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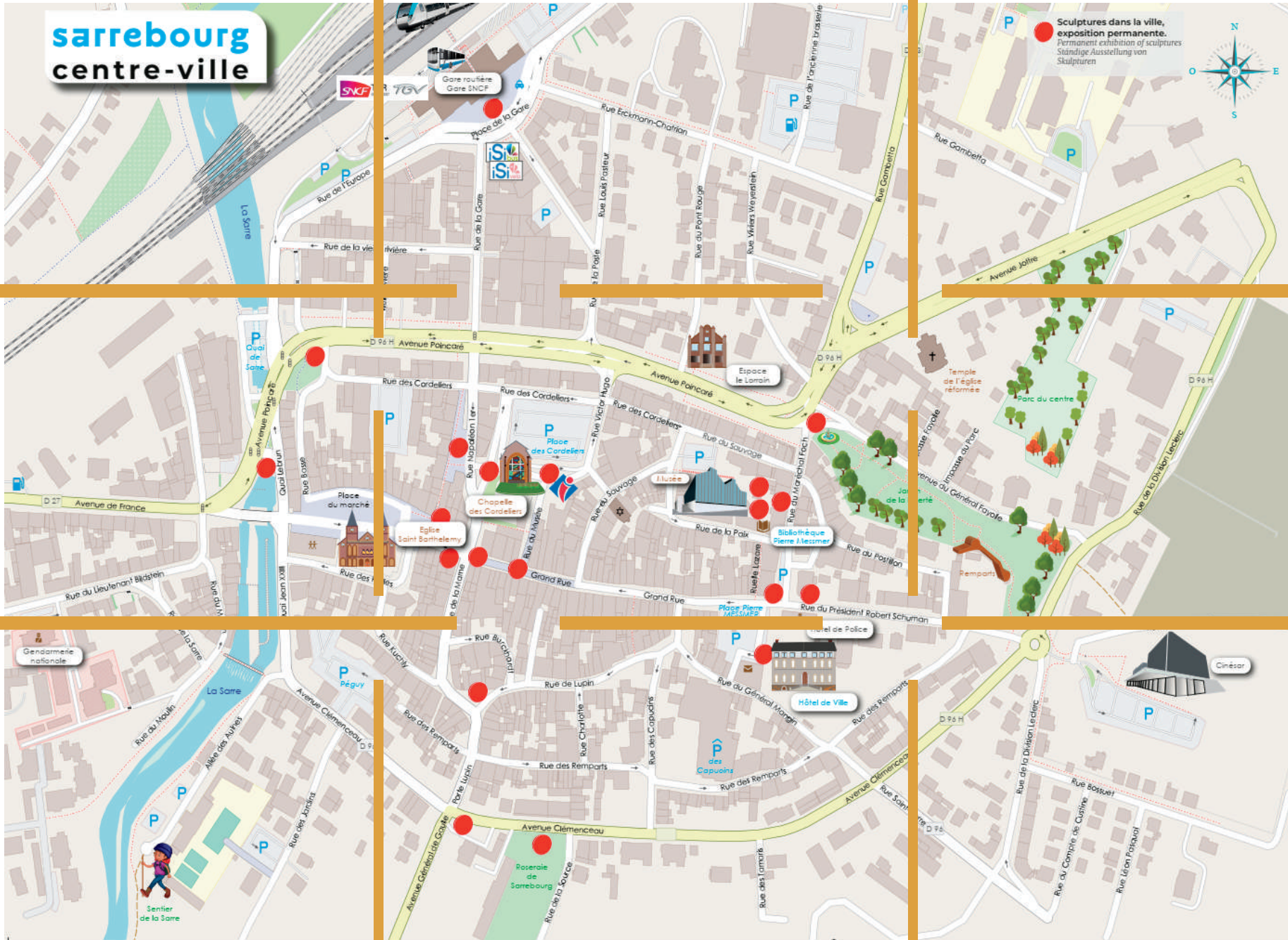
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The banks of the Saar (A2)

Since the Roman era, the Saar River has always played a main role in the economic activity of the city. In the Middle Ages, many craftsmen settled down along the river. Between Antiquity and the 19th Century, wood was transported through the Saar river from the mountains.

You can imagine how the "flotteurs" drove the trains full of wood to Holland ! "Flotteur" used to be a profession which consisted of transporting wood from the forest through a river.

The place de la Gare (B1)

The railway was built in 1852 in Sarrebourg and was located at the gates of the city, in the district of France Avenue. The idea of building a new station emerged in 1909 and they started to build it two years later, in 1911. As World War One occurred, the construction was interrupted for a while and they finished to build the station in 1923. It quickly became the new district hub thanks to Post Street and Station Street which both fit perfectly in with the architecture of the "Old Town". The station itself belongs to the neoclassical style.

On the square in front of it, you can see "La Main" which is a statue made of bronze by Jean Cardot.



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Further information:
List of sculptures in the city centre :

B1 : Place de la gare : "La Main" - Jean Cardot

A2 : Avenue Poincaré : "La Brise" - ANGEL-PERES
A2 : Quai Lebrun : "Maternité" - Paul Flikinger

B2 : Rue Napoléon 1er : "L'Heure Bleue - Jacques Coquillay

B2 : Devant la chapelle des Cordeliers : "Pierre Messmer" - JIVKO

B2 : Place du Marché : "La Grande Matinée" - François Cacheux

B2 : Place du Marché/Grand'Rue : "L'Arrogance" - Charles Gadenne

B2 : Grand'rue : "Dignité" - Françoise Naudet

B2 : Grand'rue/Rue du Musée : "Torse" - Gérard Ramon

B2 : Place des Cordeliers : "Sun et Bios" - Arnaud Kasper

B2 : Cour Musée : "Le léopard des neiges" + "Le rhinocéros" - Hadrien David

B2 : Portail de la bibliothèque - Sandor Kiss

B2 : Jardin de la Liberté : statue du Général Mangin - Charles Gern

B2 : Grand'rue : "Jean et Christophe" - Monique Mol

B2 : Rue du Président Schuman : "Tellina" - Elisabeth CIBOT

B3 : Hôtel de Ville : "La Différence" - Claude Morin

B3 : Place de la République : "L'Attente" - Jean-Paul Mallaussena

B3 : Avenue du Général de Gaulle : "Maternité" - Michel Levy

B3 : Roseraie : "La Grande Mouette" - Françoise NAUDET



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Once upon a time, the city of Sarrebourg

Let's start with a few dates!

- **Early 1st century AD:** The ancient city of Sarrebourg (Pons Saravi) was established on the right bank of the Saar, where the Roman road from Metz to Strasbourg crossed the river.
- **High Middle Ages:** Sarrebourg was the capital of a Frankish county and had its own currency. A Merovingian necropolis is attested on the site of the Place du Marché. Sarrebourg then became the possession of the bishops of Metz who fortified it powerfully.
- **1464:** The town comes under the protection of the Duke of Lorraine
- **1661:** Sarrebourg is finally annexed to France. Throughout this period, it enjoyed remarkable prosperity, earning it the nickname "Kaufmann-Saarburg" (Sarrebourg the merchant). In addition, it was an active centre of Christianisation (numerous orders: Franciscans, Capuchins, Dominicans, churches and chapels).
- **Early 19th century:** The construction of the railway in 1852 only adds to its dynamism. In 1871, Sarrebourg was annexed to Prussia.
- **20th century:** Until 1914, the extension of the military function required the construction of numerous buildings, even entire districts, which strongly marked the urban landscape. In 1918, Sarrebourg became French again. During the Second World War, it was annexed again and became French again in 1945.

Today, Sarrebourg has changed,
but it remains a dynamic city that has kept its
personality by highlighting
its two-thousand-year-old heritage.



Cordeliers Square and the Chapel of the Cordeliers(B2)

It is certain that Cordeliers Square was the heart of the medieval town. The parish Church and the Castle of the Duke of Bliescastel were both located there. The Duke built the Cordeliers convent in 1265. The Church was extended and became the chapel of the convent.

Unfortunately, during the 16th Century, a series of unfortunate events occurred. As a consequence, the chapel was restored for the first time during the 17th Century. After the French Revolution, in 1792, the convent was turned into military barracks and the chapel into a stable.

A part of the building was temporarily dedicated to worship but after 1870 only (this year marked the annexation of Sarrebourg to Prussia). It was used as a Protestant temple for the garrison.

After 1927, it became the premises of the History and Archeology Society. They turned it into a Museum.

In 1970, it was decided to preserve the choir of the Chapel only. The rest of the building was destroyed as it was in ruin.

To close the choir, the Mayor of Sarrebourg, Pierre Messmer (who was the former Prime Minister of France) asked Marc Chagall to design a stained-glass window which will later become the biggest he has ever done. This stained-glass window was made at the Simon workshop in Reims. This workshop has been certified since the 17th Century. It took 2 years (from 1974 to 1976) to the master glass-maker Charles Marq to do it.

It is an outstanding masterpiece because it fits perfectly in the arch of the nave where the choir ends.

This piece of work is 12m high and 7m50 wide. Nevertheless, what makes it a masterpiece is not its size but its main topic:
Peace.



Further information: The Cordeliers chapel - stained glass windows by Marc Chagall can be visited. The ticket gives access to the Musée du Pays de Sarrebourg (2 min walk). The Museum is a contemporary space where you can discover the history of the Sarrebourg region, from Prehistory to the Middle Ages, earthenware and porcelain from the former Niderviller factory and a space devoted to tapestries made by Yvette Coquil-Prince after Marc Chagall in particular.

L'Espace Le Lorrain (the former cinema of Sarrebourg)(B2)

The cinema was built in 1912 and belongs to the Art Nouveau movement-Vienna Secession (an art movement closely related to Art Nouveau).

This movement consists of straight lines and empty spaces whereas curved lines and floral elements are typical from the Art Nouveau movement.

The fortifications (C2)

In the Middle Ages, the whole city was surrounded by ramparts. These fortifications were built by Jean d'Apremont, and then by Jacques de Lorraine, both bishops of Metz (around 1256). The ramparts were 1670 meters long and they were flanked by twenty eight towers.

Four doors opened to the outside, at the four cardinals.

Nowadays, remains of these fortifications can be found at the top of the "Parc de la Liberté" (Liberty Park) as well as towers and ditches on Poincaré and Clémenceau Avenues.

In front of the ramparts in the "Parc de la Liberté", you can find gravestones, which belong to the Roman era, all coming from the Freiwald graveyard (it can be found in the village of Troisfontaines). One of the gravestones bears an inscription.

The Library (B2)

It is definitely the most prestigious building from the 18th Century in Sarrebourg. At first, Marie-Joseph-Maurice de Saintignon (1727-1806) built a hotel which became later on the public library (after a wing was added to the building).

The windows, arranged on two floors, are decorated with asymmetrical ornamental shells. A medallion in Rococo style sits on top of the front door.

There is also a real contrast between the monumental doorway and the understated building. Two fluted pilasters bear a rounded pediment decorated with a medallion in Rococo style. On each side, two lions overhang the pedestrian gates.

Nowadays, a grating designed by Sandor Kiss closes the front gate and fits perfectly in with the architectural style of the 18th Century.



Further information: Exhibitions are held throughout the year in the library. The "Pierre Messmer Collection" (open on request) contains a legacy of almost 3,500 works belonging to Pierre Messmer, former Prime Minister and former Mayor of Sarrebourg. Books of undoubted bibliophilic interest (period, binding, edition) sit alongside autographed works and those that "simply" enriched the reading hours of their illustrious owner.

The Grand'rue (B2)

The Grand'rue is a big shopping street in which you will see beautiful facades from the 18th Century with outstanding ornaments made of stone, typical from this period of time. Visitors will notice how these buildings' style fits perfectly in with the design of other buildings built two centuries later.

Market Square and the Church Saint Barthélemy (A2)

The church of Saint Barthélemy, the former collegiate church of Saint Etienne, was built in the early 13th century. There is only the Northern tower (with its arcades and sculpted heads) that belongs to the original monument. While reconstructing the Church during the 18th Century, Gallo-Roman vestiges were uncovered. Very rare Gothic stalls (coming from the Cordeliers Church), woodworks by the sculptor Dominique Labroise and a part of his pulpit, a statue of the Virgin Mary from the 16th Century and paintings from the 19th Century among which "Ecclesia fundata" painted by Charles Dugasseau (Ingres' pupil) are to be found inside the current Church.

Opposite the Church, most of the houses were built in the 18th Century and arranged in the shape of a harmonious arch.



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