

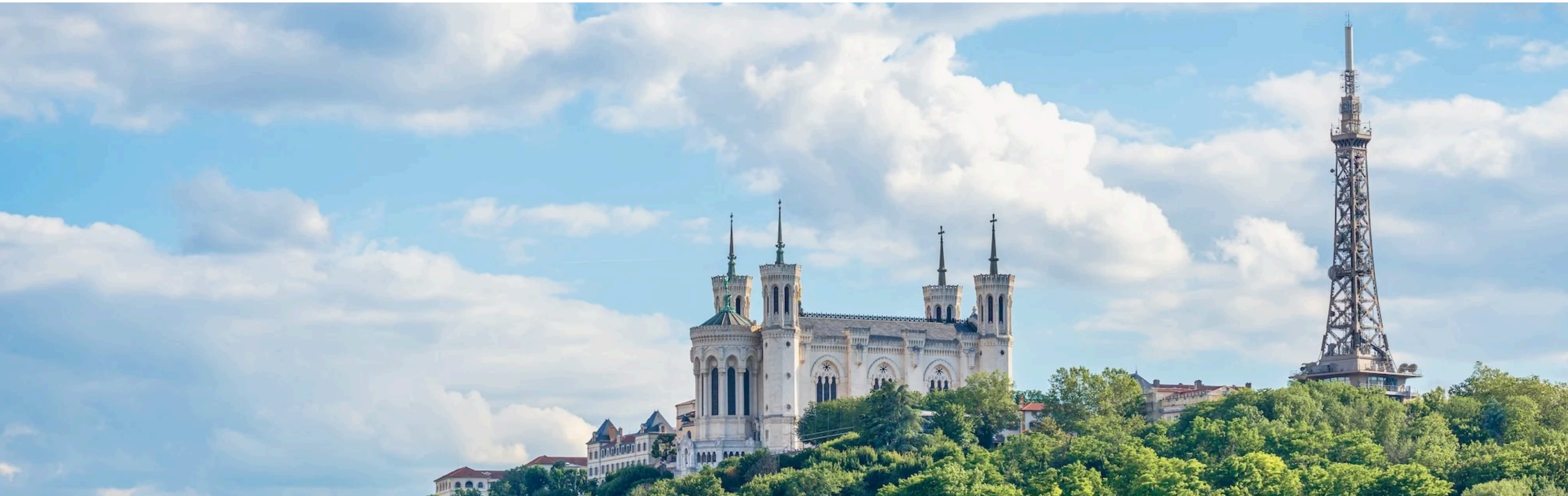
Lyon

THE BASILICA OF FOURVIÈRE AND THE TRABOULES



The Basilica of Fourvière

The Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière overlooks Lyon from its hill, with its white architecture blending Romanesque and Byzantine styles, richly decorated with mosaics and gilding. Built in the 19th century, it also offers a panoramic view of the city. For the people of Lyon, it is both a religious, protective and identity symbol. They are deeply attached to it, especially during the Fête des Lumières, when it embodies the city's traditions and history. It is the one most important monument in Lyon.



The Basilica of Fourvière



What is a basilica ?

A basilica is a large and important church, often with a special religious significance. It can be a place of pilgrimage and has a specific architectural style, typically with a long central hall and side aisles.

Why was it built ?

It was constructed in the late 19th century after the Franco-Prussian War, as an act of faith and devotion to thank the Virgin Mary for protecting the city of Lyon during the Prussian invasion. The people of Lyon believed the Virgin had played a role in sparing the city during the conflict.

It was also built to affirm Catholic faith and showcase the city's religious prestige.

Why it is important for the Fête des Lumières ?

The tradition dates back to 1852 when the people of Lyon decided to place candles in their windows to show gratitude to the Virgin Mary for protecting the city from the plague. Since then, it has evolved into a big light festival. The Basilica of Fourvière, is especially highlighted during this event, with spectacular light projections on its facade, making it a strong symbol of the festival.

The Traboules

Traboules are secret passages or covered alleys that connect two streets through buildings, mainly found in the old district of Lyon. They date back to the Renaissance and were primarily used by silk workers (canuts) to transport goods across the city, avoiding the main streets. Today, traboules are a symbol of Lyon's history and culture, and visitors often explore them to discover the hidden beauty of the city.

