

# Nîmes

**Nîmes** is a city with about 137,000 citizens in the Département Gard. It has a stunning Roman Coliseum that is second only to Rome's. There are a few other fine Roman relics and Diana's Palace.

## Get in

You can access Nîmes via Autoroute A9 or A54. The SNCF connects Nîmes to Montpellier and Avignon. The airport Nîmes-Garons is 20km outside the city.

## See

- **Les Arenes** (Roman Ampitheatre), Place des Arènes, ☎ 04-66-76-77. 9 am - 12.30 pm and 2 pm - 6 pm. a well preserved Roman arena that hosts bull fighting festivals in September. It was built 100 AD to seat 24,000 spectators but now currently seats 10,000 when full and is an amazing site.
- **Maison Carré**, a very well preserved first century Roman temple that would make Nîmes worth a visit even if there were nothing else to look at or enjoy in the city. It currently shows a 3D film of heroes of Nîmes.
- **Jardin de la Fontaine**, home of Nîmes' other important Roman monuments, beautiful statues, and temple of Diane is to the left through the main entrance. Free entrance. The grounds close at sunset, in summer open till 10 pm.
- **Culturespaces** operate the Arenes de Nîmes, Maison Carrée and the Tour Magne and offer a combined ticket.

The Office de Tourisme prints a 50 page English booklet entitled "Bienvenue" each year, which isn't available off the shelf, unless you specifically ask for it. It contains lists of Hotels, Camp Sites, Restaurants and bars. They also print a Travel Guide with descriptions of the sights to see in Nîmes. <http://www.ot-nimes.fr/>

## Do

- **Musée du vieux Nîmes**, 04 66 36 00 64.
- **Cathédrale de Saint Castor**, in place aux Herbes. City's most appealing museum.

- **Musée archéologique**, Blvd 13 Amiral Courbet. Columns, mosaics, sculptures, etc.
- **Musée des Beaux-arts**, Rue de la Cité Foulc 20-22. Flemish, Italian, French works as well as Roman Mosaic.

## Eat

The Grill Courtpaille grill traditional French food, and operate on the Parc Hotelier Ville Active.

## Drink

Late night bars along Ave Victor Hugo. Lulu is a popular gay bar at 10 Impasse Carutarie, open Tuesday till Saturday from 11 pm.

## Sleep

A beautiful and expensive hotel is **The Emperor**.

The FUAJ youth hostel has very friendly and informative local staff.

For more info see: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

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