

## The Presqu'île district

### Disability-friendly wheelchair tour



#### 01 Place Bellecour, statue Louis XIV

Lyon's Presqu'île district has been a low-traffic zone, making it more attractive and safer for pedestrians.

Go out of the Tourist Office, turn left then follow the tactile paving [designed for visually impaired individuals] until you reach the equestrian statue.

Take the time to admire the "Urban Weaving" project, an ephemeral artwork (5 years) offering a series of contemporary pathways and shaded areas to revitalise this iconic space.

Go to the centre of the square to see the equestrian statue of Louis XIV from the front. In the background, you can admire the bell tower of the former Hôpital de la Charité and the imposing Grande Poste building, which houses an art-deco fresco by Louis Bouquet, an undulating tribute to the history of communications.

Exit the square, following the red path marked out by the Urban Weaving artwork towards Rue de la République, located between McDonald's and the Brioche Dorée café.



#### 02 Rue de la République

**NB: the street is crowded on Saturdays.** Shopping enthusiasts will appreciate the generous assortment of top brand stores. Shops are generally easily accessible at street level.

Turn left onto Rue des Archers and go straight on until you reach Place des Célestins.



#### 03 Place des Célestins

Cross the pavement and follow the lowered ramp on the opposite pavement to ascend to the forecourt of the Théâtre des Célestins.

The telescope in the middle provides a kaleidoscopic view of the car park. [You need to be able to reach a height of 1.50 m to look through it].

The edges of the square are shaded. Get back down off the forecourt using the same ramp as before. Return to the opposite pavement and continue along Rue Montcharmont. Look down Rue de Savoie on the left for a view of the Fourvière Metal Tower, then fork right onto Rue Jean Fabre to reach Place des Jacobins.



#### 04 Place des Jacobins

Cross a pedestrian crossing to reach the centre of the square and admire the magnificent fountain - for a close-up view, follow the large circular ramps that wind around it.

Go around the fountain and cross the street on the other side of the square to reach Rue de Brest.



#### Option: banks of the Saône

The boarding point for the Bateaux Mouches boat excursions is accessed via Rue de l'Ancienne Préfecture.

[You are advised to book your trip in advance on the Visiter Lyon website, and you may use your Lyon City Card if you have one. Make sure the boat you plan to take is accessible for persons with reduced mobility].

An alternative option is to take the Navigone river shuttle, which is covered by Lyon's TCL public transport system [1 PRM space per boat]. Booking is not possible: this is a public transport service.

The red footbridge (Passerelle du Palais de Justice) is accessible and will take you to the Old Town (Vieux-Lyon).

In the mornings from Tuesday to Sunday, the famous Saint-Antoine market is worth checking out.

If you want to avoid Rue Mercière, head up to the Church of Saint-Nizier via the quays (Quai Saint-Antoine).

Alternatively, go back to Place des Jacobins along Rue de l'Ancienne Préfecture.



#### 05 Rue Mercière

At the beginning of Rue de Brest, fork left on to the famous Rue Mercière bustling with restaurants. The street is mainly cobbled, but reasonably smooth going.

To avoid some of the cobblestones, you can follow the smoother pavements that run down the sides of the street past a lot of the restaurants.

Carry on up the street then turn left onto Rue Grenette, which will take you back to the quayside and another stupendous view.

Turn right along Quai Saint-Antoine and continue until you reach "L'éloge de la Contemplation", an artwork inaugurated in summer 2025.



#### 06 Church of Saint-Nizier

Admire the beautiful façade of the church representing the transition between the Gothic and Renaissance styles.

You can enter the church by the right-hand door via a ramp placed on the ground. However, you will need assistance to open the two heavy doors just after the ramp. Also, watch out for the uneven floor between the two doors.

At the corner of Place Saint-Nizier and Rue Paul Chenavard, look up to see the Madonna and Child statue: there are plenty more of them dotted around Lyon!

At this stage of the circuit, it is possible to go directly to Place des Terreaux or add the "Murals" option for an additional 30-minute detour.



#### Option 1: short cut to Place des Terreaux

Just after the Church of Saint-Nizier (on the left when facing the façade), cross to the opposite pavement and turn right onto Rue de la Fromagerie to admire the rear façade.

[Beware: don't stay on the pavement that runs alongside the church, as it gets very narrow towards the end].

Follow Rue du Président Edouard Herriot, pausing to admire the doors of numbers 40 and 38, then go on to Place des Terreaux.



## Option 2: "Murals" circuit

Just after the Church of Saint-Nizier, with the main façade on your right, continue straight on down Rue Paul Chenavard. Turn left at Place Meissonier. Turn around for a moment to admire **the lovely door of the Chapelle du Musée des Beaux-Arts** at number 21.

Follow Rue de la Platière down the left-hand pavement so as to stay on the same side. Opposite stands **the "Fur Wall"**, an unofficial mural comprising the remnant of a former advertisement for Periquel furs. The mural portrays a black panther and a leopard.

Along the way, check out **the Renaissance buildings** when you get to Impasse de la Platière.

At the end of Rue de la Platière, turn right onto Quai de la Pêcheurie and then turn around to admire the mural adorning **the Bibliothèque de la Cité library**.

Cross the street to reach Quai de la Pêcheurie on the Saône side directly opposite and enjoy a lovely view of the Old Town and Fourvière.

On Saturdays and Sundays, there is a **book market on Quai de la Pêcheurie** from 10am to 6pm. We recommend taking a nice photo from the Pont de la Feuillée bridge.

Pass the bridge on the left and carry straight on down Quai Saint-Vincent. **The façade of the Church of Notre-Dame Saint-Vincent** is located directly opposite. When you get to the Saint-Vincent footbridge, if the step to cross over is too high, cross the road via the next pedestrian crossing, which is more accessible. You will then find yourself in front of **the Fresque des Lyonnais**, a mural depicting the famous local personalities who contributed to Lyon's prominence.

Behind it you will see the Fresque Hommage à Tony Tollet, a mural paying tribute to a 19<sup>th</sup> century painter from Lyon.

Turn sharp right onto Rue de la Martinière and follow the right-hand pavement. You will pass in front of **the Halles de la Martinière**, in front of the Salle Rameau, and the decorated façade of the Lycée de la Martinière school.

There are accessible toilets at the Halles **[disabled access via the right-hand door]**. You can also admire **a giant mural by street artist Kalouf**.

Turn left just after the Salle Rameau and go down Rue Louis Vittet until you reach **Place Sathonay, a lovely square** lined with restaurants where you can often see pétanque players in action.

From the square, Rue de Fargues will lead you to another quaint little square lined with cafés and restaurants **typical of the "slopes" district of Lyon**.

Don't hesitate to look up to admire several small street artworks; **this is the beginning of an artists' district not easily accessible to persons with reduced mobility**.

Retrace your steps down Rue Louis Vittet. At the end of the street, cross Rue de la Martinière to reach Place de la Paix, a little square where you will find the remains of a pillar from **the Carmelite convent**.

Carry on down Place Tobie Rabatel and turn left onto Rue d'Algérie to arrive at Place des Terreaux.



## 07 Place des Terreaux

Admire **the Bartholdi Fountain, the Hôtel de Ville and the façade of the Musée des Beaux-Arts**. To reach the garden of Saint-Pierre Palace, you need to ring the bell at 17 Place des Terreaux to have someone open the door. A lift will then take you to the garden (free entry). In the garden, you can visit the Museum of Fine Arts on the same site (admission with the Lyon City Card).

**[NB: the doorbell is difficult to reach from a wheelchair - ask for help if needed.]**



## 08 Place de la Comédie

Take Rue Puits Gaillot to arrive in front of **the Lyon Opera House**. Prefer the pavements to avoid the uneven cobbles in front of the Hôtel de Ville.

Turn right onto Rue de la République and use the left-hand pavement. Then take the second left onto **Rue de l'Arbre Sec, a charming passageway** full of restaurants, then turn right onto Rue du Garet and follow it until you get to **the Rue Ménéstrier passageway**.



## 09 Place de la Bourse

Continue down Rue de la Bourse along the right-hand pavement until you reach Place de la Bourse, a square lined with cafés. The square also houses **the magnificent Palais du Commerce**.

Keep going until you reach **Place des Cordeliers**. Before crossing the square, look left to see Lyon's iconic towers: **the Pencil ("Crayon") and Incity (known as "the Rubber")**. Use the pedestrian crossing to reach the Church of St Bonaventure directly opposite. **[Ask for assistance to get through the two heavy doors]**.

Turning around, you will see the façade on the other side of **the Palais de la Bourse**, which houses the Chamber of Commerce.



## 10 Quartier Grolée

Little side streets less crowded than Rue de la République. Go down the left-hand side of the church towards Rue du Président Carnot to reach **the new Grolée district**. Check out the shops and then carry on down Rue du Président Carnot until you get to Place de la République with its refreshing basin of water jets.



## 11 Place de la République

Just before you pass the basin, turn right and do a round trip down the lovely **Passage de l'Argue** (next to the Printemps store), where **all the shops are accessible at ground level**.



## 12 Le Grand Hôtel-Dieu

After passing the basin on Place de la République, fork left down Rue Marcel Gabriel Rivière which leads onto Rue Bellecordière, which runs alongside **the Grand Hôtel-Dieu**. **This former hospital** has been completely restored and converted into a living space housing shops, restaurants and other amenities.

You can visit the **inner courtyards of this extensive 18<sup>th</sup> century complex** for free. Follow **the cloister** on the left and go through the various courtyards. An free audio guide may be downloaded from the website. This is one of the most beautiful restorations of an old building in recent year



## 13 Place Antonin Poncet

At the end of Rue Bellecordière, cross Rue de la Barre via the pedestrian crossing and head left towards Quai Gailleton. Turn right and go down the quay until you get to **the beautiful Flower Tree sculpture** from the 2003 Contemporary Art Biennale.

Looking right, at the other end of the square (Place Antonin Poncet) stands **the La Charité bell tower** overhanging the Lyonnais Memorial to the Armenian Genocide.

We recommend entering the La Grande Poste building to **admire Louis Bouquet's art-deco fresco**, an undulating tribute to the history of communications.

Get back to Place Bellecour.

