



Marseille is an historic city in the South of France, one of the oldest in Europe. Founded by Greek traders 3,000 years ago, Marseille has always been a city of the sea and of commerce. An easy three-hour high-speed train ride from Paris, it's a popular tourist stop for Americans.

With 300 days of sunshine a year, friendly people and some of the best food in France, it has much to offer. February weather is about 60° daytime and 45° nights. The city also offers interesting museums, including five favorites:

Musee d'Histoire de Marseille: Located in the center of the city on Square Belsunce, it's connected to a very modern shopping mall on one side and features ancient ruins on the other.

MuCEM: The Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations was created from a fort and several historic buildings on the Old Port area. The museum traces the history of civilization as it developed in the area.

Musee des Beaux-Arts, Palais Longchamps: It houses a large collection of old masters, Impressionists and other works of art.

The Museum of Decorative Arts, Ceramics and Fashion: Home to large collections dating back to the 18th century, it's in the former summer home of one of the city's richest families.

Musee Cantini: A modern art museum, it displays works from the 20th Century. The historic building features both a permanent collection as well as a regular schedule of temporary exhibitions.