

A Trip to Southern Lorraine & Alsace

(8-15 May 2024)

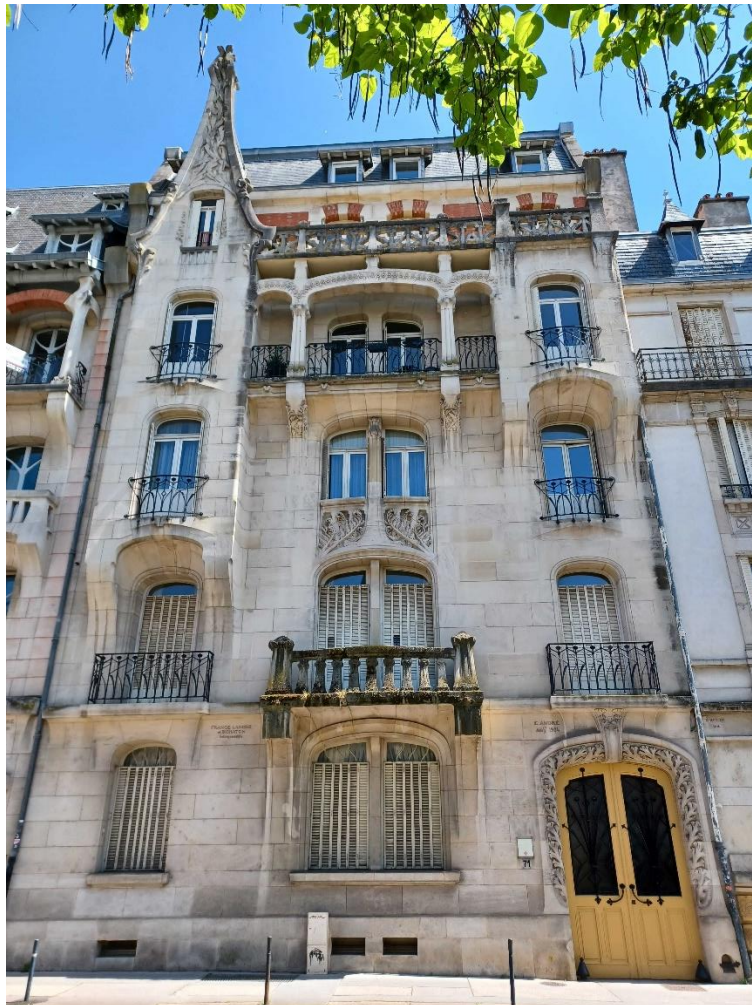
Introductory notes:

From abroad, there are at least two practical ways to reach Nancy:

- 1) From *Paris-Charles de Gaulle* airport, you take a direct TGV train from that airport (terminal 2) to *Lorraine TGV* station. There, a shuttle (bus) drives you to the city centre.
- 2) Eurostar trains from London to *Paris Gare du Nord* station, then a 10-minute walk to *Paris Gare de l'Est* station, where a direct TGV train brings you to Nancy train station, in the city centre.

You can prepare your trip in Nancy by downloading very useful brochures and maps from this website: <https://www.nancy-tourisme.fr/en/prepare-your-stay/services-of-the-tourist-office/documentation/>

The illustrations in this photo album come from a mix of my Scottish friends' photos (including panoramas) and mine.



Art Nouveau building (Emile André, 1904), Avenue Foch, Nancy

Wednesday 8 May

Arrival of my guests at *Lorraine TGV* station around 12:30. Lunch and rest.

Afternoon: *Art Nouveau* in Nancy: <https://www.nancy-tourisme.fr/en/discover-nancy/the-french-capital-of-art-nouveau/art-nouveau-architecture/>.

Combined ticket to visit 1) the *Ecole de Nancy's* Museum and its garden:





Aquarium in the garden of the museum



Bed "Aube et crepuscule" (Dawn & Dusk) created by Emile Gallé (1904)



Panorama of the diner room

And 2) *Villa Majorelle*: [La Villa Majorelle — Musée de l'école de Nancy - Ville de Nancy](#)



In the evening, diner at *Brasserie l'Excelsior*, in its Art Nouveau decor: <https://www.excelsior-nancy.fr/>

Thursday 9 May

Morning: visit the Renaissance and 18th-century areas in Nancy.

Walk in *St Jean* and *St George* streets: Cathedral *Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation* and *Porte St Georges*.



We arrive on the famous *Place Stanislas* (architect: Emmanuel Héré) with its gorgeous ironwork by Jean Lamour, and fountains by D. B. Guibal:



And in the continuity of Place Stanislas, we find *Place de la Carrière*, with the *Palace of the Government* in the background:



A short stroll in the *Pépinière* gardens, then passing through the delightful garden of the Palace of the Government, we enter the medieval and Renaissance parts of Nancy (the Old Town):



The medieval *Porte de la Craffe*

We then pass by *St Epvre* church and finish our stroll in the Old Town through the *Rue des Maréchaux* and its many restaurants.

Afternoon:

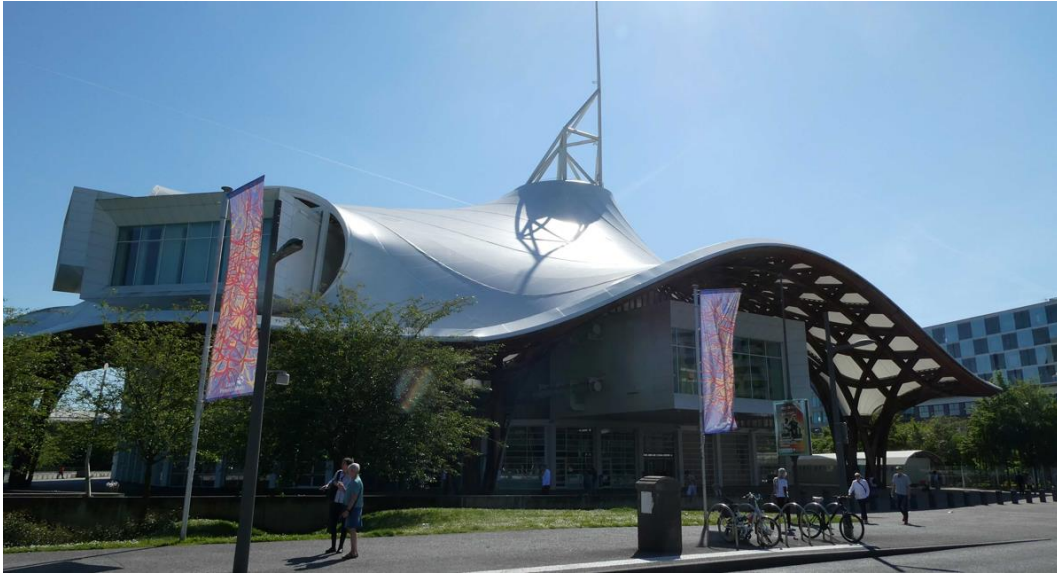
Visit the Renaissance castle of Fléville, located near Nancy: <https://www.chateaufleville.com/>.

Guided tour in the castle, then a stroll in the park and gardens.



Friday 10 May

Travel to Metz (by train): <https://www.tourisme-metz.com/en/discover-metz-metropole/visit-metz-metropole-in-one-day>. Close to the exit of the train station, we had a look at the Museum *Pompidou Metz*: [Centre Pompidou Metz: Welcome \(centrepompidou-metz.fr\)](http://centrepompidou-metz.fr)



Going back in the direction of the train station, we then visited the Imperial part of the town and its impressive building, such as the railway station and its water tower, the post office, *Avenue Foch*, etc. We then saw the medieval place *St Louis*, with its arcades, then the Cathedral *St Etienne* and its beautiful stained glass windows, including those created by Chagall: [La cathédrale Saint-Étienne de Metz \(catholique.fr\)](http://La.cathedrale.Saint-Etienne.de.Metz.catholique.fr).

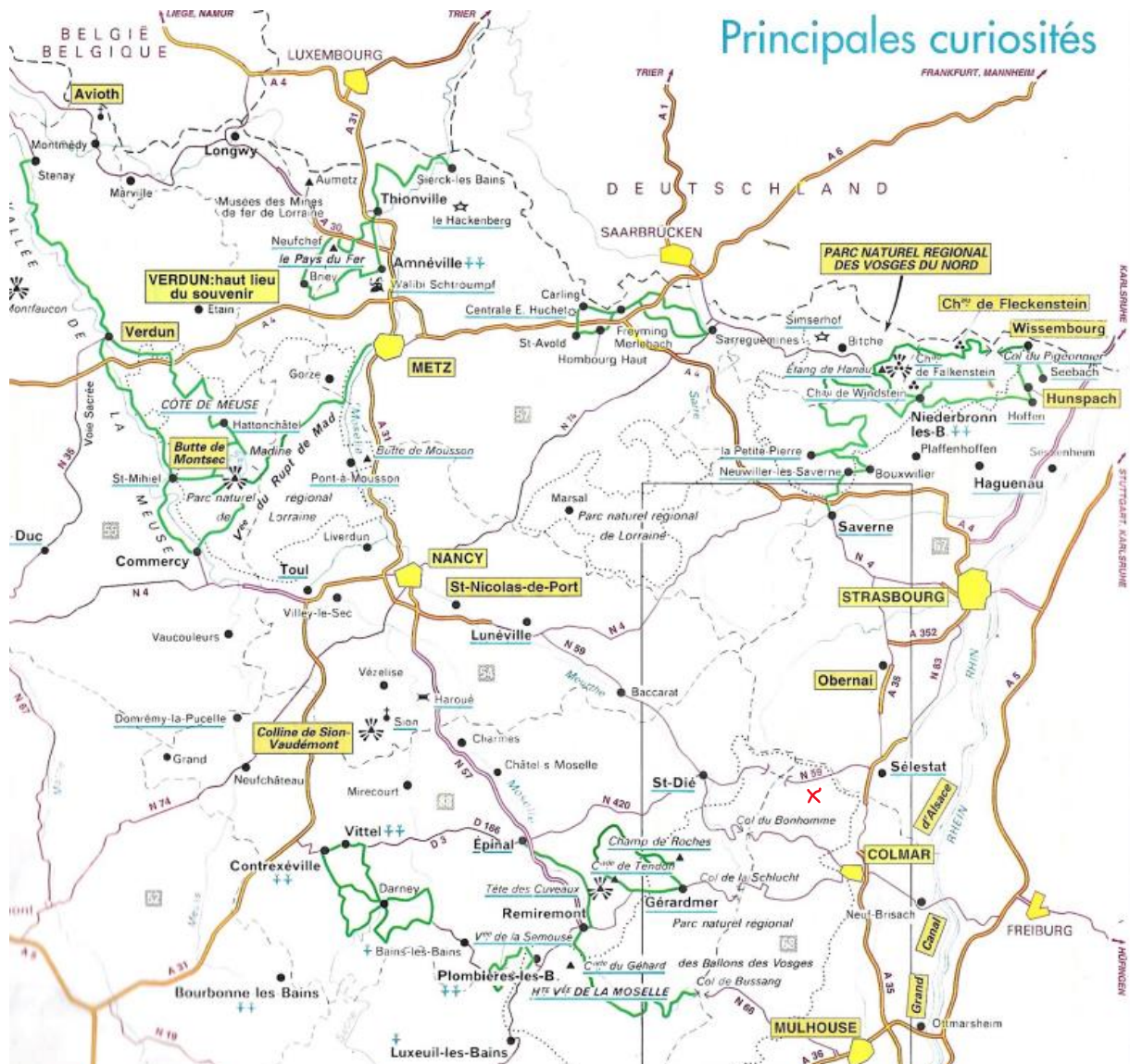


Afternoon: Stroll in the pedestrian streets, across the *Moselle* to the *Place de la Comédie* and the New Temple:



Saturday 11 May

We start our round trip to the *Vosges* and *Alsace*. First destination: the Castle of *Haut-Koenigsbourg*. From Nancy, take A33 then N333 to Lunéville, then N59. For a scenic route, take D459 to *Ste Marie aux Mines* via the “*col de Ste Marie*”.



Coffee break at *Ste Marie aux Mines*. Back on the N59 to drive to the castle.

Visit the Castle of *Haut-Koenigsbourg*, <https://www.haut-koenigsbourg.fr/en/>.

“Since its construction in the 12th century, the Haut-Koenigsbourg castle has been a constant witness to both European conflicts and rivalry between lords, kings and emperors.

A number of illustrious owners each left their mark on the castle's history, and successive events even led to changes in the castle's structure...”



From the castle, view on the Alsace plain and its vineyards.

The Wine Road of Southern Alsace: first stop at *Ribauvillé*, for a quick visit and lunch.



A picturesque street in Ribauvillé



A storks' nest

Next stop at *Riquewihr*: wine degustation at Domaine Agapé and visit of the village, with its extraordinarily preserved 17th-century timbered houses:



Diner at *La Winstub du Chambard*, Kaysesberg: [La Winstub · Brasserie Traditionnelle à Kaysersberg en Alsace \(lechambard.fr\)](http://www.lechambard.fr)

Night at *Hôtel de Mittelwihr*: <https://www.hotelmittelwihr.fr/>

Sunday 12 May

Morning: Visit of Colmar, including its famous “Little Venice” area:
<https://www.tourisme-colmar.com/en/visit/presentation/discover>





Then, *enroute* to the Vosges, lunch (sandwiches) at Munster. Take road 417, drive by *Col de la Schlucht* (altitude: 1139 m) Stop to admire the landscape and the two lakes called Longemer and Retournemer.



Panorama photo showing the lakes of Retournemer (on the left) and Longemer (on the right)

Stop on the banks of Longemer lake:



Stroll in the streets of Gerardmer and have a drink on the banks of Gerardmer lake:



Night at *P'tit Hôtel du Lac*, 4 Route d'Epinal. <https://leptithoteldulac.fr/>.

Diner at *La Table du Rouan*, 2 Bd de la Jamagne, Gérardmer : [Restaurant Gerardmer La Table du Rouan - Hotel restaurant spa Vosges \(jamagne.com\)](http://Restaurant Gerardmer La Table du Rouan - Hotel restaurant spa Vosges (jamagne.com))

Monday 13 May:

On our way back to Nancy, as the gardens at Berchigranges (<https://www.berchigranges.com/>) are closed on Monday, we stopped at Lunéville to visit the Castle: <https://chateauluneville.meurthe-et-moselle.fr/fr/visiter-le-ch%C3%A2teau/>:



Then, we stopped at St Nicolas de Port to visit the *Basilique of St Nicolas*, built in the 15th and 16th centuries by René II, duke of Lorraine and Bar, to thank God for his victory in the Battle of Nancy, fought on 5 January 1477.



Tuesday 14 May

Morning: shopping in Nancy: first stop at the Central Market <https://www.nancy-tourisme.fr/offres/marche-central-de-nancy-fr-2036822/>.

Afternoon: stroll in the park of *Sainte-Marie* and relax in the spa of *Nancy Thermal*: <https://www.valvital.fr/Nos-stations-thermales/Nancy-Nancy-Thermal>.



Mercredi 15 mai

Morning: direction *Pont à Mousson* to visit the *Prémontrés* Abbay, which is used now as a hotel and a conference and exhibition centre: <https://www.abbaye-premontres.com/en/>.





Then stroll in the medieval city centre, around Place Duroc and its arcades. Lunch in a restaurant on Place Duroc: <https://pierre-bonaventure.fr/>

Go to the *Lorraine TGV* train station (TGV train to Charles de Gaulle airport leaves at 14:39).