



HERITAGE COLLECTION

# NANCY

**THREE PLACES LISTED  
AS UNESCO WORLD  
HERITAGE SITES**

Nancy,

# AN INCREDIBLE BACKDROP FOR A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

▲ The arrival of Stanislas in Lorraine in the 18<sup>th</sup> century transformed Nancy and created a legacy throughout the region worthy of a royal city. The architectural

complex was listed as a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO in 1983, and stands today at the heart of the amazing city of Nancy.



1737

STANISLAS  
ARRIVES IN  
LORRAINE

26 NOV. 1755

PLACE ROYALE  
IS INAUGURATED

1766

DEATH OF STANISLAS  
LORRAINE BECOMES  
PART OF FRANCE

1792

STATUE OF  
LOUIS XV  
IS DESTROYED

1831

STATUE  
OF STANISLAS  
IS ERECTED

# PLACE STANISLAS



Using the *Place de la Carrière* as his reference, Héré determined the axis along which the *Arc de Triomphe*, rue Héré, and the *Place Royale* would be constructed. A similar perspective was brought to bear on the interior decor of the stairwell in the *Hôtel de Ville*.

▲ The idea that cities should be embellished with a *Place Royale* – an enclosed space hemmed in by harmonious but imposing façades, with a statue of the King at the centre – developed in France in the 17th century.

Work began in 1751 and the final design was approved in January 1752 after much deliberation. Stanislas purchased buildings blocking construction, demolished some of the fortifications and filled in the moats to free up space.

would be buildings called *basses-faces*, which would be lower in height so as to comply with the army's instructions to not create any obstacles in front of the fortifications.

The general style of the square blends the austerity of the French classical period (on the façades) and the movement of the Baroque period (decorative

In Nancy, the Stanislas' project had two main obstacles to overcome, i.e., working within the tight constraints imposed by the chosen location, and bringing together the two formerly separated urban centres.

Led by **Emmanuel Héré**, the team planned to build the new *Hôtel de Ville* (seat of local government) in the south, and four free-standing buildings of the same height in the east and west. To the north, there





elements), forging its unique character. Another distinguishing trait is the ingenious way in which **Jean Lamour** dealt with the gaps between the buildings. He had them adorned with gilded gates, which brought all the structures together into a single whole. In the two northern corners, the Fountains of Amphitrite and Neptune by Barthélémy Guibal add a further touch of refinement to the decor.

The features of this square pay homage to Louis XV, such as the balcony railings, his statue (which stood in the centre of the until 1792), and the *Arc de Triomphe*, which sings the King's praises. Stanislas' is only represented on by the façade of the *Hôtel de Ville*, which bears his coat of arms.

## The buildings

**The *Hôtel de Ville*** : When it was first built, the administrative services shared the block with private residents.

**The *Pavillon Alliot*** : It has retained the name of its original owner, who was the *Intendant* (steward) of Stanislas' house. Its occupants and purpose changed regularly until the *Grand Hôtel de la Reine* opened.

**The Lorraine National Opera House** : The *Pavillon des Fermes* (the Tax Office) was converted into a bishop's residence, and remained so until the Church and the State were separated in 1905. In 1919, it was converted into an Opera House.

**The Museum of Fine Arts** : Established in 1936, this building originally held the Théâtre de la Comédie, which was destroyed by fire in 1906, and the College of Medicine.

**The Pavillon Jacquet** : It has been used for commercial and residential purposes ever since it was first built.





# PLACE DE LA CARRIÈRE

At the beginning of Stanislas' project, there were already a number of contrasting buildings around the square. Emmanuel Héré redesigned their façades, bringing some uniformity to the area. The *Hôtel de Craon*, which is now the Court of Appeal, was built in the early 18th century, and

looked like a modern building at that time. It would serve as a template for the whole of *Place Stanislas*, as well as for the Merchant's Exchange that Héré built facing it.

To the north of the square, a palace marks the end of the axis that connects it to the *Hôtel de Ville*. Héré, assisted

by **Richard Mique**, had to design a residence for the representative of the French government in Lorraine. What he came up with was a building that had a ground-floor colonnade leading to the peristyle that opened onto a garden at the back. The semi-circle that linked it

to the rest of the *Place de la Carrière* was decorated with 22 busts of ancient mythological characters. The Government Palace was originally the *Intendant's* palace; it soon became the military governor's residence. During the Revolution, it even housed a café. Later on, it housed the Prefecture, and then became the military headquarters. Today, it is part of the Palace of the Dukes of Lorraine – *Musée Lorrain*.

## Why is it so named?

The *Place de la Carrière*, built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, acquired its name from the equestrian games organised there before its transformation in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



# PLACE D'ALLIANCE



## Did you know?

▲ In the gap that separated Saint-Georges Gate and the *Bastion de Vaudémont* lay the Duke's Garden. Stanislas saw it as an opportunity to urbanise the city further to the east by building a residential area. Emmanuel Héré's designed a square, with greater intimacy than the

first two, and streets connecting to it. To ensure that all this would actually be built, Stanislas paid for the façades himself (he had also done this for the other two squares), and offered plots to people of his choosing. Héré received the largest plot, which stretched along the entire eastern side

of the square (*Hôtel d'Alsace*).

Dubbed Saint-Stanislas, the square soon changed its name in commemoration of the treaty signed between France and Austria in 1756.

The fountain that originally stood in the *Place de la Carrière* (designed by Paul-Louis Cyfflé), was moved in 1756 after being altered so as to celebrate the new treaty.

# A BRIEF HISTORY

When he arrived in Nancy in 1737, what Stanislas saw was a city split into two sub-cities. One section was medieval, while the other was Renaissance, both of which were fortified. It was impossible to go from one section to the other without crossing moats and a gate. Although Stanislas' predecessors had begun some efforts to beautify Nancy, what the city also needed was modernisation. So, Stanislas decided to

undertake a massive urban planning operation that would go hand-in-hand with the construction of a *Place Royale* dedicated to Louis XV, his son-in-law. Before this work began, the *Place de la Carrière*, which had been built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, was the only one of the three squares that already existed. What would later become the *Place d'Alliance* was, at that time, the former Duke's Garden, while the *Place Royale* was a promenade at the foot of the

fortifications. Stanislas dedicated all his energy and a large part of his wealth to this project. He brought together skilled architects and artists, as well as hundreds of workers. This dynamic team began work on 26 November 1755.

Stanislas' original architect, **Emmanuel Héré**, created a feat of architectural consistency, an incredible urban success endowing Nancy with a truly remarkable heritage.

Stanislas' beautification project gave rise to several other structures apart from those on the three squares, which have a total area of seven hectares. In the south of the city, he built the *church of Notre-Dame de Bonsecours*, which would also end up being his mausoleum. He designed the Sainte-Catherine and Stanislas Gates installed at the city's entrances, the *Hôtel des Missions royales* and Sainte-Catherine's barracks (Thirty barracks). He also established a royal nursery, which became a public garden in 1835.

20 FEB. 1950

THE PLACE D'ALLIANCE  
IS OFFICIALLY  
DESIGNATED A  
HISTORICAL MONUMENT

1983

COMPLEX IS LISTED  
AS A UNESCO WORLD  
HERITAGE SITE

2003

PLACE STANISLAS AND  
PLACE DE LA  
CARRIÈRE ARE OFFICIALLY  
LISTED AS HISTORICAL  
MONUMENTS

2005

THE SQUARE IS  
PEDESTRIANISED

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## VIRTUAL VISITS

Explore the entire 18th century on street-viewing.fr/nancy and visit the buildings in Google Street View (the Hôtel de Ville, Opera House, Government Palace, Notre-Dame de Bonsecours, Stanislas library).

## VISITS

- Take advantage of the European Heritage Days to visit the main attractions.
- Destination Nancy – Office de tourisme [www.nancy-tourisme.fr](http://www.nancy-tourisme.fr), +33 (0)3.83.35.22.41, [tourisme@nancy-tourisme.fr](mailto:tourisme@nancy-tourisme.fr)
- Download the Baludik app and explore the three squares with your family.

## MAJOR EVENTS

Don't miss :

- Rendez-vous Place Stanislas (mid-June – mid-September)
- Le Livre sur la place (early September)
- Jardins Éphémères (October)
- Week-end de Saint-Nicolas (early December)

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Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture



Placettes Stanislas, de la Garnière  
et d'Alliance à Nancy  
inscrites sur la Liste du patrimoine  
mondial en 1985

MONUMENT



HISTORIQUE

