

## Lyon



Lyon, which means "Hill of the Crow", has been of historical importance for more than 2,000 years, is located in the Rhone Alps region. It was made the capital of Gaul by the Romans around 43 BC. The Grand Theater, one of two semicircular Roman Theaters, and the oldest Roman theater in France, was built in 15 BC to seat 10,000 people. The second and smaller one, Odeon, was specifically designed for music and poetry programs. In 1998, 427 hectares of Lyon were classified inheritance of humanity by UNESCO.

Lyon is the third largest city in France with two rivers running through its heart, la Saône and la Rhône, Lyon has a long established business center, and yet it possesses many Old World attractions, including place Bellecour and the Amphitheatre of the Three Gauls. The Florentine architecture of Old Lyon is inviting to tourists, and food lovers from all over the world delight in the cuisine of Lyon, which has more restaurants per capita than any other European city, excluding Paris. The Quartier Merciere and surrounding area form the central commercial district, with a number of cafés and shops. The collection of Egyptian fabrics at the Historique des Tissus; the masterworks of Rubens and El Greco at Musee des Beaux-Arts; and the history of cinematography at the Lumiere brothers' house are all points of interest to visitors.

Approximately 25 miles north of Lyon begin the vineyards of Beaujolais, one of the most famous areas in France and well known throughout the world. Some 30 million gallons of wine are produced per year in this region.



### Places to visit

Musee de Tissus - Lyon is the silk capital of the world and exquisite samples can be seen at this museum, located in the 16th century Hotel de Villeroy, where 4,000 years of the history of fabric and textile is traced.

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[www.musee-des-tissus.com](http://www.musee-des-tissus.com) 

Musee de la Marionette - This museum exhibits the well known marionettes de Lyon and France's best-known puppet - Guignol, created in Lyon in 1908 by the silk worker Laurent Mourguet. Mourguet was the inspiration behind Lyon's satirical street theatre, thanks to his three creations - Guignol, Madelon and Gnafron, who poked fun at the forces of law and order and the king. The museum depicts the evolution of Guignol and Company, both through their performances and the ways in which they were made.

1 Place du Petit-Collège

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Open Hours 10:45a-6p W-M

Museum of Printing and Banking – provides a clear insight into the history of printing. Lyon played an important role in the history of printing, which was invented in Korea in 1403, and appeared on the banks of the Saône only eighty years later. The spread of books transformed Europe. The Reformation, born from the widespread reading of the Bible, came about fifty years after the invention of the printing press.

13 rue de la Poulallerie

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