

Places to visit in France

Submitted by:
Yaroslav Nedlinskiy
and
Roman Sharapa

1. Eiffel Tower

- The Eiffel Tower is a symbol of Paris and one of the top tourist attractions in France. The tower was built by Gustave Eiffel as the entrance arch for the International Exhibition of Paris of 1889. Since its construction more than 200,000,000 people have visited the Eiffel Tower making it the most visited paid tourist attraction in the world.



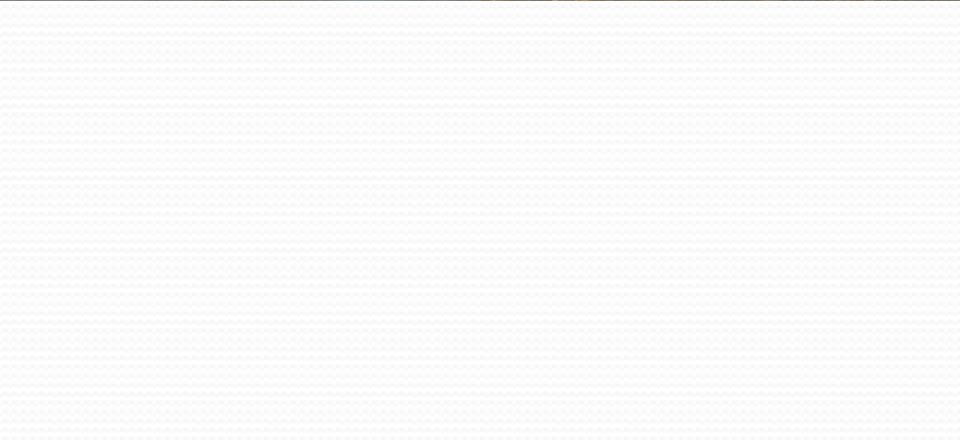
2. Mont St. Michel

- This is the most visited and famous site in Normandy, France. It is a small rock island best known for the Abbey and the Church. Its Pyramid-like outline is famous all over the world and thousands of tourists visit every year to Mont Saint Michel.



3. Versailles Palace

- The palace was built when Louis XIV ruled and the French name of the palace is Le Chateau de Versailles. It consists of hundreds of rooms and is famous for its luxurious furnishings. The gardens of the palace are amongst the most famous gardens from all over the world.



4. Arc de Triomphe

- **Arc de Triomphe** is one of the famous monuments in France built in honour of soldiers who fought for France during World War I. As a mark of respect, a flame stays lit at the site in memory of all the soldiers who lost their lives during the War. It is a great display of the architectural heritage of France.



5. Museum Louvre

- One of the most well known Art Museums across the world hosts some of the famous artworks including the the grand painting of Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci. More spectacular works by Michelangelo, Raphael and Botticelli. A pyramid made of glass was a new entrance to the building. The museum is a must-visit for all art lovers and history enthusiasts.



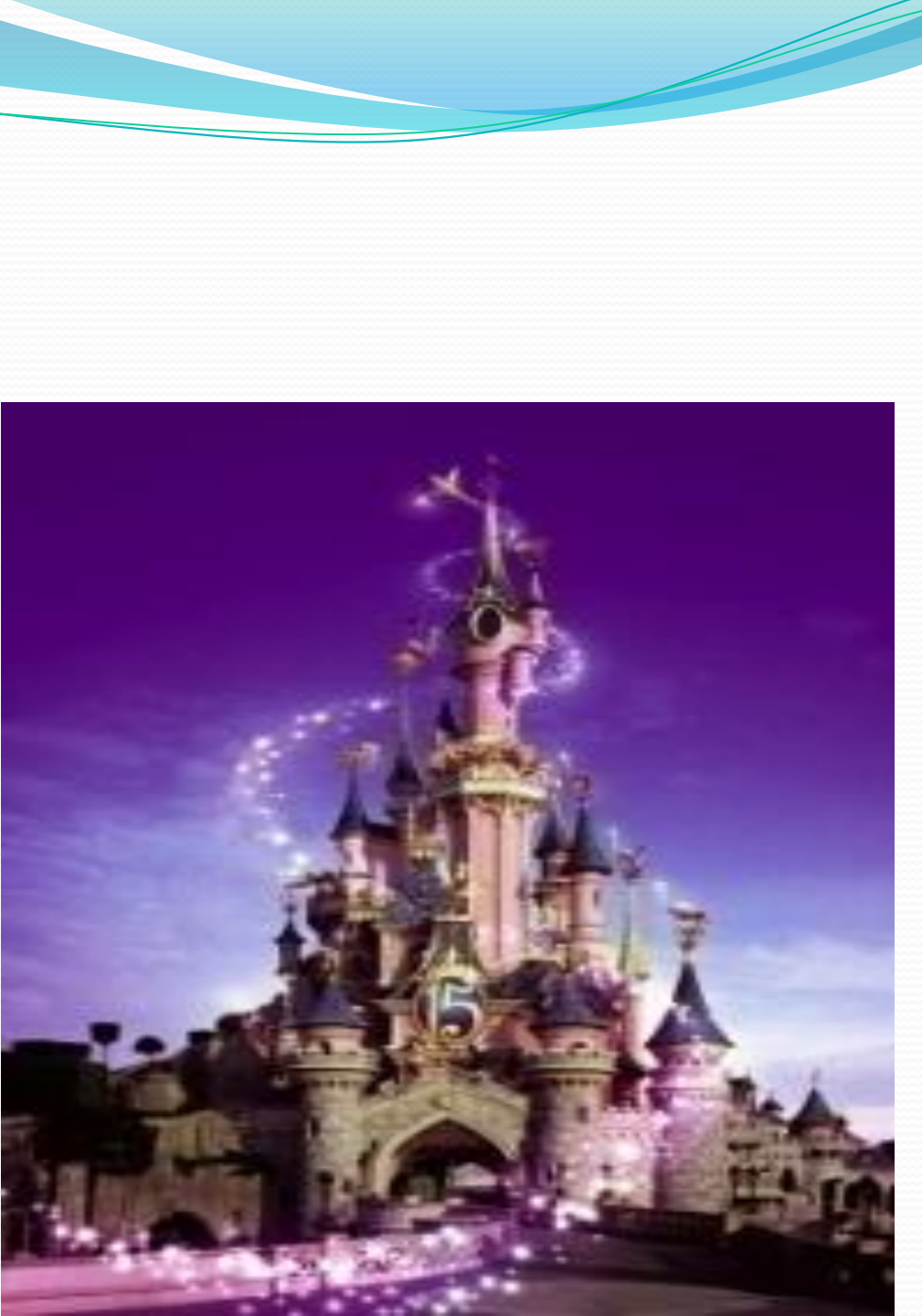
Lourdes

- **Lourdes** is a spiritual place visited by millions of pilgrims from all over the world every year. Its significance lies in its location inside a cave in Lourdes where a 'very special spring of water' was discovered in 1858 by a young girl called Marie-Bernarde Soubirous. The young girl spoke to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and she was told to dig in a certain place inside the cave and after digging the spring of water began to flow. It is believed that the water is very special and has miraculous healing powers. It was said that many sick people have been cured by touching or drinking the water.



7. Disneyland Paris

- It is one of the major tourist attractions from all over the world. Disneyland in Paris is one of the most visited theme parks in the world. This theme park has 5 Theme Lands and more than 50 attractions including Roller Coaster Rides, Water Rides, and many more thrilling rides.



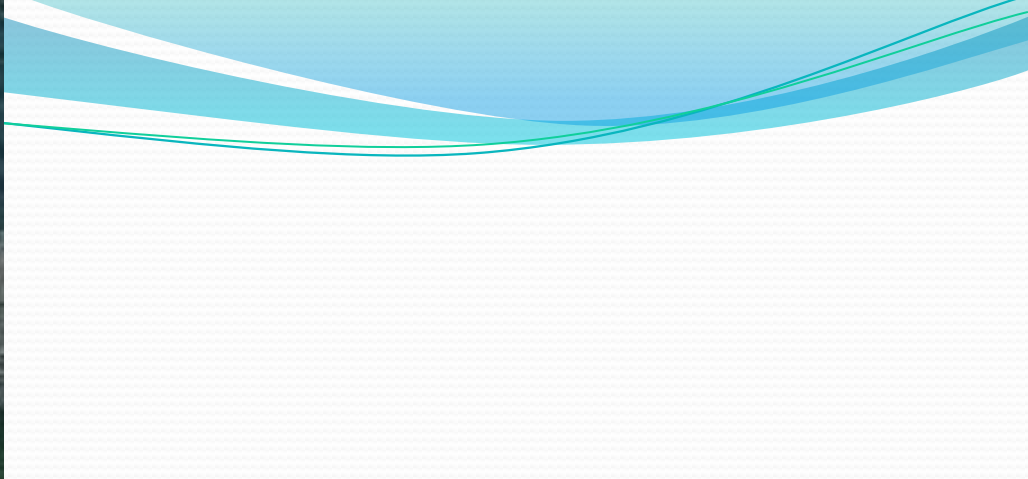
8. Chartres Cathedral

- The almost perfectly preserved Chartres Cathedral in the city of Chartres is one of the finest examples of the French High Gothic style. The majority of the original stained glass windows survive intact, while the architecture has seen only minor changes since the early 13th century.



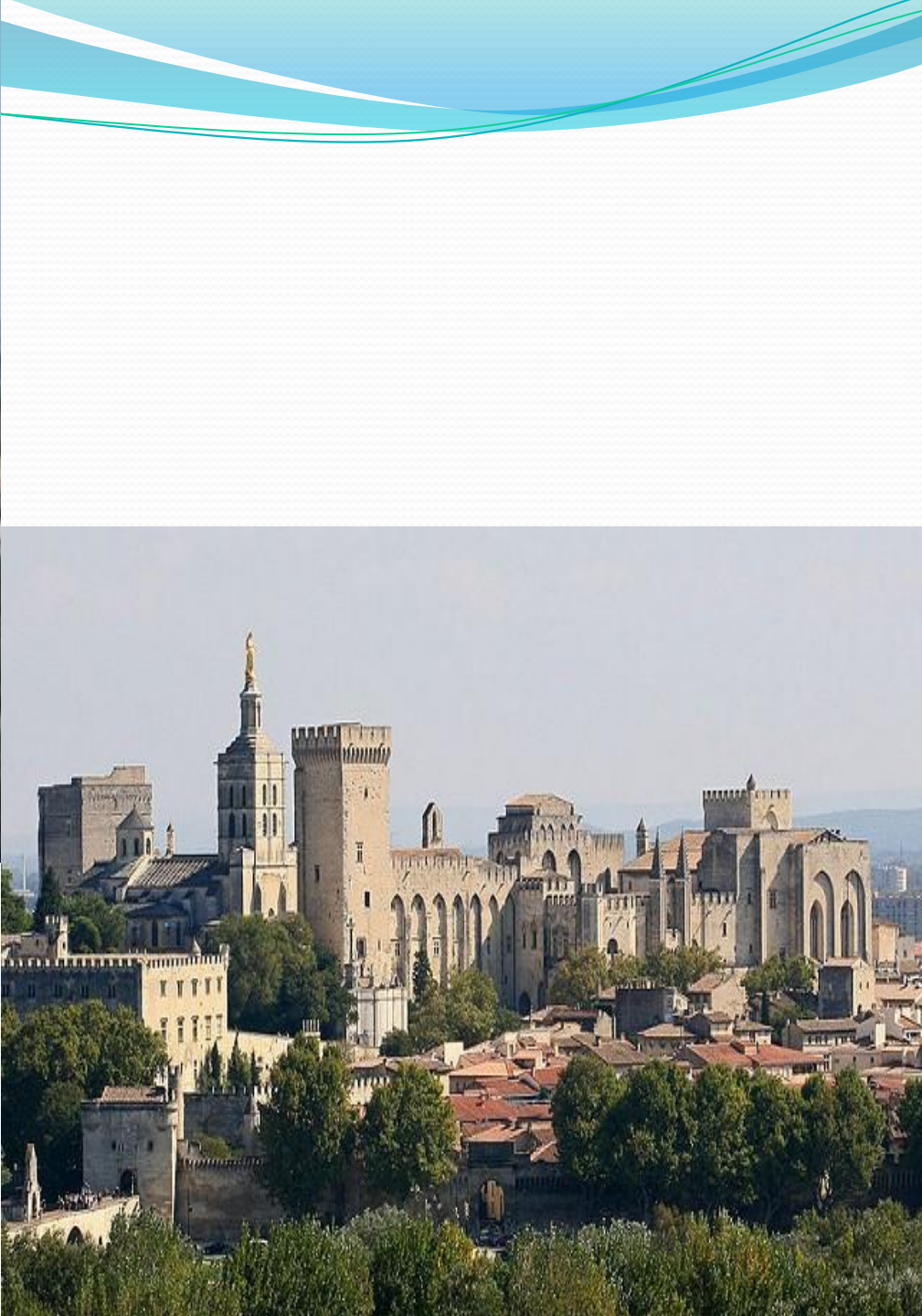
9. Dune of Pyla

- Located in the Arcachon Bay area, the Dune of Pyla is the tallest sand dune in Europe. At the summit of the dune the view is spectacular with the Atlantic coast and the inlet of the bay on one side and a large pine forest on another.



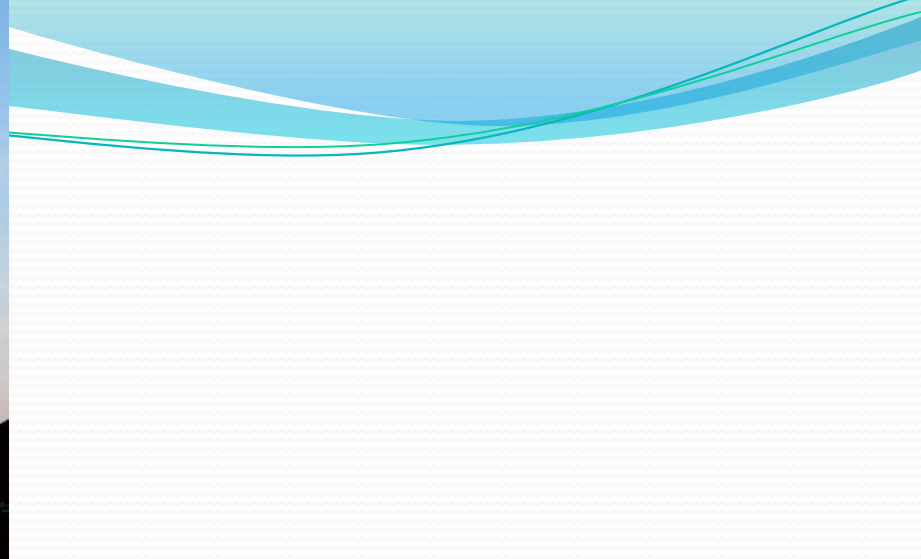
10. Palais des Papes

- One of the largest and most important Gothic buildings in the world, the Palais des Papes (Pope's Palace) was built when Pope Clement V abandoned Rome in 1309 and settled in Avignon. The 3 meter (10 feet) thick walls, portcullises and watchtowers emphasize the castle-like look of the palace.



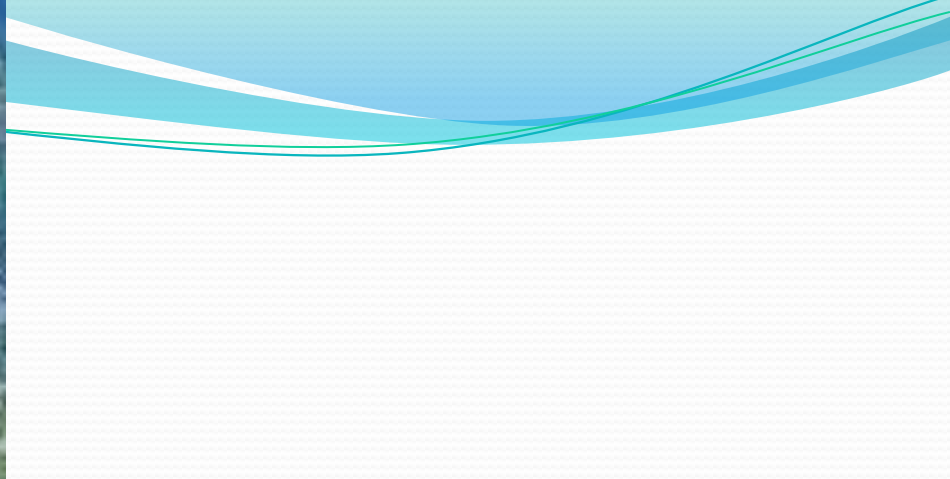
11. Chateau de Chambord

- This second most visited château in France (after Versailles), is a masterpiece of the French Renaissance. Construction of the Chateau de Chambord started in 1519 by King François I so he could hunt in the nearby forests. The cold and massive 440 rooms of the Château made it unpopular as an actual residence and François I himself stayed here for less than 40 days in total.



12. Gorge du Verdon

- The Gorge du Verdon is a 25 kilometer (15 miles) long canyon and rises a spectacular 700 meters (2,300 feet) from the Verdon river below. The river, which is named after its startling green emerald color, is one of the Gorge du Verdon's most beautiful features. Water sport opportunities here include rafting, kayaking, sailing and water skiing.



13. Chamonix

- Chamonix is a famous ski resort in the French Alps at the foot of Mont Blanc. It was the site of the first Winter Olympic games in 1924. In winter world-class skiers and boarders push themselves to extremes on Europe's most challenging slopes while in the summer months Chamonix is a mecca for alpine mountaineers and mountain bikers.



14. St Tropez

- Located on the French Riviera, St Tropez is known for its famous and extremely wealthy summer guests. It has been dubbed the playground of the jetset, fashion models, and millionaires. Outside peak summer there are less celebrities to spot but you'll also instantly appreciate what lured artists, writers and film makers to this picturesque village.

