

MARSEILLE

THE CITY WITH 111 NEIGHBOURHOODS





Marseille is often written in the plural - and there's no wonder!
It is a city with 111 facets and just as many neighbourhood hubs which give it all its splendour and exuberance and create its 'strong' character. Every district may have its own church and boules court, but not all have the same history, layout or are even of the same age!
To truly understand Marseille, you have to get to know its different facets. This is what the Marseille Metropolitan Tourist and Conventions Office is offering visitors by taking them on a tour of the city in 'districts', from its very unique coastline to the hills of Marcel Pagnol.

Here is a small taste of the many walks on offer to get to know Marseille from every angle and inside out!

AN OLD PORT WHICH IS YOUNG AT HEART

On arrival in Marseille, you can head straight for the water along '*la Canebière*', which will take you from the railway station straight down to the *Old Port*. You will reach the large esplanade, paved in the Italian style and covered with a 'mirror-effect' canopy designed by **Norman Foster**. This is the site of the famous Fish Market, where the day's catch is displayed every morning at dawn. A whole section of the district dating back to Louis XIV stretches along the *Quai de Rive-Neuve*. The streets, surrounded by buildings of undeniable charm, reveal their hidden gems one after another. These include the magnificent Opera House, the *Place aux Huiles* with its many restaurants and, of course, the Honoré-d'Estienne-d'Orves pedestrian square where, amongst others, the legendary **Les Arcenaulx** bookshop-restaurant, the **Yann Letestu** gallery and artists' studios open to the public, the headquarters of the '*La Marseillaise*' newspaper and the '*Arsenal des Galères*' built by **Colbert** can be found. Then, you can head for the *Quai du Port*, recognisable by the impressive buildings designed by **Pouillon** surrounding it.. Heading towards Mucem and the '*Villa Méditerranée*', you will pass workshops for repairing 'pointus' - traditional Marseille fishing boats - and the imposing Town Hall. The Old Port, much like every district in Marseille, has its own share of iconic characters and addresses, including Christian Buffa, chef at **Le Miramar** restaurant, Delphine at **Chez Madie les Galinettes**, **La Licorne** and its soap museum and **La Maison du Pastis** (managed by...a Belgian!) which offers the best pastagas - but that's not all!

[*Tour 'Marseille Trendy, le Vieux-Port du Roi Soleil' \(Trendy Marseille, the Old Port of Louis XIV\)*](#)



OLD
PORT



THE BEST OF «LE PANIER»

Here, you can wander in wonderment through the narrow streets and stairways which form the backbone of the oldest part of Marseille, surrounded by its particular lifestyle, tales and historic anecdotes. **This is 'Le Panier'.**

The city's birthplace can only really be explored by walking its streets, pardi! It is a cosmopolitan district in which artists' studios, antique dealers, cafés and restaurants live happily side by side. The shops of trades which are in danger of disappearing elsewhere can also be found here, such as José Orsoni and his biscuit shop '**Les Navettes des Accoules**', Dali Nouader's '**Sablés Marseillais**' (butter biscuits) in her shop '**La Frétilante**', the '**Arterra**' family workshop of santon-makers, or the '**Atelier du Corail**' of Gaëlle (maker of delicate jewellery) and Jonas (coral diver), etc.

[*Tours 'Balade Le Panier' and 'Le Panier, cœur historique de Marseille' \('A Walk Around Le Panier' and 'Le Panier, The Historic Centre of Marseille'\)*](#)



LE PANIER





THE «JOLI» CENTRE

The beating economic heart of Marseille is located in the historic centre of the city. Become immersed in 'New Marseille', which has been growing for nearly 30 years. This is a real 'smart village' with urban surroundings redesigned as part of the **Euroméditerranée project**. The result is modern, offbeat and a little futuristic. In 'La Joliette', the residential areas are also places where it is enjoyable to live, and the buildings, due to the amazing architecture, are as beautiful on the outside as they are inside. Opposite the flamboyant 'Cathédrale de La Major' and the vast covered market next to it, there are the three must-see sights - the 'Villa Méditerranée', the MuCEM and the 'Musée Regards de Provence'. Further out, there are still impressive sights to see in 'La Joliette', with the 'Le Cepac Silo' performance venue, 'Le Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain', Le Hangar J1 and the impressive **Docks Village** (former warehouses transformed into shopping malls and offices), for example. The tour covers the length and breadth of the area, as well as up above! The 'CMA-CGM' and the 'Tour La Marseillaise' tower overhead and are landmarks in this new business district.

[*Tour « Marseille aujourd'hui, en route vers le Mucem »*](#)

ART IS ALWAYS IN LE COURS

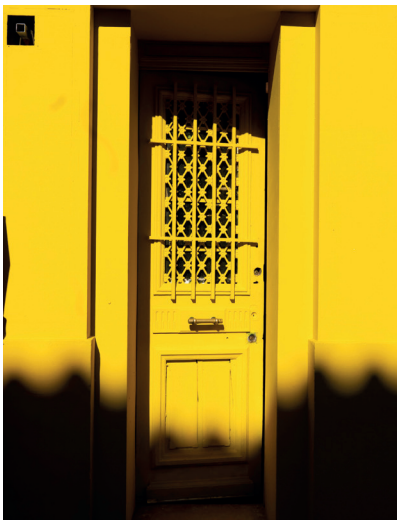
Located on a hillock on the edge of the city centre, the ‘*Cours Julien*’ (Cours Ju’ to locals) is a lively neighbourhood known for its quirky, colourful and artistic character. Associated with ‘*La Plaine*’ market, it is now a hub for street art. Socially-aware murals decorate the walls and façades and depict the city and its history, which are inseparable from that of the people of Marseilles. The area contains several landmarks which will delight lovers of more ‘traditional’ art, such as the ‘*Conservatoire National au Palais des Arts*’, the ‘*Église Notre-Dame du Mont*’ and the ‘*Théâtre des Bernardines*’ (a former convent established by nuns of the same name).

There are several restaurants serving a very wide range of cuisine in this ‘creative district’, as well as studio/shops and vintage shops of all kinds. It is impossible to miss iconic places such as the shop ‘**L’Entrepôt**’, where work by Brems and QG from the **Massilia Graffiti** association are exhibited.

> **Missing some greenery?** To recharge with some nature, you can enjoy a break surrounded by greenery in the many streets which have been planted up by the inhabitants themselves. Apart from discovering this urban flora, you can also stop to enjoy areas near key buildings on either side of the Canebière, such as the *Conservatory* or the ‘*Église des Réformés*’ (which is currently being restored).

Halfway down, you’ll find yourself among palm trees, roses and jasmine on the green patio of the very unique ‘**Le Ryad**’ hotel, where the manager can offer you a herbal tea from the garden!

[*Tour « Street-art au Cours-Julien » et « Balade buissonnière, la biodiversité en ville »*](#) (‘*Street Art in Cours-Julien*’ and ‘*A Walk through the City’s Greenery and Biodiversity*’)



COURS JULIEN



THE PLEASANT SLOPES OF VAUBAN

Vauban is located a stone's throw from the city centre. It is without doubt THE quintessential neighbourhood in Marseille.

Perched on the side of a hill, it links the Old Port to the '**Basilique Notre-Dame de la Garde**' - a high-level neighbour which brazenly turns its back on the Old Port.

People used to hunt here in the past. Today, it is a micro city in which tranquillity and a family atmosphere are the main characteristics - everyone talks to each other and knows each other! All along the urban promenade, a varied landscape unfolds, with private mansions, artists' and craftsmen's studios, and opulent dwellings where native vaubanais and new arrivals get along very well. On the steep slopes so characteristic of Vauban, there is a delightful ward containing the '**Maison Vauban**' restaurant, the artisan goat leather goods maker '**Sacs Mary**', the pizzeria '**La Bonne Mère**' and '**Emkipop**', an ice-cream maker who creates ice pops.

> Oh, '**Bonne Mère**' (Our Lady)! One last push: you can climb a little higher up to *Notre-Dame de la Garde*, the highest point in Marseille and one which just cannot be missed! The route finishes in style by descending the hill via the 200 or so steps looking out over the sea and leading to the charming district of *Endoume* and the '*Abbaye de Saint-Victor*', which is yet another feast for the eyes!

Tour 'Le quartier Vauban, un village marseillais' (The Vauban district, a Marseille neighbourhood)



VAUBAN





VALLON DES AUFFES



IN THE LOVE WITH THE «PETIT VAL»

Today, the '*Vallon des Auffes*'* remains a beautiful place in Marseille.

This authentic fishing port looks like a picture postcard, with its viaduct as a backdrop and row of colourful cottages lining its quay. The harbour in Vallon is in the form of a pretty central U-shape, extending from the Michelin-starred '*L'Épuiette*' restaurant to the '*Bassin des Auffes*' - a sort of 'sea pool' which is loved by young and old alike in Marseille.

Although it is very peaceful in the low season, this haven becomes a local Dolce Vita when summer arrives. It is the perfect place for an early morning 'splash', the perfect starting point for a paddle-boarding trip or a magical aperitif spot in the sunset... and the location for the key address where you can find (and taste, of course) THE fish soup - the traditional '*Chez Fonfon*' restaurant. You can even enjoy a new event every Thursday evening in the summer season, organised by the '*Association du Vallon des Auffes*' (AVA for those in the know)!

> **Want to explore further?** Let's go for an urban walk between land and sea along the '*Corniche Kennedy*' and explore this sublime 'balcony over the sea' with its beautiful villas (otherwise known as the 'follies of the Corniche'), its scenery of rocky outcrops, its small hidden harbours, the monument to the *Army of the Orient*, the tide gauge and the '*Villa Valmer*' and its 'hanging' garden.

You have to go over the eroded rocks of Malmousque - a cove dear to the people of Marseille and a favourite haunt of tourists who want a taste of '*Le Petit Nice*', **Gérald Passédât's triple Michelin-starred restaurant.**

[Tour 'Malmousque, petit port de la Corniche' \(Malmousque, the small harbour of La Corniche\)](#)

**It takes its name from the North African and Spanish grasses (auffo, in Provençal) that rope makers stored there in the 19th century.*

BELSUNCE BREAKDOWN

«*Everything comes and goes from here*» according to the words written by **Bouga and Akhenaton - IAM**, for the soundtrack of the film '*Comme un aimant*'. Marseille would not be Marseille without Belsunce, this 'flagship of the Phocaean districts' which is both a welcoming and creative place and is where **La Marseillaise** rang out for the first time in 1792!

Explore the rich history of sharing and trade in this popular area in the very centre of the city by following a route designed in collaboration with the **ACAM Belsunce** ('Association des Commerçants et Artisans de Marseille' (Association of Traders and Craftsmen of Marseille)).

In the heart of this diverse and dynamic place, you will discover surprising landmarks along the narrow streets, such as the '*Église Saint-Théodore*' (soon to be the '*Musée de l'Art Baroque*' (Museum of Baroque Art)), the '*Bibliothèque Municipale de l'Alcazar*' (city library), the '*Théâtre de l'Œuvre*', the '*Mémorial de La Marseillaise*' and the '*Jardin des Vestiges*', etc. There are also some more unusual places in Belsunce, such as '*Tom*' the Master tailor, the '*Zoé la Fée*' company (a designer shop & tea room), the '*AZA*' association which has won the '*Maître d'Art Brodeur*' (Master Embroiderer) award and '*Linda*', a fair trade shop and food and drink outlet promoting women's economic integration, to name but a few!

> The tour can be continued in vibrant **Noailles**, a district adjacent to Belsunce where you can enjoy a delicious culinary experience. You can walk up '**Rue d'Aubagne**' and count off wonderful places like pearls on a string. These include the **Épicerie L'Idéal**, **Chez Yassine**, the pizzeria **Sauveur**, **Maison Empereur**, which is none other than the oldest hardware store in France (however, it is also a tea room, convenience store, cutlery shop and do-it-yourself shop, etc.), **Yima** and the spice shop **Saladin**... it is just one little gem after another!

[Tour 'Belsunce et ses sentiers créatifs' \(Belsunce and its creative trails\)](#)



BELSUNCE





LOOKS LIKE... THE SOUTH !

Although the south of Marseille is less popular with tourists and more residential, it is also full of many fine sights to explore. **Le Prado** is just one such place. It is named after its main avenue, 3400 m square. In addition to the famous **Velodrome Stadium**, **La Cité Radieuse** is also popular. This ‘city within a city’ designed by **Le Corbusier** is a listed **UNESCO World Heritage site**. It has an art centre and a rooftop terrace with a breathtaking view.

A stone’s throw from the Rond-Point du Prado and not far from the statue of David (yes, yes, just like in Florence!), ‘*La Magalone*’, Marseille’s *Cité de la Musique* and its hidden garden are a delight, much like the ‘*École Nationale de Danse*’ (National School of Dance) and the ‘*Château Borély*’!

You can then explore the district of *Mazargues* - the last neighbourhood before the cottages on the *Massif des Calanques* and find the church, the *Obelisk* and the *English Cemetery*. You can journey back in time to an era when each family used to load the donkeys to go down to the sea, and stop off for some tasting sessions along the way at ‘**Maison Marin**’, which has been a cheese makers for generations and Romain’s ‘**O’Douceurs Givrées**’ specialist ice-cream parlour. Finally, before leaving, a stop at ‘**Andrée de Viale**’ is a must to buy flowers to take home, but above all, to hear anecdotes from this florist who is a native of this neighbourhood.

> **Les Goudes vibes** : Want to head even further south? Head off to (almost) the end of the Earth and the famous *Les Goudes* harbour. This is, without doubt, one of those rare places in the world where you are happy to ‘jump straight in’!

Tours ‘Mazargues, dans tous les ‘sens’ (Mazargues in all ‘senses’) and ‘La Cité radieuse – Le Corbusier’

LA TREILLE, THE MADELEINE OF P...AGNOL

Take a deep breath of fresh air in this typical *Provençal* neighbourhood nicknamed the 'village of memories' - those of the childhood of **Marcel Pagnol**, a writer and filmmaker who left his mark on the history of Marseille. Like a journey back in time, the rambling walk winds through **La Treille** and its dirt roads, beneath the hills which were so dear to him and following in the footsteps of the Pagnol family. There is '*Bastide Neuve*', the Pagnol family home, '*Pascaline*', the villa where he took refuge to write and the grave of '*little Marcel*' in the village's graveyard. With a pair of good shoes on your feet (hiking is still a bit of a sport after all!), you can enjoy a (deserved) break on the terrace of the **Le Cigalon** restaurant and savour its beef stew or its '*pieds paquets marseillais* (a speciality of the house) before setting off again!

Tour 'Un Jeudi à La Treille, village raconté de Provence' (A Thursday at La Treille, a village from tales of Provence)



LA TREILLE



Through this wide variety of rich and varied city tours, the Tourist Office offers visitors an incredible tour of the sights which, if it leaves them speechless, will certainly not leave them unmoved!

To book one of the guided tours by the Tourist and Conventions Office, please go to marseilleexperience.com or on +33 (0)826 500 500 (0.15 mn)



Tourist and Conventions Office

11, la Canebière

CS 603340 - 13211 Marseille Cedex 01

www.marseille-tourisme.com

CONTACT PRESSE - AGENCE MEWS

Laëtitia Toulouse - 07 77 32 82 64 - l.toulouse@agence-mews.com
Camille Calancha - 06 15 01 16 98 - c.calancha@agence-mews.com