganised the castle and its gardens, turning it into a real little "Versailles in Lorraine" and surrounding himself with a Court that attracted the greatest minds in the Age of Enlightenment. In Commercy, the castle in the "Town of Royal Pleasures" was altered to suit the monarch's opulent tastes. In Nancy, he commissioned the sumptuous set of Baroque buildings that have made Place Stanislas so famous throughout the world. It was also this inspired, refined sovereign who brought us the rum baba, the madeleine sponge cake and even the growing of melons.

- 1 | **Joan of Arc's birthplace**, Domrémy
- 2 | **Portrait of Stanislaw**, Musée Lorrain, Nancy
© Musée Lorrain, Nancy / photo, P. Mignot
- 3 | **Joan of Arc**, statue in Domrémy



Lorraine, I've loved you so long...

Philippe Claudel, author of "Ames grises" (Renaudot literary award 2003) and "Rapport de Brodeck*" (Goncourt des lycéens literary award 2007), lives near Nancy. In fact, it was there that he filmed "I've Loved You So Long" with Kristin Scott-Thomas and Elsa Zylberstein, the full-length feature film that won him a César for the best first film in 2008 for his outstanding direction. He is as reserved as he is talented and, for him, Lorraine is his "secret garden". He says, "I'm very fond of places. I need to be somewhere. I was born in Lorraine and I feel there is an affinity between us. I feel good here. Everything has a human scale and it's a friendly place. In contacts between people, there is a lot of discretion and sincerity. In my books, I don't feel as if I'm a spokesman for the region. Lorraine is not present in all my writing. But its landscapes and climate do leave their mark on my work. I've always cycled a lot. It's a great way of seeing all the different scenery in Lorraine. And it's all magnificent. What's more, they may not be very high but we are lucky enough to have some mountains."



At the Col de la Schlucht or Donon, there's plenty to do. I wanted to shoot my film in Lorraine. When I was filming "Ames grises", I saw how happy people were and "I've loved you so long" had to take place in the provinces. So I chose Lorraine. It was a way of bringing everyone on board, my students from the European Institute of Cinema and Audiovisual and the local authorities."

* Pub. By Editions Stock.

Above | **Philippe Claudel**

• | **Lac de Retournemer, Vosges**

Thrills & Excitement

Walking, jumping, flying, surfing, being amazed – Lorraine is full of energetic unusual activities and has the most breathtaking beauty spots, the very best leisure parks and the most awesome attractions. And....action!



In La Bresse, adrenalin junkies are spoilt for choice, in winter and summer. The **Fantasticâble** is a sort of gigantic flying fox and the bravest visitors can enjoy a huge adrenalin rush here. Hanging from an aerial cable, they fly over a distance of 1,315 metres at an average speed of 100 kph and land in the centre of the leisure park.

Winter sports enthusiasts will love **snowkiting**, a very trendy sport in the Vosges at the moment. The peaks, cleared of any obstacles and with their slight incline, are perfect for this sport which requires kites to play with the wind and surf over the blue line of the Vosges, between snow and sky.

Whether or not it's snowing, the **Snow Hall in Amnéville** lets you enjoy the pleasures of powdery snow in any season of the year. The huge indoor complex has a real 620-metre ski run with various inclines to make it accessible to children and experienced skiers. The Snow Hall also has a ski lift and sliders for snowboarders.

Fort Adventure in Bainville-sur-Madon is the only adventure park of its kind in Lorraine.

It is laid out in a 19th-century fortress and is suitable for thrill-seekers of all ages, with 70,000 sq. metres of fun including a flying fox, via ferrata, maze and underground passages, all in the midst of grandiose scenery.

At the **Puzieux mazes**, it's very tempting to lose yourself in the corn after lunch, to go through the maze with the family or to follow a thread. In the end, whatever you do, you'll spend a quiet relaxing day on a 5-hectare site laid out with various amenities.

Take your shoes off and become one with Mother Earth! Laid out around an old Vosges farmhouse, the 8 hectares of the **Adventure Farm in La Chapelle-aux-Bois** are visited barefoot. It's an unusual trail, but great fun, taking visitors along a winding net path between the trees, from one cabin to the next along the 5 Senses Trail, or between the rocks in the forest. In fact, it's an ode to Nature.

- 1 | **Fantasticâble flying fox**
- 2 | **Paragliding in the Vosges**
- 3 | **Fresh air in La Bresse**
- 4 | **Fort Adventure**



Parks for young and old

In Lorraine, recreation is a family business in leisure parks designed to provide adventure and a chance to get away from it all.

In **Sainte-Croix**, the wildlife park not only takes young and old on the trail of European animals; it also offers a range of outdoor activities in a natural setting that visitors can explore on foot or on a small train, depending on the season.

In **Amnéville Aventures**, after taking a look at the zoo animals, the kids can have fun jumping, sliding and climbing among the trees, in absolute safety, using the footbridges, rope bridges and flying foxes.

With sixty attractions, shows and entertainment in lush green surroundings, **Walygator** takes visitors into a whirlwind round of big wheel, pirate ship, little train, roller coaster, white water river and much, much more.

In **Fraispertuis City**, Lorraine pretends it's the Far West in a park with more than 25 attractions. The park is located in the depths of the Vosges forest, and people have been playing cowboys and Indians here, in a setting worthy of a comic strip, since 1966.

Slow trains and railway pedalos

These means of transport give visitors plenty of time to admire the countryside. It's a stress-free way to travel but by the end of the trip visitors have a sense of sheer amazement. In the Mortagne Valley, pedalo-powered draignes allow four passengers to travel 20 kilometres along a disused railway line. The little trains from Abreschviller and along the Canner Valley are less strenuous. One clatters along a forest road; the other steams through a lush green valley. A great chance to experience wooden seats, the rolling motion of the bogies, flying embers, toots on the whistle and beautiful scenery, a reminder of the trains of yesteryear.



- 1 | **Adventure farm**, La Chapelle-aux-Bois
- 2 | **Little train from Abreschviller**
- 3 | **Walygator** in Maizières-les-Metz
- 4 | **Amnéville zoo**
- 5 | **Fraispertuis City** in Jeanménil

Saint-Louis-Arzviller

This boat lift is the only one of its kind in Europe. It is a grandiose piece of engineering and a mind-blowing technical feat. The inclined plane revolutionised river traffic along the Marne-Rhine Canal, replacing a string of 17 locks that used to take a full day to pass through. The lift can carry a 350-tonne barge gently up a height of 44.5 metres on a 41% gradient in just four minutes! What's more, it takes very little power to do so thanks to the weight of the water and the use of counterweights. Every year, more than 10,000 pleasure boats use this gigantic lift, which puts on quite a show when operating.

- | The inclined plane in action in Saint-Louis-Arzviller

Carpe diem



A wood fire in a designer hotel, a night spent perched in the treetops, a haven of peace in the centre of town, a traditional recipe reviewed and corrected by an inventive chef – these are all magical moments that create a delicious feeling of being, quite simply, happy. Seize the day!

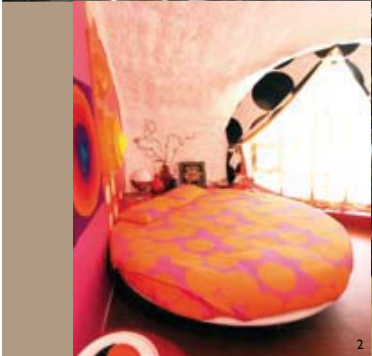
Short breaks in Lorraine

In Lorraine, there are dozens of those good addresses that make all the difference, provide all the charm and create exceptional memories. The country inns dotted across the Vosges mountains are unpretentious but warm, friendly and full of character, and they're always worth a visit. In town, there are superb private mansions dating from another century but boasting modern comforts and trendy decors. They're worth at least a romantic weekend break.

More chic are those hotels famous for their settings, their services, the chef's talents and their stunning views, each of which justifies a trip on its own but together they make for an unforgettable getaway.

- 1 | **Designer ambiance and wood fire** Hôtel K in Baerenthal
- 2 | **Indoor swimming pool** at the Hostellerie Les Bas-Rupts in Gérardmer
- 3 | **A tree house at the Adventure Farm** in La Chapelle-aux-Bois





- 1 - 2 | **Museumotel**, the "bubbles" and their "period" rooms in Raon l'Étape
- 3 | **Château des Monthairons**, in Dieue-sur-Meuse
- 4 | **Jean-Georges Klein**, a chef honoured by the Michelin Food Guide
- 5 | **La Maison de Myon**, B&B in the centre of Nancy
- 6 | **Les Jardins de Sophie** in Xonrupt-Longemer
- 7 | **Variations on the theme of mirabelle plums**

Immersed in nature

The Adventure Farm in La Chapelle-aux-Bois is an ode to Nature. It may be a bit "green" but it allows families to spend some magic nights in accommodation inspired by ideas from all over the world e.g. an Indian teepee, a Mongolian yurt, a passenger plane, a hut suspended in the treetops or a glass pyramid. Another farm, the Ferme de ma Grand-Mère, can be rented by 20 to 40 people, groups of friends or relatives looking for a magnificent natural setting.

Luxury, tranquillity, opulence...

Experience life in a castle at Les Monthairons on the banks of the Meuse, in luxury homes on the banks of the lake in Gérardmer; Relais Châteaux hotels in the heart of the Vosges, an imperial hotel in a spa town, 18th-century mansions in Nancy etc. These are just a few of the superb places in which service is of a consistently high quality and the guests are treated like VIPs.

Well-being and authenticity

There are also some delightful hotels filled with a feeling of authenticity and offering all the basics – a stunning environment for Le Collet at the Col de la Schlucht and the well-named Grande Cascade or the terrace of the Hôtel de Lorraine

overlooking the Crusne Valley. It's not possible to name all of them, these houses where a stopover is a great option, houses found by chance where the tone is set immediately and visitors want to come back again because everything is great, even the prices.

Unusual venues

In Raon l'Étape, the Museumotel and its "bubble houses" gives visitors an opportunity to rediscover an architecture and a philosophy that are halfway between flower power and Sixties design. In Metz, the storeroom in the old citadel has now become a modern restaurant and hotel. Military architecture, design and gourmet cuisine create a skilful combination that is worth enjoying.

Star-studded food

Lorraine's gourmet food has its well-established and rising stars, of course. Jean-Georges Klein (L'Arnsbourg in Baerenthal) and Michel Roth, the Sarreguemines lad who now rules the kitchens in the Ritz in Paris, are without doubt the most innovative, creative and well-known names. They are followed by a multitude of talented chefs who are helping to turn Lorraine's restaurants into gourmet venues with a reputation for excellence.



- 1 | **Vittel**, relaxing treatment
- 2 | **Balneotherapy** in Lorraine
- 3 | **Amnéville**, Villa Pompéi
- 4 | **Stylish VIP cottage**, Center Parcs, Domaine des Trois Forêts Moselle/Lorraine



Fountains of youth

For more than 2,000 years, since the Romans built the first baths here, Lorraine has been famous for its spa towns and it still attracts people who wish to "take the waters", including those who come here to find well-being and relaxing beauty care for the whole body.

Vittel, set in the middle of 650 hectares of parkland and forest, not only has prestigious architecture designed by Garnier (he also designed the Opera House in Paris), but also a golf course, Moorish-style spa complex which is the jewel in the crown of this peaceful resort and a fitness centre. A spa equipped with the very latest hydrotherapy equipment creates new spa sensations. Beauty treatments for face and body round off the list of health-giving attractions.

Amnéville, France's 6th largest spa town, foresaw the development of modern-day spa treatments and changes in the approach to health and it now offers very high-tech balneotherapy and beauty treatments. Thermapolis, the spa centre, combines enjoyment with the famous Saint-Eloy spring thanks to its Turkish baths, Finnish sauna, spa, cold and hot pools etc. La Villa Pompéi, inspired by Ancient Roman traditions, offers a wide range of hydrotherapy treatments in its spa complex.

Eco-tourism

Holidays are the ideal time to change the daily routine and try sustainable tourism, living intelligently with Nature and breaking away from everyday habits. In Méréville,

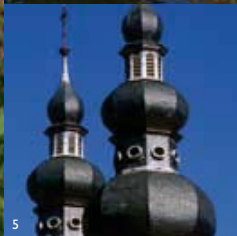
La Maison Carrée is the first hotel and restaurant in Lorraine to introduce an Ecolabel approach. In Lidrezing,

La Campaillette is the result of healthy building techniques using straw bales and it has an ecobiological bedroom.

Near Sarrebourg, the **Domaine des Trois forêts Moselle/Lorraine, is France's 4th Center Parcs***, covering an area of 435 hectares. From the construction to the running of the parks and the entertainments on offer, everything has been designed to comply with THPE requirements (Very High Energy Efficiency). The timber cottages, built to HQE standards (High Environmental Quality) blend harmoniously into the landscape. By using a wood-fired system the water in the lagoons in the "Aqua Mundo" is at 29°C all year. The Center also has a petting farm and, in the centre of the estate, a 58-hectare area known as the "green heart" to encourage the development of rare plant and animal species.

* opening in Spring 2010

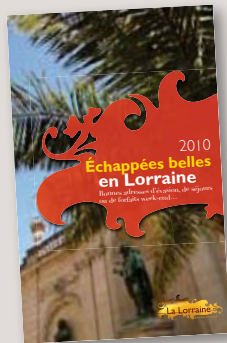
Contd. - in Lorraine!



- 1 | **Sion Hill**
- 2 | **Golfing** in Lorraine
- 3 | **A natural spring** on the mountainside in the Vosges
- 4 | **Sarreguemines**
- 5 | **Saint-Quirin**, one of the "Most Beautiful Villages in France"
- 6 | **Dabo Rock** and its panoramic view of the Northern Vosges

"Real joy is bringing happiness to others!"
Stanislas Leszczynski
Duke of Lorraine

www.tourism-lorraine.com



Finding the right accommodation

For an easy way to find accommodation that suits your preferences, needs, budget, dates and destination, check out www.tourism-lorraine.com / heading "Where to stay" on the Home page. Enter your criteria and the search engine will find you a choice of addresses, with descriptions, photos and contact details. No need to cross your fingers. Just click your mouse a few times.

Ideas for weekends and holidays

The brochure entitled "Échappées Belles en Lorraine" contains more than 40 competitive all-in packages including accommodation, meals and, depending on your particular interests, sightseeing, leisure activities and specific services (brochure available in French). There is something for everybody – good food, culture, history, nature, city-discovery, sports, well-being, families etc. The packages have been carefully selected so that, with the right addresses, you can benefit from real advantages and spend some wonderful time in Lorraine. The packages are excellent value for money and you will be given a warm welcome everywhere you go. Check out the "ID Week-ends" packages on www.tourism-lorraine.com.

The "Passport": Lorraine at the right price

The Passport opens the doors to tourist venues, places of historic or cultural interest, good food venues, leisure amenities, adventures and shows that are well worth a visit. The document lists more than 150 suggestions for sightseeing etc. and, like a guide book, it includes a description, the main features of the place and its contact details. Moreover, thanks to the Passport, you can enjoy reduced prices. Order your Passport on www.tourism-lorraine.com or ask for it in the main Tourist Offices and at the venues taking part in the "Ambassadeur de Lorraine" scheme. It's free and practical. It saves you money. And it's a mine of ideas.

Lorraine's Ambassadors

The "Ambassadeur de Lorraine" sign indicates locals who extend a warm welcome to visitors and are passionate about their region. It shows the places or addresses that have won recognition for their work in the tourism industry, their expertise, their good food, and their interest in history, heritage and culture. It also marks their wish to share with others the things that make Lorraine what it is. You'll find them in the Passport or on www.tourism-lorraine.com.

Follow the guide

All the main tourist guide publishers have a book about Lorraine. They include Gallimard's Travel Encyclopedias, the Routard Guide, Le Petit Futé, the Michelin Green Guides, the Balado Guide etc.



Quality indicators, accreditations and tourism



Qualité Tourisme

Introduced by the Ministry of Tourism, this logo indicates that the places displaying it have a quality-based approach and are subject to inspections by independent agencies. The logo is available to all those involved in tourism e.g. accommodation providers, restaurants, tourist offices, travel agents, transport firms etc. The logo guarantees high-quality service. For further information: www.qualite-tourisme.gouv.fr



Tourisme et Handicap

A national logo to indicate holiday venues and leisure amenities that meet the needs of the physically, visually, hearing and mentally-impaired. www.tourism-lorraine.com, heading « tourisme et handicap ».



Lorraine is well-served by motorways, rail links and international airports, making it an easy place to get to from all major European cities.

Motorway

- A4 - Paris-Strasbourg – to Verdun and Metz
- A31 - Luxembourg-Lyon – to Metz and Nancy, Pont-à-Mousson, Toul, Vittel and the Vosges.

TGV

The East European high-speed train brings Lorraine to within 90 minutes of Paris with a frequent daily service and a number of regional destinations.

Thanks to TGV connections, Strasbourg, Frankfurt, Luxembourg and Saarbrücken are also very close to Lorraine.

www.voyages-sncf.com ou www.tgv.com

Plane

Located in the heart of the region, the regional "Metz-Nancy-Lorraine" Airport has flights to most French and European cities. Some are direct flights; others involve a stopover. A shuttle service timed to fit in with flights provides a fast link with Metz and Nancy. www.metz-nancy-lorraine.aeroport.fr

Distances

	Metz	Nancy
• Paris	333 km	307 km
• Frankfurt	270 km	306 km
• Brussels	275 km	326 km
• Amsterdam	476 km	527 km
• London	585 km	588 km
• Luxembourg	65 km	116 km

Getting around in Lorraine

Apart from a road network including motorways and dual carriageways providing excellent coverage of the region, TER regional express trains also make it easy to move around the region, at very competitive prices (Metrolor pass, Saar-Lor-Lux ticket etc.). www.ter-sncf.com

Map of Lorraine



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Fax + 33 329 640 982
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Tourist Offices

For a complete list of tourist offices in the region, log onto www.tourism-lorraine.com

Regional Country Parks

Lorraine Regional Country Park

54700 PONT-À-MOUSSON
Maison du Parc
Tel. + 33 383 816 767
www.pnr-lorraine.com

Northern Vosges Regional Country Park

67290 LA PETITE PIERRE
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www.parc-vosges-nord.fr

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A breathtaking view of Lorraine

www.tourism-lorraine.com



accommodation | unusual addresses | short breaks | towns | mountains | nature | well-being | history | Passport | good ideas | brochures | videos | special offers | blog etc.

This is Lorraine, in pictures and just a few words. A Lorraine that is more lively, diverse, elegant, creative and bubbly than you could possibly imagine.

Yet the region has always been successful in cultivating a real regional lifestyle. It surprises people for the beauty of its light, heritage, natural environment and towns. It amazes them with its artistic, cultural and even industrial genius. It attracts them with its festive traditions, gourmet food and sense of hospitality. Lorraine also opens the door to History, the history of wars and the story of a king who turned the region into a kingdom. It fills their lungs with pure mountain air in the Vosges and gives them fitness and a sense of well-being thanks to its spring water.

Through these few pages, we invite you to visit ... Lorraine.

