

stra sur sée urée

**European
Capital**





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**Strasbourg,
a historically
European
city**

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**In Strasbourg,
Europe
is part
of daily life**

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**Strasbourg,
European
laboratory
of transitions**

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1.

**Strasbourg,
a historically
European
city**



Strasbourg's saga throughout the ages has borne out the words of Henri Pirenne, who wrote, ***"History is the daughter of geography"***

The city's unique identity and central role in the history of Europe owes much to its location in the Upper Rhine Valley, a territory frequently disputed between France and Germany, straddling as it does the borders between the Latin and Germanic cultures. Strasbourg's name derives from *Strateburgum*, the town of roads, which comes from its position at the crossroads of the Rhine river and the arteries linking the eastern and western parts of the continent.

Profoundly European

Strasbourg's long history is stamped both with its predilection for liberty – Strasbourg was originally made a 'free city' in 1262 when it was in the Germanic Holy Roman Empire – and with its appetite for innovation, which made it a hive of activity for Humanism and for the Reform.

Jean Calvin spent time in the city before returning to Geneva, while Luther's disciple Martin Bucer used his pulpit in Strasbourg for 20 years to profess the reform. 1538 saw the creation of the High School, which 100 years later, would become the University of Strasbourg.

Strasbourg was instrumental in promoting the dissemination of culture in Europe, a role which underpins its profoundly European character. The city and its university are willing hosts to students, writers and artists from all over Europe and Strasbourg has seen many famous names within its walls, such as Goethe, Metternich and Mozart, the architect Erwin de Steinbach (who designed the great rose window of the cathedral) and, more recently, the artists Gustav Doré and Tomi Ungerer, artists and sculptors Jean-Hans Arp and Sophie Taeuber, as well as the artist and architect Theo van Doesburg.

Strasbourg, the capital of human rights and parliamentary democracy in Europe

The city of reconciliation, the seat of the Council of Europe since 1949 and of the European Court of Human Rights since 1959.

Strasbourg, its history long chequered by conflicts between France and Germany, has today become the symbol of what journalist and former EMP Louise Weisse called "continental reconciliation".

Following the Second World War, the city, with its strong humanist, Rhineland and European tradition, became a European capital and the capital of human rights and parliamentary democracy in Europe.

Following the signature of the Treaty of London on 5 May 1949, the first meeting of the Committee of Ministers was held in Strasbourg's town hall on 8 August 1949, followed 2 days later by the first sitting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe within the Aula of the Strasbourg university building.

The Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly is made up of parliamentarians from its 47 member states and meets 4 times a year. The Council of Europe, its institutions and bodies work to protect democracy, the rule of law and human rights, the golden triangle that forms the basis of European values.

The European Court of Human Rights is part of the Council of Europe and was set up in 1959 to oversee the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms within the 47 member states of the Council of Europe.



8 August 1949, the first meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg's town hall.



Strasbourg, Seat of the European Parliament

Strasbourg, seat of the European Parliament since 1958

Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Rome, which brought about the creation of the European Economic Community, it was decided that the parliamentary body would have its seat in Strasbourg. The new European Parliamentary Assembly first met on 19 March 1958 in Strasbourg, under the presidency of France's Robert Schuman.

The European Parliament has been the European Union's legislative body since 1979 and its members are elected every 5 years by direct universal suffrage. The 1992 European Council of Edinburgh and the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1997 confirmed Strasbourg as the **official seat of the European Parliament**, hosting its 12 monthly plenary sessions, including the budget session.

**"I AM EUROPEAN
AS I AM ALSATIAN."**

PIERRE PFLIMLIN,
Former President of the European Parliament



Strasbourg, seat of many European and international organisations

Strasbourg shares with New York and Geneva the privilege of being the **seat of international organisations** without itself being a national capital. As the city with the second largest diplomatic presence in France, it is home to some 80 diplomatic representations and consulates.

Many European and international organisations are headquartered in the city, including:

- **the operational centre of eu-LISA**, the European Union agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the areas of freedom, security and justice;
- **the European Ombudsman**;
- **the Secretariat of the Assembly of European Regions**, connecting regions in Europe;
- **the headquarters of the Eurocorps**;
- **the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine**, the oldest European organisation;
- **the seat of the René Cassin Foundation**
– **International Institute of human rights.**

The European Ombudsman

The European Ombudsman was created in 1992 to investigate complaints about maladministration in institutions and bodies within the European Union. The areas it covers include administrative irregularities, abuse of power, infringements of human rights, undue delays and refusal to provide information. A complaint may be made by any citizen of the European Union or by any legal entity, such as a company, non-profit or local authority.

**"EUROPE IS
THE GREAT PLAN
OF THE 20TH CENTURY."**

SIMONE VEIL,
Former President of the European Parliament





The International Space University is in Strasbourg

Important **international scientific cooperation organisations** have their headquarters in Strasbourg:

- **the European Science Foundation** was created in 1974 to promote excellence in science in Europe to drive progress in research and innovation;
- **the International Space University (ISU)** was founded in 1987 to provide interdisciplinary educational programs in space studies to students from all over the world;
- **the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM), a directorate of the Council of Europe** sets out and publishes standards for Europe for medicinal products for both human and veterinary use;
- **the Human Frontier Science Program** promotes research into complex mechanisms of living organisms.

Strasbourg is also a widely-acclaimed city of culture and home to several **European audiovisual organisations and companies**, which highlight the city's international dimension.

- **the ARTE television channel**
- **the European Audiovisual Observatory** part of the Council of Europe
- **the EURIMAGES Programme** of the Council of Europe

It is because these European institutions are present in Strasbourg in such a large number and in such diversity that the National Institute of Public Service (formerly ENA), the body responsible for training top-level civil servants from France, other European states and other continents, is established in the city.



The ARTE television channel is based in Strasbourg



Strasbourg, seat of the European Court of Human Rights





2.

**In
Strasbourg,
Europe
is part of
daily life**



Dynamic partnerships between the City of Strasbourg and the European Parliament

The City of Strasbourg has enjoyed many years of dynamic partnership with the European Parliament. Every 2 years since 2014, for example, the city becomes the focal point for European youth, with the European Youth Event, hosting some 9000 young Europeans who make the journey to debate the future of the European Union.

The **Sakharov prize** is awarded every year in Strasbourg and to mark the occasion, the city organises a series of events to honour laureates and promote human rights.



A new partnership agreement between the City of Strasbourg and the Council of Europe



A new partnership agreement was signed in 2021 to consolidate the long-standing cooperation between Strasbourg and the Council of Europe and to make Strasbourg a testing ground for innovative local policies with regard to democracy, citizen participation, the ecological transition, culture, young people, promoting human rights and fighting against inequalities and discriminations.

The World Forum for Democracy has been held annually in Strasbourg since 2012, in partnership with the Council of Europe. The forum sets out to debate solutions to key challenges for democracies.

The Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize is awarded each year by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

A triennial contract: Strasbourg, European capital

The contract sets out to provide Strasbourg with the resources to allow the city to perform its role as seat of European institutions and to promote its status as European capital.

Covering a three-year period from 2021 to 2023, the contract was signed on 9 May 2021 by the French State, in the presence of French President Emmanuel Macron, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Parliament President David Sassoli and the local authorities (Région Grand Est, the European Collectivity of Alsace, the Eurometropolis and City of Strasbourg). It provides EUR 189 million for two priority focuses:

- boosting the accessibility of Strasbourg and its territory, especially by improving railway connections in Europe, in particular those between Strasbourg and Frankfurt, Strasbourg and Brussels and Strasbourg and Basel/Mulhouse;
- raising Strasbourg's European profile and the territorial implementation of new initiatives and projects in research and innovation, culture, democracy and human rights.

A new European district in the Wacken

A new European district, right next to the European Parliament, has been gradually rising out of the ground since 2010. The first part of this huge programme is focused on service activities, and several major European companies have set up their head offices in the district. The second part will mainly comprise housing, grassland and public spaces.

Osmose is a new building, purpose-built to meet the needs of European institutions. Designed by architect David Roulin and completed in October 2021, the building is located right next to the European Parliament and is intended to host European activities.

**"IT IS IN STRASBOURG
THAT THE EUROPEAN
SPIRIT IS THE MOST OPEN
AND THE PUREST."**

LOUISE WEISS,
Oldest member of the European Parliament

The new European district in the Wacken



Active twinnings with the cities of Dresden and Stuttgart

These two twinnings are symbolic and marked by history. Strasbourg was twinned with Stuttgart in 1962 and with Dresden in October 1990. The city has maintained close ties for over 30 years with Dresden and some 60 years with Stuttgart. Many

joint initiatives have been launched with the two cities in the fields of culture, sport, scientific research and further education, as well as school exchanges and civic involvement.



Sylvio Dittich (DML-BY)

View of Dresden

View of Stuttgart



Bildnachweis©Stuttgart-MarketingGmbH

The Strasbourg, European Capital Agora for bringing synergies together at local level



The Strasbourg, European Capital Agora was set up in summer 2020 to make Strasbourg's European spirit part of the city's daily life and to help it enter the consciousness of all its inhabitants.

The Agora brings together all the local stakeholders around the central theme of Strasbourg's European status and will be implementing actions aimed at the territory's citizens.

The purpose of this new body is to act as a **centre for debate and new ideas** for building a strategy and a joint project around the territory's cross-border and European identity, through the active involvement of citizens and institutions.

Well-established cross-border cooperation

A further symbol of Franco German reconciliation, Strasbourg has built up a comprehensive cross-border cooperation system with the **neighbouring state of Baden-Württemberg**, featuring mutual solidarity arrangements and partnerships demonstrating concrete examples of Europe in our everyday lives. Based on flows and exchanges of information at every level, this cooperation has developed into a genuine border-free living area and a driving force for projects benefiting its inhabitants.

Unimpeded border crossing has now become part and parcel of daily life for many of these people, for reasons of work, residence, studies, healthcare or leisure. The cooperation is underpinned by concrete developments, such as the Jardin des Deux Rives riverside park and its

pedestrian bridge across the Rhine, the Cross-Border Centre for Young Children, the tramline connecting up Kehl and Strasbourg city centre since 2018 and the use of lost energy produced by the steelworks in Kehl for heating homes in Strasbourg.

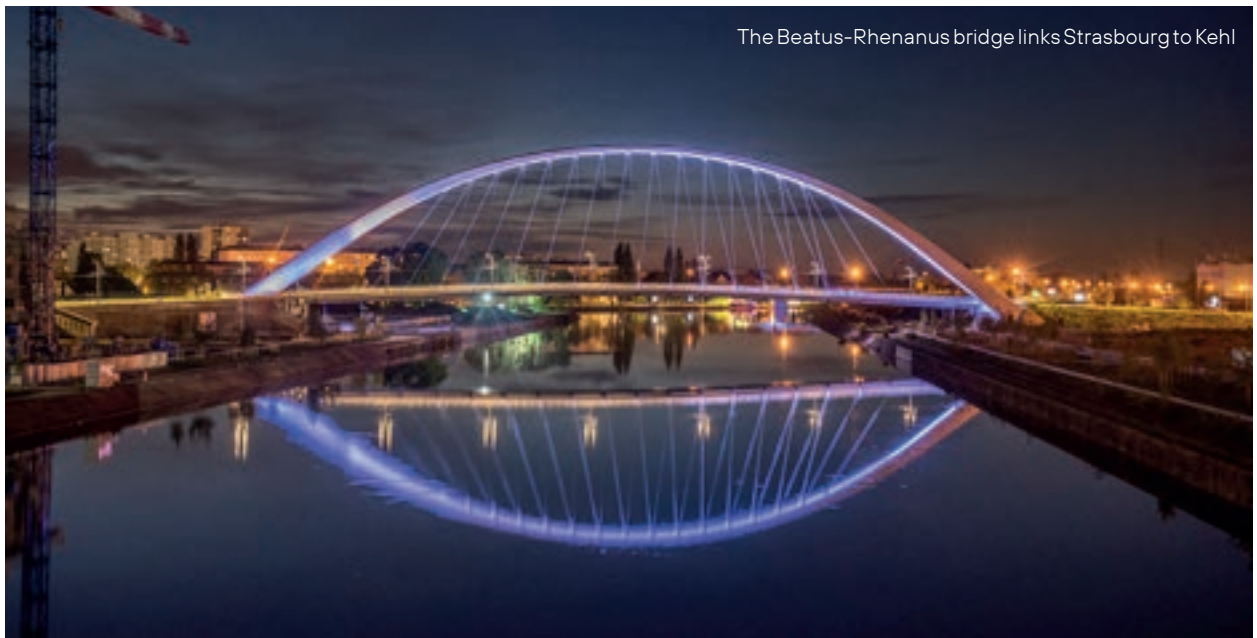


Cross-Border tram between Strasbourg and Kehl

Strasbourg-Kehl Convention

Strasbourg and Kehl signed a convention in December 2021 to deepen relations and facilitate their collaboration in developing a cross-border conurbation featuring joint governance and closer cooperation with regard, for example, to shared facilities and the ecological transition and

to facing the challenges of the coming years with the new Deux Rives development. The collaboration will also include culture, bilingualism, social insertion and jobs, to allow the opportunities of the cross-border territory to be available to one and all.



The Beatus-Rhenanus bridge links Strasbourg to Kehl

Strasbourg will also be working closely with existing **Rhine-region cooperation forums** (Network of Cities, the Rhine Council, the Upper Rhine conference), information and advice facilities (Infobest, the European Consumer Centre, the Cross-Border Placement Service, the TRION-Climate network) and the Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict. These

structures, working with the Secretariat of the Cross-Border Cooperation Committee of the Aachen Treaty, act as local relays for the territory's inhabitants and centres of innovation, helping to breathe life into a concrete Europe and highlighting Strasbourg-Kehl as a pivotal part of the relationship between France and Germany.

Europe in the City

Lieu d'Europe

To give citizens a fuller picture of the central role that Strasbourg has in Europe, the city has created Lieu d'Europe, a "Europe Centre" located right next to the major European institutions. The centre offers a valuable source of information to help visitors, schoolchildren and local inhabitants find out about the cultural diversity and values of the European project, through a programme of events, temporary and permanent exhibitions, concerts and conferences.

Strasbourg awarded the European Heritage label

The European Heritage label focuses on European history and the significant role these sites have played in the history and culture of Europe. The label was awarded by the European Union in 2016 to Strasbourg and its European district, to celebrate their contribution to the European integration process.

The Festival of Europe, a special time in Strasbourg

The Festival of Europe, which takes place in May every year, features a wide-ranging programme of entertainment and educational events aimed at the general public and which sets out to bring Europe within the reach of one and all, to reconnect Europe with its citizens and to echo European citizenship, much appreciated in Strasbourg, throughout the territory.



A focus on bilingualism and international schools

Strasbourg is a cosmopolitan city, home to inhabitants, workers and students from all over the world. Many of the city's schools offer multilingual teaching, helping these people to integrate into the community. France's first European School opened its doors in Strasbourg in 2008 and offers an all-through educational programme, from nursery school to baccalauréat.





A European University founded on its history, convictions and excellence

The University of Strasbourg is imbued with the values of tolerance and openness. It represents in itself a constantly evolving European laboratory contributing to the construction of a European area built in a collective and inclusive spirit, mirrored in the exiled researchers, academics and students that it includes within its ranks.

EUCOR - the European campus

brings together five French, German and Swiss universities from the Upper Rhine region (the universities of Strasbourg, Upper Alsace, Basel and Freiburg-im-Breisgau and Karlsruhe's Institut für Technologie/KIT) within a collaborative organisation fostering cooperation across all fields of teaching, research and training, by encouraging exchanges of academics and students.

EPICUR is the first generation of the European University Alliances and laureate of the call for pilot projects launched by the European Commission as part of the Erasmus programme.

The EPICUR alliance is made up of nine higher education partners and sets out to encourage the free circulation of students and academics between the nine member campuses, to foster multilingualism and interculturalism and to provide suitable frameworks for research activities, in tandem with teaching activities.

"STRASBOURG IS THE HEARTBEAT OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY."

EMMANUEL MACRON,
President of France







3.

**Strasbourg,
European
laboratory
of
transitions**

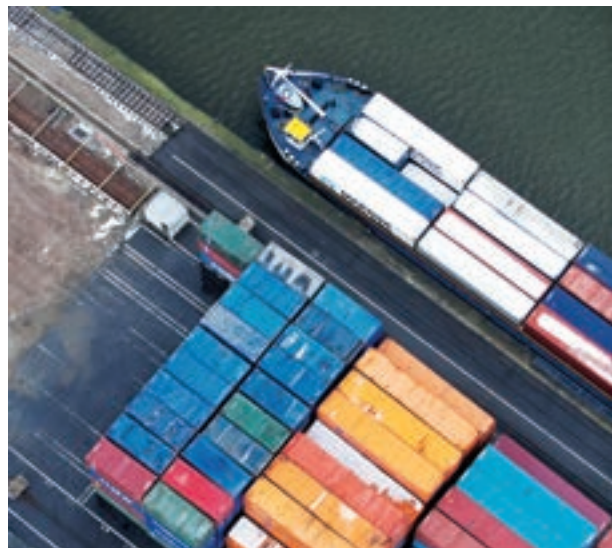


The Rhine, one of the main European transport waterways

On the crossroads of the major communication axes

Strasbourg is ideally located within a **basin of 30 million people** living within a 250 km radius. The city is also at the crossroads of major communication axes, including the east-west (London, Paris, Strasbourg, Stuttgart, Munich, Budapest) and north-south (Hamburg, Frankfurt, Strasbourg, Lyon, Marseille, Barcelona) TGV high-speed train lines. The airports of Strasbourg, Basel/Mulhouse, Frankfurt and Zurich are all less than 2 hours away, offering easy access to the city. Strasbourg is also at the junction of Europe's most important digital highways.

The Rhine, one of the main European transport systems, connects up to the great North Sea ports, Central Europe and the Black Sea through the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal.



Strasbourg, a resolutely forward-looking city

As a European and international city, Strasbourg can **boast high-grade facilities**, such as a European school, a top-level university, centres of excellence and competitiveness clusters (Alsace Biovalley for innovation in healthcare, Véhicule du futur, Fibres, dedicated to materials for the construction industry, Alsace Energivie, promoting the development of energy-efficient buildings and Hydreos Alsace-Lorraine, providing support for stakeholders in the sustainable improvement of water systems), a medical technologies campus, internationally-reputed research laboratories, a rich and diversified economic fabric with a strong social and solidarity economy and its 2000 businesses and 27,000 employees. The territory's digital sector is also famed for its dynamism.



Transgene is a company working on a vaccine for cancers related to HPV



Lively and creative

With its opera, museums, conservatoire, theatres, media library and festivals, Strasbourg offers a **top-notch, wide-ranging cultural scene**, considered to be one of Europe's liveliest centres for cultural creation and dissemination. The city hosts a number of key festivals, including Musica, Ososphère, Jazzdor, the European Film Festival, the Symphonie des Arts and the Bibliothèques idéales literary festival. Local theatre venues, such as Pôle Sud, the Maillon and TAPS, provide active encouragement for contemporary creation. Strasbourg is also the backdrop for many pioneering events, where, for example, human rights, democracy, the social and solidarity economy and bioethics form the basis for productive debates.

A city of hospitality and solidarity

Strasbourg has a long and well-earned tradition of hospitality and solidarity. The city actively seeks to foster well-being and coexistence by **fighting against social and territorial inequalities**. Strasbourg takes good care of its inhabitants, from toddlers to senior citizens.

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, the city has set out to provide assistance for its citizens, through aid for the most vulnerable members of our society, the roll-out of local vaccination centres and support for welfare associations. In Strasbourg, solidarity is not a word we take in vain.





F. Maigrot

Champion of soft and active mobility solutions

Strasbourg's human size makes it a city which is easy to travel across, especially by bike, by tram or even on foot. The Eurometropolis of Strasbourg is crisscrossed by the six lines of the local tram system, the **first of its kind in France**, and a bus rapid transport line, a total of 72 km. Over 442,000 journeys are made every day across the tram and bus network, and since April 2018, the town of Kehl, on the other side of the Rhine, has been connected to the Eurometropolis of Strasbourg by tram. 2 major tram extension projects, towards the north and the west of the conurbation, are scheduled for 2026.

Initiated in 2018, the **Metropolitan Express Network** is designed to link up the interurban and urban networks alongside new applications of mobilities, such as car-pooling, car-sharing and low carbon vehicles.

Strasbourg, the most bike-friendly city in France, has some 615 km of cycleways, a large number of bike

parking facilities and the Vélhop bike hire system. One of the city's priorities is to increase the cycleway network to over 700 km, and to double the number of journeys made by bike by the year 2030.

Walking is also a major way of getting around in Strasbourg, especially with the city centre switching to a pedestrian-only zone some years ago and with other ongoing projects for encouraging and facilitating urban walking.

The city is also looking to step up the use of sustainable and innovative mobilities, by encouraging, for example, the use of **river freight for transporting goods into the centre**, and by developing sustainable urban logistics tools.

Strasbourg is located on four corridors of the TEN-T Trans-European Transport Network and is a major hub on the European railway network. The city is continuing to **develop its position on the Rhine corridor** by improving its lines to Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Belgium, in concertation with local stakeholders.

Green and contented

Strasbourg offers a model of urban living centred on nature and the respect and preservation of biodiversity, with some 5000 allotment gardens and just under 164 m² of green space per inhabitant. Urban natural spaces are the common good of the city's inhabitants. With their water and biodiversity, they provide areas where people can meet, eat, do sport, relax and decompress around natural ponds and lakes near the city centre.

Some 67,500 trees are to be found in Strasbourg, all of which add to the quality of the urban landscape. To help combat climate warming and bring down local temperatures in the city, Strasbourg has launched **a large-scale canopy plan**, which involves planting some 10,000 new trees by 2030.

Nature in the city has an inspirational effect, illustrated by the **"urban natural park"** movement, which grew out of citizen involvement and is now a significant feature in Koenigshoffen, Montagne Verte and Elsau in the western part of the city. A similar scheme is currently being run in



Orangerie park

the northern districts of the Robertsau and the Conseil des Quinze.

Strasbourg's **three nature reserves** – the Rohrschollen island and the forests of de Neuhoef-Illkirch-Graffenstaden and the Robertsau and the Wantzenau – offer a remarkably rich ecology and provide an ideal opportunity for exploring the natural environment.

- **3200 ha of nature:** parks, squares and public gardens, woods, forests and natural spaces, landscaped cemeteries, green sports grounds, allotment gardens...
- **165 m² of green space** per inhabitant
- **3600 ha** of ecological networks
- **67,500 trees** within Strasbourg
- **+ 7 ha of urban green spaces** every year over the last 50 years: from 102 ha in 1960 to 440 ha in 2018. The main parks are eco-certified.
- **850 ha of building land reclassified** as natural areas and farming land.







**"STRASBOURG
STANDS AS A SYMBOL
OF A EUROPE
THAT IS UNITED,
PEACEFUL AND FREE."**

BARAK OBAMA,
former President of the United States

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