

Grenoble, historical center



An original route in the heart of the town to discover 2050 years of history, from Cularo, the Gallo-Roman, to Grenoble, the French Alps' metropolis.

1 Gallo-Roman enclosure, entrance to Rue Lafayette

Remains of the town's 1st enclosure, constructed between 286 and 293 AD, with 39 towers, when the Emperor Diocletien elevated Cularo to the status of administrative capital.

2 Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Stendhal, the famous romantic author, was born at N°14, on the January 23rd 1783. Note the late 17th century walnut door at N°16, and opposite, the Renaissance turret of the Hôtel Rabot.

3 Place Grenette

The main square since the grain and livestock markets took place here in the 17th century. Do not miss the beautiful stone fountain, featuring winged genies riding dolphins, sculpted by Victor Sappey.

4 Rue & Porte de Bonne

The old Porte de Bonne, built around 1670, used to be at this spot and was the main southern entrance to the town. It is through this gateway that Napoleon entered Grenoble on the March 7th 1815 at the start of the Hundred Days. In the Rue de Bonne, note the fine 17th century wrought iron impost doors.

5 Place Victor Hugo

Created in 1885 on the site of a bastion and old barracks, it quickly became the town's new elegant centre and still has its original chestnut trees and late 19th century facades.

6 Rue Félix Poulat

Opposite the Eglise Saint-Louis, consecrated in 1699, these two so-called "Elephant" buildings, built after 1900, are characteristic of artificial stone architecture. Apart from the ground floor, the facades are all made from cast cement. Even the bricks aren't real!



Le téléphérique Grenoble-Bastille

7 Old 3 Dauphins (princes) Inn

Napoleon stayed here for two nights, on the 1st floor, in March 1815. The innkeeper at the time was a certain Labarre, a former soldier from the Egyptian campaign. You will appreciate the 3 elegant fountains opposite, built around 1676.

8 Jardin de Ville

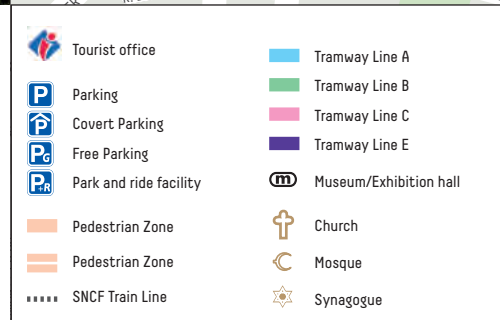
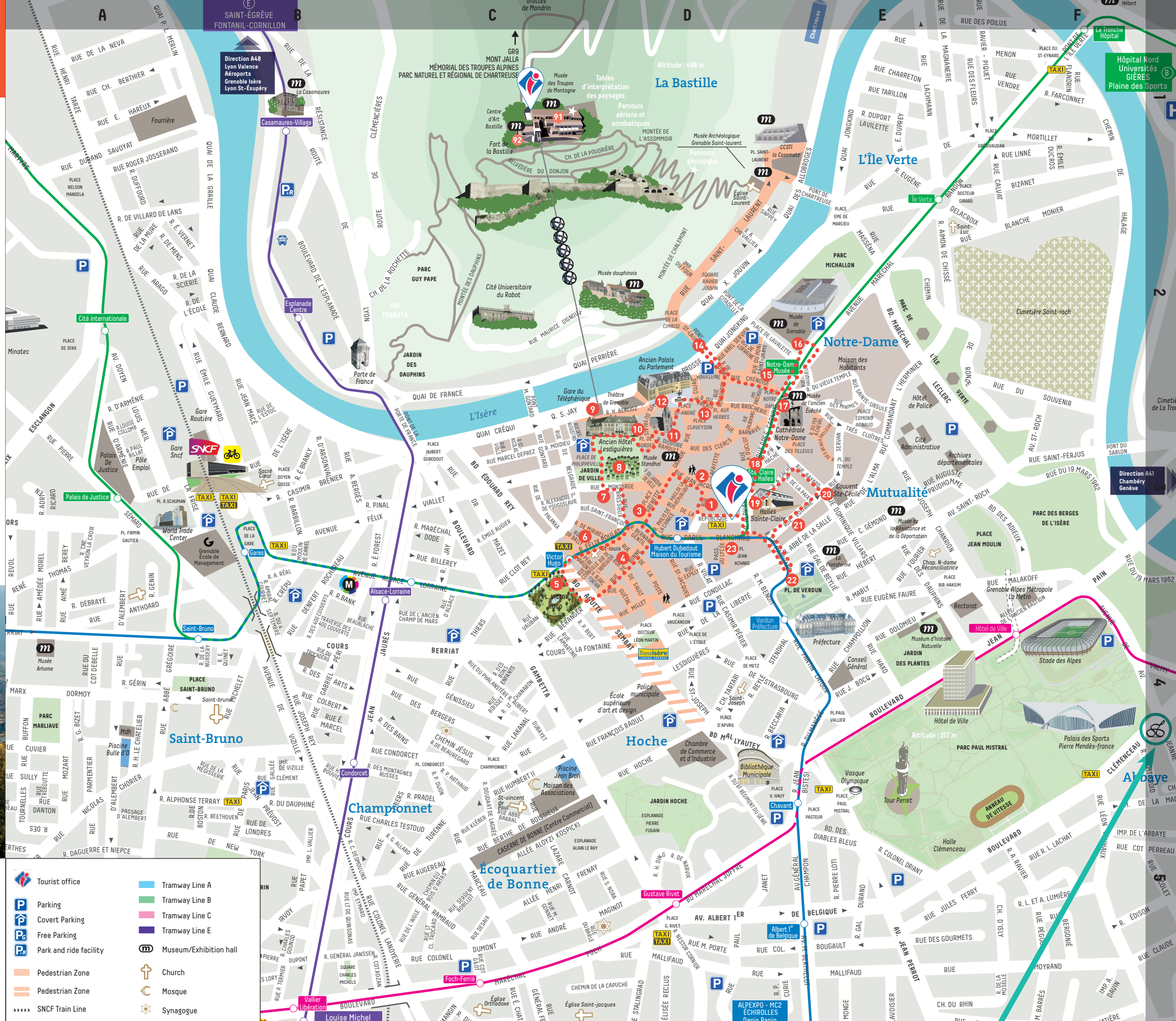
Previously the private garden of the Dukes of Lesdiguières, which became a public garden in 1719. In summer it is one of the town's liveliest places. Nearby the French style flowerbeds is the old Hôtel de Lesdiguières, built between 1600 and 1650. It was the town hall between 1719 and 1967, and now houses the Maison de l'International.

9 Grenoble-Bastille cable car

Discover Grenoble and its early 19th century fortifications of the Bastille fort by taking the cable car, which was built in 1934 and modernised in 1976. In the cable car's "Bulles" (Bubbles) you will climb the 260 m in only a few minutes.

91 Vauban Belvedere

Admire the area around the Capital of the Alps, from Mont Blanc and the Belledonne mountains to the east, the Obiou mountain to the south and the Vercors massif to the west, with the old town down below on the banks of the Isère river.



92 The Geologists' Terrace

From this terrace, a view opens out across the west of Grenoble, with Europe's longest straight avenue (8 km), the Polygone Scientifique (Scientific Park) and its research institutes (CEA, Synchrotron, ILL, Minatec) nestled between the Drac and Isère rivers.

10 Place de Gordes

Picturesque square in the old town, created in 1791 on the site of the Maison du Prévôt of the Saint-André canons. Enjoy the beautiful view of the collegiate church's 14th century gothic spire.

11 Saint-André Collegiate Church

Building work was started in 1228 by the Dauphin Guigues VI. It was built using bricks like all Grenoble's religious and noble constructions of the 13th and 14th centuries.

12 Place Saint-André

This square, the seat of delphinal power, is bordered by the old Dauphiné Palais du Parlement and its gothic and renaissance facades. The Café de la Table Ronde is the second oldest café in France (1739). Discover the mausoleum of Knight Bayard in the collegiate church.

13 Place aux Herbes

This square, the seat of popular power in the Middle Ages, is historically a gathering place for the people of Grenoble and today is still home to a local producers' market each morning, from Tuesday to Sunday.

14 Saint-Laurent footbridge

Built in 1837 and modernised in 1909, it is at the site of the town's 1st medieval bridge (late 11th century) often destroyed by floods on the Isère.

15 Ancient courtyards, Rue Chenoise

A major thoroughfare outside the ramparts until the 14th century. It boasts many courtyards and old houses, including the gothic house at N°10 and a loggia stairway at N°8.

16 Musée de Grenoble

One of the most prestigious museums of paintings in Europe, and the oldest museum of modern art in France.

17 Place Notre-Dame

In this lively square you will find the Notre-Dame cathedral and its Tour-Porche (13th cent.), the Eglise Saint-Hugues (13th cent.) and the Baptistry (4th-6th centuries), the remains of which are accessible from the Musée de l'Ancien Evêché. The Fontaine des Trois ordres (1897) commemorates the prerevolutionary events of 1788 (Journée des Tuiles) that opened the way for the French Revolution.

18 Place Sainte-Claire

Two types of buildings frame this square. Rectilinear buildings (late 19th century) on the left, and old houses (late 16th century/ early 17th century) on the right, with a good example of a Louis XIII style door at N°4.

19 Halles Sainte-Claire & Rue Auguste Gaché

This market hall built in 1874 is on the site of the old Clarisse convent (15th century). It is home to a colourful market every morning

from Tuesday to Sunday. The Rue Auguste Gaché, with its buildings bearing stone archways and entresols, is a good example of the urbanism of the 1820s.

20 Sainte-Cécile convent, old Bernardine convent

Founded in 1624 and abolished at the French revolution, it was restored in 2008 by the Glénat publishing company who have made it their head office. You will enjoy the elegant gateways and the 17th century chapel.

21 Rue Voltaire

Rue Voltaire has many beautiful residences. At N°6, you will notice the gateway to the old hotel of the 1st Presidency of the Parliament (1770) and at N°17, the facade of the Chapel of White Penitents (1657).

22 Place de Verdun

This square is a place where the imperial power was represented under the Second Empire, when it was known as the Place d'Armes. It is surrounded by limestone block buildings such as the Préfecture, the old museum-library and the Hôtel des Troupes de Montagne (Mountain troops building).

23 Stendhal Secondary School

The current school is in the old Jesuits school, whose stairway of honour houses a reflecting sundial (1673) that is unique in the world.

BIKE RENTING



VTC Electric
Mountain bike
Carbon road bike
Hybrid bike



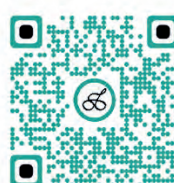
Discovery strolls
Sport Getaways



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Place Notre Dame