Compiègne and the Armistice Memorial

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Duration: 3h · Type: Classic

Set off on a guided tour of historic Compiègne. On the picturesque streets of this significant city, you'll see the lovely 16th-century town hall with its intricately sculptured late-Gothic facade containing several historical figures, such as Louis XII on his horse. The town hall tower holds one of the oldest municipal bells in France dating back to 1303. Further along the route, we'll come across some lovely medieval homes. The oldest, La Vieille Cassine, was built in the 15th century. We'll enjoy a tasting of regional delicacies before we continue on to the Armistice Memorial. Part of the museum's collection includes the emblematic train car used in the signing of the 1918 Armistice, later vindictively recommissioned by Hitler for the 1940 surrender of France during World War II; a Marne Taxi requisitioned by the French government to transport troops during its namesake battle; and 800 stereoscopic images from the time of World War I. The memorial is dedicated to all soldiers who have fought since 1870, including Augustin Trébuchon—the last French soldier killed on the front during World War I.

The Château de Compiègne is closed on Tuesdays, so the excursion will be replaced by a guided tour of the town, the Armistice Memorial Museum, and the park of the Château de Compiègne:

Departure on foot for a guided tour of the historic heart of Compiègne. You will discover a rich architectural heritage that reflects its royal and imperial past. The Town Hall, a gem of 16th-century Gothic architecture, with its remarkable belfry housing one of the oldest municipal bells in France and its delicate sculptures, stands proudly in the main square. As you walk through the cobbled streets of the historic center, you will see many ancient buildings and timber-framed houses that testify to the city's medieval past, including the oldest, the Vieille Cassine, dating from the 15th century. Among the iconic sites is the Saint-Jacques Church, built between the 13th and 16th centuries and classified as a historic monument. It stands out for its Gothic architecture and remarkable stained glass windows depicting the city's history. The Saint-Corneille Cloister, a remnant of the former Benedictine abbey founded in the 9th century, is a serene place. It is distinguished by its sober and elegant architecture, with vaulted galleries and an inner garden conducive to contemplation. The cloister is a fascinating testament to Compiègne’s religious history. Continuing the tour, you will

catch a glimpse of the majestic Château de Compiègne and have the opportunity to explore the beautiful park surrounding it, which covers more than 700 hectares and serves as a true haven of peace. Designed in both French and English styles, it features vast lawns, shaded walkways, and magnificent views, including the famous Allée des Beaux-Monts leading to the Compiègne Forest. Tasting of local specialties. Continuation to the Armistice Memorial Museum. In the museum, you will find a wagon identical to the one where the armistices of 1918 and June 22, 1940, were signed, a Marne taxi that participated in the battle of the same name, and 800 stereoscopic views from World War I. The Memorial is dedicated to all fighters from 1870 to the present day, with numerous monuments, including the Augustin Trébuchon Memorial Garden, which honors the last French soldier to die in World War I.

PLEASE NOTE

- The order of the visits can change.
- Times are approximate.