

STRASBOURG



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TOURISM

Strasbourg, in eastern France, is the seventh largest city in France. Strasbourg has a rich architectural history – the entire city center of Strasbourg is classified as world heritage. Strasbourg is a fine centre for the exploration of the Alsace region in France.



COUNTRY



Strasbourg , city (1990 pop. 255,931), capital of Bas-Rhin dept.

In Roman times Strasbourg was called Argentoratum and was an important city in the province of Upper Germany. It became an episcopal see in the 4th century. Destroyed by the Huns in the 5th century, the city was rebuilt and called Strasbourg.

ECONOMY

- France is in the midst of transition from a well-to-do modern economy that has featured extensive government ownership and intervention to one that relies more on market mechanisms. The government has partially or fully privatized many large companies, banks, and insurers, and has ceded stakes in such leading firms as Air France, France Telecom, Renault, and Thales. France's leaders remain committed to a capitalism in which they maintain social equity by means of laws.



ECONOMY

- Widespread opposition to labor reform has in recent years hampered the government's ability to revitalize the economy. In 2007, the government launched divisive labor reform efforts that will continue into 2008. France's tax burden remains one of the highest in Europe (nearly 50% of GDP in 2005). With at least 75 million foreign tourists per year, France is the most visited country in the world and maintains the third largest income in the world from tourism.



HISTORY

- Strasbourg, whose name means ‘the city of roads’, has had a long history at the centre of European affairs. Due to its excellent location at the crossroads of major waterways and land routes, this city has been prized since the Romans first settled here in 12 BC. Today, Strasbourg’s culture, architecture and traditions still bear witness to the Roman, German, French and Alsatian influences that have shaped its character, making it a truly European city.



GASTRONOMY

- Alsace is a region well known for its cooking, which has created countless specialities. Where the Alsatian chefs have been particularly ingenious is in their ability to use day-to-day ingredients (eggs, potatoes, cabbage etc.) when creating culinary masterpieces. This rustic-inspired cuisine quickly became popular with the urban classes, leading to the creation of delicious specialities such as foie gras, meat pie and pastries, while at the same time never losing sight of its rural origins. Some of the specialties of the cuisine of Strasbourg: Bibeleskäs, Bredele, Pretzel, Baeckeoffe, Carpe etc.

