

Locations Important to 16th Century France

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Table of Contents

<u>Hunting Locations</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Places.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>A.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>B.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>C.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>L.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>M.....</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>N.....</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>O.....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>P.....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>T.....</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>U.....</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>V.....</u>	<u>19</u>

Hunting Locations

Charleval

A château started by Charles IX, near Rouen, near the arrondissement Andelys (département Eure, région Haute Normandie). Among the modern cantons of Andelys are Gisors, Gaillon and Lyons-la-forêt. Since the château exists only as a ruin, its modern location is approximated as any of these locations.

Gaillon

cf Charleval

Gisors

cf Charleval

Lyons-la-Forêt

cf Charleval

Montpipeau

A hunting location near Orléans - “sur la lisière de la forêt d’or, à trois lieux de cette ville, à dix environ de Blois, 3 ENIGMES p 33

Saint-Leger-en-Yvelines

A royal château in Ile-de-France, near Rambouillet. La commune de Saint-Léger-en-Yvelines se trouve dans le centre des Yvelines, au cœur du massif forestier de Rambouillet, à 11 kilomètres au nord-ouest de Rambouillet, chef-lieu d'arrondissement et à 37 kilomètres au sud-ouest de Versailles.

Places

The locations listed below are defined roughly as they were in the 16th century.

These definitions are in many cases no longer valid: they no longer correspond exactly to current places of the same name, especially in the case of provinces in the Low Countries - the current Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

A

Agen

Town on the Garonne River, in the province of Guyenne.

Aix

Capital of Provence.

Alençon

An arrondissement in the Département of the Orne, in the région of Basse Normandie.

Alger

The city of Alger is the capital of Tunisia on the North African shore south of the islands of Majorca and Minorca and guards the shipping lanes east past Italy.

Amboise (Château d')

A royal château in the Loire valley often used by the king until the 1560 conjuration of Amboise, but afterwards it was used only for short visits or to house the royal children.

Anjou

A region in central France.

Antwerp

The major city in the province of Brabant in the Low Countries. A large port, Calvinist stronghold, center of trade close to the border between Dutch-speaking (Flemish) Flanders and the province of Brabant.

Arsenal

François I built the Paris Arsenal where gunpowder and cannon shot were made and stored. It was located on the rive droite, near the Célestins abbey in the Marais close to the Seine.

Artois

A Catholic province in the Low Countries, located on the French border, near Calais that remained loyal to Spain. King Philippe-Auguste of France acquired this province in 1191 but King François I lost it to Spain in 1526.

Avignon

A city 600 km south east of Paris, on the Rhone River. The city has been the property of the Catholic Church since the days when the popes lived in the south of France, not Rome.

Azores

Archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean, owned by Portugal, that is a stopover on the trade routes between Europe and Brazil or the Far East.

B

Bastille

Old Parisian château used as a prison and to guard the Porte Saint-Antoine, a gate on the eastern side of the city.

Beauce

Historical area in northern France, located between the Seine and Loire rivers. It now comprises the Eure-et-Loir département and parts of Loir-et-Cher. Chartres (southeast of Paris) is its only major city.

Béarn

An independent principality in the southwest of France owned by the King of Navarre. Its' capital is at Pau.

Blois, château de

A royal château in the Loire valley.

Bordeaux

The port capital of the province of Guyenne, on the west coast of France, that lies deep in the mouth of the Garonne River.

Bouillon

The independent principality of Bouillon, ruled by the prince de Sedan, is a small town that is surrounded by the province of Luxembourg, close to the northeastern French border.

Bois de Boulogne

An immense walled royal forest and château and hunting preserve near Paris. Sometimes called Boulogne -sur-Seine.

Boulogne

French port near Calais in the northeast of France in the province of Picardy.

Brabant

A large province of the Low Countries, near Flanders, that is home to the city of Brussels, the nominal capital of the Low Countries.

Brielle

A deep water port in the Low Countries.

Brittany

Western province of France containing the peninsula that juts out into the Atlantic Ocean.

Burgundy

Burgundy is a province in southeastern France, approximately to the west of Switzerland.

C

Calais

A deep-water port on the north coast of France that was the last English possession on the continent until the French, under the Duc de Guise took it back in 1558.

Cambrai

A tiny independent principality, infeudated to the Empire, that is technically not one of the 17 provinces that make up the Low Countries. It provides a natural ingress to the Low Countries from northeast France.

Châlons-sur-Marne

A city, on the Marne River, in the middle of the province of Champagne.

Chambord, château de

Francois I built this château from designs by Leonardo da Vinci. It was decrepit by the time of Charles IX, cf CAT v 2.

Champagne

A province of France, east of Ile-de-France and Picardy (at the English Channel) including much of the Ardennes forest. It is strategically conduit gate to the German Imperial states. The towns of Reims (where the king is crowned) and Châlons-sur-Marne lie in Champagne. The Governors of Champagne were: Francois de Clèves, Duc de Nevers (1561-1563), Francois, Duc de Guise (appointed to replace the injured Nevers but a month after his appointment in 1563), Claude, duc d'Aumale (1563-1567, acting for his nephew), Henri, Duc de Guise (1567-1588), Louis de Gonzague, Duc de Nevers (1589-1595).

Charleval

A château started by Charles IX, near Rouen, near the arrondissement Andelys (département Eure, région Haute Normandie). Among the modern

cantons of Andelys are Gisors, Gaillon and Lyons-la-forêt. Since the château exists only as a ruin, its modern location is approximated as any of these locations.

Chartres

A city to the southeast of Paris.

Château-Thierry

Estate about 80 miles east of Paris, on the Marne River.

Chaumont (château de)

After Henri II's death, Catherine de Medici forced Diane de Poitiers to take this château in exchange for the far nicer château de Chenonceau.

Chenonceau, château de

Royal palace built for Francois I. In 1547, when Henri II ascended the throne of France, he gave the site to his mistress Diane de Poitiers. She oversaw the building of a beautiful garden and a bridge linking the palace to the other bank of the river Cher. Diane de Poitiers lived there during the life of Henri II but gave it back to Catherine de Medici after Henri's death. Catherine laid out a second garden and built a gallery over the bridge.

Cognac

A fortified town located near Bordeaux in the west of France.

Comtat Venaissin

Region in France between the Rhone and Durance Rivers owned by the Church, a holdover from the time when the pope resided at Avignon.

Compiègne

A town in Picardy.

Krakow

The old capital of 16th century Poland.

Dijon

Capital of the province of Burgundy located on the Saone River, northwest of Geneva.

Ecouen, château d'

Château on the outskirts of Paris belonging to the Duc de Montmorency.

Flanders

A province in the Low Countries extending approximately from Calais east to Antwerp. The Walloon (French speaking) half of the province lies to the west of Hainaut and contains the city of Lille. The Flemish (Dutch-speaking) half lies on the coast and contains Dunkirk (a sea port) and Ghent. Antwerp lies near the border between Brabant and Flemish Flanders. King Francois I lost Flanders to the Low Countries in 1526.

Flessingue

Dutch deep-water port, Flushing in English, on the seaside of the dykes around Antwerp. It controls access to Antwerp from the west via the Scheldt River.

Fontainebleau (chateau de)

Francois I began building this royal palace, located on the outskirts of Paris, in 1528.

Gaillon

In Eure et Loir, home to a beautiful château owned by the Cardinal de Bourbon

Gravelines Port in Flanders near the border with France.

Grenoble Capital of the province of Dauphine.

Guyenne Province on the west coast of France with the port of Bordeaux as its capital.

Hainaut A Catholic province in the Low Countries, located on the French border, near Cambrai. The city of Mons is located in Hainaut.

Hôtel

A Parisian townhouse for the nobility. Many are located to the northeast of the Louvre in the Marais district of town.

Hôtel de Bourbon

The Bourbons' Parisian townhouse was located immediately north of the Louvre. (TBD need to revise definition)

Hôtel de Guise

The family's Paris townhouse with a chapel designed by the Italian artist Primaticcio. It was across the rue Saint-Antoine from Les Tournelles, on the eastern edge of Paris near the city walls.

Hôtel de Soissons

Catherine de Medici's Paris home during the reign of Henri III, located in the Quartier des Halles.

Hôtel de Ville

The Paris equivalent of a city hall, located to the east of the Louvre on the right bank. The city also stores weapons there.

Ile de la Cité

An island on the Seine in Paris, between the right and left banks of the river. The Palais de Justice (seat of Parlement) is located on this island.

Ile-de-France

A province of France that extends circularly around Paris.

La Charité

A strategically located bridgehead on the Loire River, a little southeast of Orléans.

L

La Rochelle

Important fortified port on the western coast of France near the mouth of the Charente River. It was in English hands from 1360 to 1372.

Languedoc

The province to the west of the mouth of the Rhone River, extending east from the Spanish border to Marseilles then up the Rhone River.

Le Havre

A Norman port at the mouth of the Seine, on the north coast of France about 200 km away from Paris.

Lorraine

Lorraine is an independent duchy to the northeast of France. It is bordered to the west by Champagne (part of France) and to the east by Alsace (part of the Holy Roman Empire) to the north by Luxemburg (part of the Spanish Low Countries) and many minor principalities to the south. Embedded within Lorraine lie the three French archbishoprics of Metz, Toul and Verdun.

Louvre

Originally, a medieval château-fort with moat in Paris, built around 1350. It became the primary palace of the king in the city of Paris after significant renovation (new wings were added to form a square court) in the mid 16th century.

Low Countries¹

A set of 17 relatively heterogeneous and autonomous provinces between Picardy and Champagne (in France) and the German Imperial States.

¹ These provinces do not correspond exactly to the current countries of Belgium and the Netherlands since portions of the 16th century lands were also subsequently absorbed into France.

Emperor Charles V inherited these lands from his Burgundian grandmother.
These provinces include: Artois, Hainaut, Brabant

Lyon

A city that is a major banking and textile center in the southeast of France located on the Rhône River.

Lyons-la-Forêt

cf [Charleval](#)

M

Madrid (Château de)

Francois I built the château de Madrid in the Bois de Boulogne on the site of a hunting lodge that often doubled as a location for romantic rendezvous. It had no moat, interior court and was built with terra cotta tiles, statues, chimneys and columns designed by Girolamo della Robbia.

Meaux

A town about forty miles east of Paris on the Marne River, in Ile-de-France.

Melun

A suburb of Paris, in Ile-de-France.

Metz

A French city embedded in Lorraine, in the northeast of France.

Meudon

Located about 8 km to the south-west of Paris, the town of Meudon is built on the hills and valleys of the Seine. The château at Meudon belonged to the Cardinal de Lorraine.

Mézières

A town in the Ardennes region near the Belgian border.

Midi

Roughly, the southern half of France from Guyenne in the west to Languedoc in the east.

Milan

This duchy lies northwest of the Italian boot just south of the Alps and Savoy. It is part of the strategic east-route between the Empire and Spain and also on the north-south axis between Italy and the Low Countries.

Monceaux

A chateau owned by Catherine de Medici, now a public park in the modern northwest Paris suburbs.

Mons

A city in the province of Hainaut, in the Low Countries.

Montauban

A fortified city in the Midi, north of Toulouse that is a traditional Protestant stronghold.

Montpipeau

A hunting location near Orléans - “sur la lisière de la forêt d'or, à trois lieux de cette ville, à dix environ de Blois, 3 ENIGMES p 33

N

Nantes

A port on the Atlantic coast of France in the south of Brittany.

Namur

A town in the Ardennes region near the Northeast border of France.

Naples

The lower portion of the Italian boot, south of Rome. It is a strategically located region of Italy on the maritime trading route with the Turks. Naples and Sicily combine to form the kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

Navarre

Tiny independent kingdom on the French (north) side of the Pyrenées. It is infeudated to France - its king pays homage to the French King.

Nérac

A city in county of Armaganac in the duchy of Albret, and the location of the principal residence of the King of Navarre, given that the capital of Navarre (Pamplona) was in the hands of the Spanish.

Nîmes

Town near the Rhône Valley in Languedoc.

Normandy

A province located on the northwest coast of France centered on the mouth of the Seine located at the port of Le Havre.

O

Ollainville

Near Arpajon in Seine-et-Oise.

Orange

Independent principality embedded within southeast France for which the German-born William of Orange is the prince. It is located near the Rhône River north of the Mediterranean Sea and uncomfortably close to Avignon, owned by the popes.

Orléans

City located on the Loire River that controls access both to the west and south of the city.

P

Palace

Luxurious Renaissance home of a noble, typically within a walled city, thus replacing the châteaux of the Middle Ages, with walls around the home itself.

Palais de Justice

The Paris Parlement meets in the Palais de Justice, previously a royal residence.

Paris

Capital of France.

Pau

The capital of Béarn

Picardie

A province partially on the English channel to the northwest of Paris including the port of Boulogne.

Poissy

The city of Poissy is located on the Seine River in the suburbs of Paris and is home to a famous abbey.

Poitiers

City located in the region of Poitou.

Poitou

A region some 300 km southwest of Paris.

Pont Neuf

The first bridge in Paris built of stone (not wood), with sidewalks and not bordered with houses, replacing a wood bridge lined with houses It links the Louvre to the left bank. Henri III began construction in 1577 at the request of the Paris mayor. It.

Pontoise

A suburb of Paris.

Province

A large area in France, overseen by a Governor, appointed by the king. There were a dozen or so provinces during the 16th century, however, their

definition was flexible and they were sometimes split up or merged.
Examples: Provence, Picardy, Guyenne, Champagne.

Provence

Region north of the Mediterranean coast of France, from the mouth of the Rhone River (at Marseille) eastwards towards Nice.

Reims

The city is in the region of Champagne. A Papal bull in the year 999 accorded the right to crown the French King to the archbishop of Reims. Cardinal Charles of Lorraine and then Cardinal Louis de Lorraine successively held the position of Archbishop/Duof Reims, the first Peer of France.

Rouen

Capital of Normandie, on the northeast coast of France, located in the mouth of the Seine River.

Saint-Cloud (chateau de)

This château is located on the banks of the Seine at Saint-Cloud. Catherine de Medici bought the land for her counselor Jerome Gondi. Henri III died here in 1589.

Saint-Denis

French kings are buried at the abbey of Saint-Denis (on the outskirts of Paris) from the 6th century onward. The abbey was the repository of the royal regalia: the crown, scepter, hand of justice, and garments used at the coronation of the kings: the abbot brought these to Reims for each sacre. The abbey maintained the regalia and the tombs of the kings and wrote a history of each king.

Saint-Germain-des-Prés

A faubourg (suburb) of Paris, on the southwest bank of the Seine, outside the city walls.

Saint-Germain-en-Laye

French royal château, in the north-east suburbs of Paris, refurbished by Francois I.

Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois

The parish church associated with the Louvre.

[Saint-Leger-en-Yvelines](#)

A royal chateau in Ile-de-France, near Rambouillet , La commune de Saint-Léger-en-Yvelines se trouve dans le centre des Yvelines, au cœur du [massif forestier de Rambouillet](#), à 11 kilomètres au nord-ouest de Rambouillet, chef-lieu d'arrondissement et à 37 kilomètres au sud-ouest de Versailles.

Sainte-Chapelle

A chapel, housing the crown of thorns, near the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris.

Saumur

A city on the banks of the Loire River, located in the region of Anjou.

Savoy

An independent duchy just south of Lake Geneva. This duchy strives to take over the city of Geneva that benefits from French protection (to assure an uninterrupted supply of Swiss mercenaries to the French crown).

Sedan

An independent principality embedded within French lands: it lies on the Meuse River in the Ardennes forest, south of Champagne, to the north east of Paris.

Sens

Despite the presence of the prestigious Nôtre Dame cathedral, there is no archbishopric of Paris; the bishopric of Paris is part of the Diocese of Sens.

Sorbonne

The Sorbonne was founded in 1253 as the faculty (college) of theology within the University of Paris.

T

Toul

A fortified French city embedded Lorraine, in the northeast of France but however owned by the French King not the Duc de Lorraine

Toulouse

Capital of the province of Languedoc.

Touraine

Region of France, centered on the Loire River.

Tournelles (Hôtel des)

In 1559, Henri II died in the building called the Hôtel des Tournelles after a jousting accident. The building was torn down by Catherine de Medici and became the site of a well-known horse market, a notorious site for duels in Paris.

Troyes

A city in the Champagne province, approximately 150 mi. from Paris.

Tuileries

In 1564, Jean Bullant and Philibert De l'Orme began construction of the Tuileries palace for Catherine de Medici. The site chosen was immediately west of the Louvre on the site of an old tile factory. The palace was unfinished in her lifetime.

Tripoli

Lies on the African shore southeast of the island of Sicily and guards the shipping lanes east past Italy. Capital of Tunisia.

Tunis

This city lies on the African shore directly south of the island of Sardinia and guards the shipping lanes east past Italy.

Turin

Capital of Savoy.

U

University of Paris

The colleges at the university of Paris teach theology, arts, medicine and canon law. The Pope edicted in 1219 that only canon (not civil law) could be taught there, so, schools outside of Paris were the preeminent centers of thought on civil law.

V

Verdun

A French city in Lorraine, in the northeast of France.

Villers-Cotterêts

A favorite royal hunting location in Picardy.

Vincennes

This royal château is located on the outskirts of Paris. The crown acquired it and the abbey of Saint-Maur in the 13th century. The woods surrounding the château were a popular royal hunting ground. Charles IX died on the second floor at the château de Vincennes.

Vincennes, Bois de

King Philip Augustus enclosed this wood in the 13th century with a 12 km long wall and stocked it with game.